



Governing Council Report

Forty-sixth Session
Rome, 14-15 February 2023



Report on the forty-sixth session of the Governing Council

Document: GC 46

Date: 19 July 2023

Distribution: Public

Original: English

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Chapter 1 Inauguration and proceedings

1. The forty-sixth session of the IFAD Governing Council was held in Rome on 14 and 15 February 2023. The list of participants is contained in annex IV.
2. The Council held a total of four meetings. The summary records of these are contained in chapter 3.
3. The video recordings of the session are available through the following links: [Day One](#) and [Day Two](#).

A. Opening of the session

4. Ms Deirdre Mc Grenra, Secretary of IFAD, ad interim, noting that His Excellency Oscar Miguel Graham Yamahuchi of the Republic of Peru had ceased to be Governor, announced that the new Governor for the Member State concerned, namely, His Excellency Alex Alonso Contreras Miranda would fill the vacancy as per the consultation and agreement with the List Convenors in accordance with rule 12 of the Rules of Procedure of the Governing Council.
5. His Excellency Alex Alonso Contreras Miranda, Chairperson of the Governing Council and Governor for the Republic of Peru, opened the session.

B. Agenda and documentation

6. The Governing Council adopted the [agenda](#) and the [schedule for the session](#). The documents placed before the Council are listed in annex V. The resolutions adopted by the Governing Council appear in annex II.

C. Inaugural meeting of the session

7. His Excellency Alex Alonso Contreras Miranda, Chairperson of the Governing Council, welcomed the keynote speakers at the inaugural meeting.
8. Mr Alvaro Lario, President of IFAD, welcomed the special guests to the inaugural meeting.
9. Mr QU Dongyu, Director-General of the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations, delivered a welcoming statement.
10. His Excellency Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, President of the Federal Republic of Somalia, delivered a keynote address.
11. Her Excellency Mia Amor Mottley, Prime Minister of Barbados, delivered a statement by video message.
12. The Honourable Edmondo Cirielli, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Italian Republic, delivered a statement on behalf of His Excellency Antonio Tajani, Vice-President of the Council of Ministers and Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Italian Republic.
13. Mr David Beasley, Executive Director of the World Food Programme, delivered a statement by video message.
14. The statements delivered during the inaugural meeting are provided in full in chapter 4.

D. Statement by the President of IFAD

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

E. Interactive sessions and special events

16. Four interactive panel discussions were held on the following themes:
 - [Indigenous Peoples' climate leadership: A holistic perspective to achieve food](#)

[security and nutrition](#)

- [Private sector finance for small producers' climate adaptation: Can it be done?](#)
 - [Youth and agriculture: Accelerating a Just transition towards food security](#)
 - [Challenges and opportunities in the water-food-energy nexus](#)
17. The interactive sessions can be viewed using the hyperlinks above.
18. **Centre stage event- IFAD's work in fragility.** Ms Dina Saleh, Regional Director, Near East, North Africa and Europe Division, IFAD, moderated the centre stage event featuring His Excellency Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, President of the Federal Republic of Somalia and Mr Alvaro Lario, President of IFAD.
19. **IFAD13 launch/high-level dialogue with Governors.** An event was organized to launch the Consultation on the Thirteenth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources (IFAD13), which included a ministerial segment followed by a high-level dialogue with Governors, around the Governing Council theme "Accelerating Action for Food Security". A summary of the statements delivered during this event is included in chapter 3. This event can be viewed through this [link](#).
20. **Indigenous Peoples' Forum.** Ms Margaret Tunda Lepore, Member of the Steering Committee of the Indigenous Peoples' Forum delivered a synthesis of the deliberations of the sixth global meeting of the forum, held on 9, 10 and 13 February 2023 at IFAD headquarters. The full text of the synthesis is reproduced in chapter 4. The video recording of the statement can be viewed through this [link](#).
21. **IFAD Talk – Africa's food insecurity: A paradox to be tackled.** Ms Hélène Papper, Director, Global Communications and Advocacy Division, IFAD, moderated the IFAD Talk with Under-Secretary-General Cristina Duarte, Special Adviser on Africa to the United Nations Secretary-General. The discussion can be viewed through this [link](#).

F. Business items

22. The following business items were considered during the session:
- Report on the Twelfth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources
 - Review of the process leading to the appointment of the President of IFAD
 - Consolidated financial statements of IFAD for 2021
 - Application for non-original membership
 - Establishment of the Consultation on the Thirteenth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources
 - IFAD's 2023 results-based programme of work, regular and capital budgets, and medium-term strategic budget outlook for 2024–2025, and the Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD's results-based work programme and budget for 2023 and indicative plan for 2024–2025, and the HIPC and PBAS progress reports

G. General statements

23. In total, 35 statements were submitted to the Office of the Secretary for the forty-sixth session of the Governing Council by the following Member States: the Republic of Angola, the Republic of Austria, the Federative Republic of Brazil, Burkina Faso, the Kingdom of Cambodia, Canada, the People's Republic of China, the Republic of Cuba, the Dominican Republic, the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Republic of El Salvador, the French Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany (joint statement), the Republic of The Gambia, the Republic of India, the Republic of Indonesia, Japan, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the Republic of Kenya, the Kingdom of Lesotho, the Kingdom of the Netherlands on behalf of the Benelux

Union, the Republic of Nicaragua, the Kingdom of Norway, the Republic of Peru, the Portuguese Republic, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Rwanda, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Republic of South Sudan, the Kingdom of Spain, the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, the Republic of the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, the United States of America, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and the Republic of Yemen.

24. All recorded and written statements are available on the webpage of the session under [documents and resources](#).

H. Closure of the session

25. The President of IFAD delivered closing remarks to the Council; these remarks are reproduced in full in chapter 4.
26. The Chairperson of the Governing Council, His Excellency Alex Alonso Contreras Miranda, summarized the results of the Council's main deliberations and then closed the forty-sixth 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. Report on the Twelfth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources

27. The Governing Council noted the Report on the Status of the Twelfth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources, as contained in document [GC 46/L.3](#).

B. Review of the process leading to the appointment of the President of IFAD

28. In accordance with the recommendation of the Executive Board, the Governing Council considered document [GC 46/L.7](#) and adopted resolution 228/XLVI on 14 February 2023, requesting the Governing Council Bureau to review the process leading to the appointment of the President of IFAD.

C. Consolidated financial statements of IFAD for 2021

29. The Governing Council considered and approved the financial statements showing IFAD's financial position as at 31 December 2021 and the results of its operations for the year ended on that date, as contained in appendices A to M of document [GC 46/L.5](#), and noted the external auditor's report and the attestation on the effectiveness of internal controls over financial reporting of the external auditor.

D. Application for non-original membership

30. In accordance with the recommendation of the Executive Board, the Governing Council considered document [GC 46/L.2](#) and adopted resolution 229/XLVI on 15 February 2023, approving the application of Ukraine for non-original membership of the Fund. The Russian Federation informed the Council that it could not join in the consensus approval of this item. His Excellency Yaroslav Melnyk, the Ambassador of Ukraine to Italy, thanked the Governing Council for its approval of the country's application.

E. Establishment of the Consultation on the Thirteenth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources

31. In accordance with the recommendation of the Executive Board, the Governing Council considered document [GC 46/L.4](#) and adopted resolution 230/XLVI on 15 February 2023, establishing the Consultation on the Thirteenth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources. Based on the favourable experience of having an External Chair during the IFAD9, IFAD10, IFAD11 and IFAD12 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.
33. The country composition for the Consultation on the Thirteenth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources, as designated by Lists A, B and C, is provided in annex VI.

F. IFAD's 2023 results-based programme of work, regular and capital budgets, and medium-term strategic budget outlook for 2024–2025, and the Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD's results-based work programme and budget for 2023 and indicative plan for 2024–2025, and the HIPC and PBAS progress reports

34. In accordance with the recommendation of the Executive Board and after considering the proposed administrative budget comprising IFAD's regular and capital budgets for 2023 and the budget of the Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD for 2023, as presented in document [GC 46/L.6](#), the Governing Council adopted resolution 231/XLVI on 15 February 2023, approving:
- The regular budget of IFAD for 2023 in the amount of US\$175.7 million;
 - The capital budget of IFAD for 2023 in the amount of US\$6.5 million;
 - The budget of the Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD for 2023 in the amount of US\$5.97 million; and
 - The carry-forward of unobligated appropriations at the close of the 2022 financial year into the 2023 financial year up to an amount not exceeding 3 per cent of the corresponding appropriations.
35. The Council also took note of the information in the progress reports on the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Debt Initiative, performance-based allocation system (PBAS) and the Borrowed Resource Access Mechanism (BRAM).

Chapter 3 Summary records

- (i) Summary record of the first meeting of the forty-sixth session held on Tuesday 14 February 2023 at 9.30 a.m.

Chairperson: His Excellency Alex Alonso Contreras Miranda (Peru)

Later:

Mr William Roos (France) (Vice-Chairperson)

Later:

Her Excellency Haifa Aissami Madah (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) (Vice-Chairperson)

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

REPLACEMENT OF THE CHAIRPERSON

37. **Ms Deirdre MC GRENRA** (Secretary of IFAD a.i.), noting that Mr Oscar Miguel Graham Yamahuchi, of the Republic of Peru, had ceased to be a Governor, said that, in accordance with rule 12 of the Rules of Procedure of the Governing Council, in particular paragraph 2 thereof, and in consultation with the Convenors of Lists A, B and C, it had been agreed that the resulting vacancy on the Bureau would be filled by the new Governor for the Member State concerned, namely, His Excellency Alex Alonso Contreras Miranda.

38. **His Excellency Alex Alonso Contreras Miranda (Peru) took the Chair.**

OPENING OF THE SESSION (agenda item 1)

39. **The CHAIRPERSON** declared open the forty-sixth session of the Governing Council.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (agenda item 2) (GC 46/L.1 and GC 46/L.1/Add.1/Rev.3)

40. **The Governing Council adopted the provisional agenda (finalized as GC 46/L.1/Rev.1) and the revised schedule of work for the session (GC 46/L.1/Add.1/Rev.3).**

INAUGURAL CEREMONY

WELCOMING STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

41. **The CHAIRPERSON** said that the statements to be delivered by the inaugural speakers bore witness to their commitment to IFAD's mission to invest in rural people over the long term with the aim of fostering sustainable rural and agricultural development.

WELCOMING STATEMENT BY MR ALVARO LARIO, PRESIDENT OF IFAD

42. **Mr Alvaro LARIO** (President of IFAD) welcomed to the session Mr QU Dongyu, Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, His Excellency Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, President of the Federal Republic of Somalia, and The Honourable Edmondo Cirielli, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Italian Republic, who was attending on behalf of His Excellency Antonio Tajani, Vice-President of the Council of Ministers and Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Italian Republic. He also thanked Her Excellency Mia Amor Mottley, Prime Minister of Barbados, and Mr David Beasley, Executive Director of the World Food Programme, for their respective video messages.
43. The full text of the welcoming statement is reproduced in chapter 4.

WELCOMING STATEMENT BY MR QU DONGYU, DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

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

KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY HASSAN SHEIKH MOHAMUD, PRESIDENT OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF SOMALIA

45. **His Excellency Hassan SHEIKH MOHAMUD** (President of the Federal Republic of Somalia) delivered a keynote address, the full text of which is reproduced in chapter 4.

VIDEO MESSAGE FROM HER EXCELLENCY MIA AMOR MOTTLEY, PRIME MINISTER OF BARBADOS

46. **Her Excellency Mia Amor MOTTLEY** (Prime Minister of Barbados) delivered a

video message, the full text of which is reproduced in chapter 4.

STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY ANTONIO TAJANI, VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS AND MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION OF THE ITALIAN REPUBLIC DELIVERED ON HIS BEHALF BY THE HONOURABLE EDMONDO CIRIELLI, DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION OF THE ITALIAN REPUBLIC

47. **The Honourable Edmondo CIRIELLI** (Italy), speaking on behalf of His Excellency Antonio Tajani, Vice-President of the Council of Ministers and Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Italian Republic, delivered a statement, the full text of which is reproduced in chapter 4.

VIDEO MESSAGE FROM MR DAVID BEASLEY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME

48. **Mr David BEASLEY** (Executive Director of the World Food Programme) delivered a video message, the full text of which is reproduced in chapter 4.

STATEMENT BY MR ALVARO LARIO, PRESIDENT OF IFAD

49. **Mr Alvaro LARIO** (President of IFAD) delivered a statement, the text of which is reproduced in chapter 4.
50. **The CHAIRPERSON** expressed appreciation to Mr Alvaro Lario for his statement, his leadership and his unwavering commitment to IFAD's mandate

CENTRE STAGE EVENT – IFAD's work in fragility

51. **Ms Dina SALEH** (Regional Director of the Near East, North Africa and Europe Division, IFAD), speaking in her capacity as moderator for the event and as IFAD's fragility champion, focused on the case of Somalia, said that the plans announced by the President of IFAD for scaling up operations in that country marked a turning point in IFAD's partnership with the Somali Government aimed at building a better future for the Somali rural communities. In welcoming the President of Somalia to the event, she asked for his reaction to the day's announcement of the full clearance of Somalia's arrears to IFAD.
52. **His Excellency Hassan SHEIKH MOHAMUD** (President of the Federal Republic of Somalia), expressing appreciation for the role played by international partners towards that clearance, said that the announcement heralded a new dawn for his country's engagement with IFAD and new opportunities for many Somalis, above all in the food security sector. Combined with the country's policy of working to accelerate food security through integrating its leading national institutions in the areas of traditional agriculture, livestock and fisheries, an increase in that engagement would pave the way for further scaling up IFAD's technical assistance to the country. It would also usher in a new era for Somalia, where efforts were being made to move away from humanitarian intervention towards investment and development.
53. **The MODERATOR**, recalling that the President was still in the first year of his term of office, asked him to outline the most pressing challenges and key priorities for his country.
54. **His Excellency Hassan SHEIKH MOHAMUD** (President of the Federal Republic of Somalia) said that Somalia faced a plethora of challenges but that its Government and State institutions each had priorities that contributed to the overall priority. On taking up office in May 2022, his first act had been to appoint his own Special Envoy for Humanitarian Affairs to address the food crisis that was ravaging the country. Together with mobilization and awareness-raising, the Special Envoy's presentation of the Somali case, both at home and abroad, had made it possible to avert famine for the time being. His top priority, however, was security, without which the second priority of humanitarian progress would be

difficult to achieve. The third priority was working with the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund on debt relief, an area in which progress was also being made.

55. Thanks to action on those priorities, Somalia was being liberated from terrorism, famine had been averted, and the debt situation was set to be resolved under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative.
56. **The MODERATOR**, noting the impact of the current global food crisis – what is now called a ‘polycrisis’, asked the President of IFAD about the most effective role that IFAD could play in the light of the newly announced opportunity for further engagement with Somalia.
57. **Mr Alvaro LARIO** (President of IFAD) said that the further engagement would also create an opening for investment in Somalia, including on the basis of the inspiring vision of its President concerning short-term humanitarian needs and the creation of opportunities as alternatives for youth to terrorism, notably in the form of revenues and income derived from agriculture as a business. It was essential not only to support subsistence farming but also to build an ecosystem.
58. Although now able to invest its own funds in Somalia, IFAD had never in fact lost its connection with the country, for which it had mobilized financing over the years, with an emphasis on food planning, agropastoral development and irrigation. In the latter case especially, significant progress had been achieved over the preceding decade. Somalia had furthermore been given top priority in the IFAD Crisis Response Initiative.
59. Long-term investment in the creation of youth opportunities would be a main focus for IFAD, which was fast-tracking an approach centred on cofinancing and the mobilization of climate funds, including through the Global Environment Facility and the enhanced Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme (ASAP+), for tackling food security, job creation and climate adaptation. Concerted efforts by all parties could make a difference to addressing those major challenges while also ensuring that the impact of current investments would continue to be felt and grow over the coming decade, rather than disappear once the related programmes were completed.
60. **The MODERATOR**, noting the importance placed on development impact, asked the President of IFAD to outline IFAD’s priorities for Somalia in the light of its increased engagement in fragile contexts.
61. **Mr Alvaro LARIO** (President of IFAD) said that, as an organization that always took full note of countries’ needs, IFAD had listened carefully to those expressed by the President of Somalia, a country rich in arable land, coastal possibilities and tradition. It was essential to build on that wealth and progressively develop resilience to climate and income shocks through lasting investments aimed at providing alternatives to migration and terrorism. Those investments should have a spillover effect on rural communities and be targeted at those in need, and at women and youth in particular.
62. **The MODERATOR** asked the President of Somalia to identify the areas on which IFAD should focus to ensure sustainable and resilient food systems particularly to address the challenges faced by the youth.
63. **His Excellency Hassan SHEIKH MOHAMUD** (President of the Federal Republic of Somalia), recalling that 70 per cent of his country’s population lived in rural areas and that 70 per cent were under 30 years of age, said that IFAD’s focus in Somalia should be on rural and agricultural development. Traditional agriculture was unappealing to the country’s huge youth population, who were increasingly migrating to urban areas. Young people were, however, highly enthusiastic about technology, which could be instrumental in persuading them to remain in

traditional activities.

64. IFAD and other international partners should therefore concentrate on providing attractive incentives for youth to engage, be it in agriculture, agropastoralism, technology or other spheres, and especially so in rural areas and in fishing communities along the vast Somali coastline. Only in recent decades had the population started to explore more fully the country's ocean resources, which offered tremendous opportunities for investment that could also be readily extended beyond fishing to include tourism and other activities.
65. The focus in Somalia was therefore on moving from humanitarian to development action, while in relation to food security, infrastructure, including in the form of irrigation and flood control systems and feeder roads, was needed to promote a transition in agriculture from subsistence to commercial farming. Lastly, with respect to youth engagement in IFAD programmes, the country's Ministry of Youth was developing related policies that were to be finalized in the near future following input from delegates to an upcoming national youth conference.
66. **The MODERATOR** invited comments from the representatives of partners that had contributed towards the clearance of Somalia's arrears to IFAD.
67. **A delegate from GERMANY**, commending the strong leadership and immense optimism of the President of Somalia in the face of unprecedented major challenges, including drought and hunger, said that his Government had joined with other partners in responding positively to the appeals by the Government of Somalia and IFAD for assistance with the clearance of Somalia's outstanding arrears. As a result, the way was now open for IFAD's further investment in Somalia, particularly in order to restart programmes for sustainable agriculture and climate change adaptation.
68. **A delegate from SWEDEN** said that, despite the geographical distance between them, Sweden and Somalia had a long history of cooperation, which was especially close on account of the Somali diaspora in Sweden. Together with access to financing for rural development, food security was central to countering the global consequences of the Russian invasion of Ukraine and the effects of extreme weather events and conflicts.
69. As a firm supporter of IFAD's work, including in fragile contexts, Sweden was pleased to have contributed towards the clearance of Somalia's arrears to IFAD. For its part, IFAD must remain true to its core mandate and work closely with other actors in that endeavour. Commending Somalia for the substantial progress achieved in relation to the HIPC process, Sweden looked forward to making further contributions, together with IFAD and other partners, to what was an important new venture in Somalia.
70. **A delegate from BELGIUM** said that his country had been pleased to participate in the clearance of Somalia's arrears so that Somalia could now benefit from IFAD climate change adaptation programmes for small producers. In supporting IFAD's work in favour of such producers in fragile contexts, the priorities for Belgium were the establishment of sustainable food systems and the recentring of those countries. The achievement of long-term food security necessitated a switch in systems towards sustainable and resilient characteristics that produced high-quality food and were inclusive in terms of income. An agroecological approach should also be adopted to make producers less vulnerable to climate change and reduce the impact on agriculture.
71. In its cooperation activities, Belgium paid particular attention to a vital aspect of IFAD's work, namely targeting of the most vulnerable, with a particular focus on small producers, women and young people. A substantial proportion of Belgian international assistance was allocated to the most fragile countries. IFAD should target 100 percent of certain funds to the low-income and fragile countries.

72. **The MODERATOR**, also acknowledging the role played by Italy in supporting the clearance of Somalia's arrears to IFAD, invited a round of applause for the four IFAD Member States that had come together in support of another Member State in time of need.
73. **A round of appreciative applause was given for the four Member States concerned.**
74. **His Excellency Hassan SHEIKH MOHAMUD** (President of the Federal Republic of Somalia), reiterating his gratitude for the solidarity shown towards his country, said that he looked forward to increased engagement with IFAD. Although he saw every challenge as an opportunity, he also knew that Somalia could not tackle its challenges alone. The support of IFAD and its Member States was vital to shortening the journey ahead for Somalia.
75. **Mr Roos (France) took the Chair.**

REPORT ON THE TWELFTH REPLENISHMENT OF IFAD'S RESOURCES (agenda item 5)
(GC 46/L.3)

76. **The CHAIRPERSON** drew attention to the report on the status of the Twelfth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources (IFAD12), as contained in document GC 46/L.3, which provided information on the status of IFAD's resources as at 31 December 2022.
77. **Ms Katherine MEIGHAN** (Associate Vice-President and General Counsel; Associate Vice-President a.i., Financial Operations Department, IFAD), introducing the report, said that, as at 6 February 2023, pledges had amounted to US\$1.28 billion following a new pledge by Portugal, with instruments of contribution or direct payments received standing at US\$3 million, and overall payments at US\$566 million after further payments from Benin, Canada, Guyana, India, Mexico and Portugal.
78. **The CHAIRPERSON** called on countries that had not yet done so to deposit their instruments of contribution as soon as possible to ensure the continuation of IFAD's important work.
79. **A delegate from the RUSSIAN FEDERATION** said that the removal of Russian banks from the SWIFT messaging system as part of the illegal sanctions against his country was preventing the transfer of money to IFAD. The Russian Federation – a List A country and a long-standing contributor to IFAD – was accordingly seeking alternative forms of transfer that would enable it to fulfil its obligations towards the Fund.
80. **A delegate from FRANCE** said that, despite the commendable progress achieved in IFAD12, instruments of contribution deposited stood at only 84 per cent and payments at 42 per cent, compared with 92 per cent and 47 per cent, respectively, for IFAD11 three years previously at the time of the first consultation on IFAD12. The drop in the rates of instrument deposit and payment must be closely monitored. Member States, moreover, must honour their pledges in order to ensure IFAD's financial soundness and ability to implement the upcoming cycle of planned activities.
81. **Ms MEIGHAN** (Associate Vice-President and General Counsel; Associate Vice-President a.i., Financial Operations Department, IFAD), expressing appreciation to Member States for their strong support and words of encouragement to others to deposit their instruments of contribution without delay, said that the resulting funds could be more swiftly disbursed to those countries most in need.
82. **The Governing Council took note of the report.**

CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF IFAD FOR 2021 (agenda item 7)
(GC 46/L.5 and GC 46/INF.3)

83. **The CHAIRPERSON** said that, at its 135th session, the Executive Board had reviewed the audited financial statements of IFAD for the 2021 fiscal year and the report of the external auditor thereon, as contained in document GC 46/L.5, and recommended their submission to the Governing Council for approval. The financial highlights of 2022, set out in document GC 46/INF.3, had also been posted for information.
84. **Ms MEIGHAN** (Associate Vice-President and General Counsel; Associate Vice-President a.i., Financial Operations Department, IFAD), introducing the item, said that, in the opinion of the Fund's external auditors, the Consolidated Financial Statements of IFAD as at 31 December 2021, as appended to document GC 46/L.5, presented fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Fund and its financial performance and cash flows for the year, in accordance with the 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 demonstrating IFAD's commitment to best international financial practice. The consolidated financial statements had been reviewed by the Audit Committee at its 164th meeting and subsequently endorsed by the Executive Board at its 135th session.
85. **A delegate from ANGOLA**, commending IFAD Management on its leadership and thanking IFAD for its support to small-scale fishers and farmers in Angola, said that the Government looked forward to the creation of dynamic mechanisms and sustainable projects in Angola and to improved coordination with the country's national programme. Given the importance of small-scale agriculture in Angola, IFAD's opening of its East and Southern Africa regional office was deeply appreciated and would improve project coordination with the Fund. The support provided by the Fund would also promote agriculture and growth in Angola, help to end hunger and poverty, and bring IFAD and other international agencies together to drive change, not only for Angola but for the whole of Africa.
86. **The Governing Council approved the financial statements showing IFAD's financial position as at 31 December 2021 and the results of its operations for the year ending on that date, as set out in appendices A to M inclusive to document GC 46/L.5; the external auditor's report thereon; and the external auditor's attestation on the effectiveness of internal controls over financial reporting.**

REVIEW OF THE PROCESS LEADING TO THE APPOINTMENT OF THE PRESIDENT OF IFAD
(agenda item 9) (GC 46/L.7)

87. **The CHAIRPERSON** recalled that, following the first special session of the Governing Council held in July 2022 to appoint the seventh President of IFAD, the Fund had requested feedback from the Bureau of the Governing Council, the tellers and Member State representatives concerning potential adjustments aimed at further strengthening the appointment process and supporting IFAD business continuity going forward. Document GC 46/L.7 on the subject had been prepared by the Secretariat in consultation with the members of the Bureau, who were to be commended for their guidance and support throughout the appointment and review processes.
88. At its 137th session in December 2022, following its review of document GC 46/L.7 and of the draft resolution contained therein, the Executive Board had recommended that the Governing Council request the Bureau, assisted by the Secretariat as necessary, to review the current process leading to the appointment of the President of IFAD and make recommendations for its further

enhancement while adhering to best practices and ensuring the transparency and integrity of the process.

89. **A delegate from FRANCE** said that IFAD's periodic review of the modalities for the election of the President was a fundamentally healthy exercise that kept the Fund aligned with best practice in other international financial institutions and United Nations agencies. As a Bureau member, France had been pleased to participate in the review.
90. **The Governing Council adopted resolution 228/XLVI on the review of the process leading to the appointment of the President of IFAD.**

INTERACTIVE SESSION 1 – INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' CLIMATE LEADERSHIP: A HOLISTIC PERSPECTIVE TO ACHIEVE FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

91. **The CHAIRPERSON** introduced the moderator for the interactive session, Dr Sherilee Harper, Associate Professor, School of Public Health, University of Alberta, Canada and a Lead Author of the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. The panellists were:
- Ms Dayana Paola Urzola Domicó, Youth member of the Indigenous Peoples' Forum at IFAD (IPFI) Steering Committee and member of the Global Indigenous Youth Caucus, the Republic of Colombia
 - Mr Devasish Roy, Chief Chakma Circle and former Indigenous Peoples' Assistance Facility (IPAF) Board Member, the People's Republic of Bangladesh
 - Ms Myrna Cunningham, Chair of the IPFI, the Republic of Nicaragua
 - Ms Antonella Cordone, Senior Technical Specialist – Nutrition and Social Inclusion, IFAD
92. The discussion can be viewed through this [link](#).
93. **Her Excellency Haifa Aissami Madah (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) took the Chair.**
94. **The CHAIRPERSON** thanked the participants in the interactive session for their dynamic and enriching policy discussion.
- The meeting rose at 1.25 p.m.**

- (ii) Summary record of the second meeting of the forty-sixth session held on Tuesday 14 February 2023 at 3 p.m.

Chairperson: His Excellency Alex Alonso Contreras Miranda (Peru)

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95. **The meeting was called to order at 3 p.m.**

INTERACTIVE SESSION 2 – PRIVATE SECTOR FINANCE FOR SMALL PRODUCERS’ CLIMATE ADAPTATION: CAN IT BE DONE?

96. **Ms Jyotsna PURI** (Associate Vice-President, Strategy and Knowledge Department, IFAD), speaking in her capacity as moderator for the interactive session, introduced the panellists:

- Mr Pasi Hellman, Under-Secretary of State for Development Policy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Finland, and IFAD Governor
- Mr Eric Naivasha, Associate Director of Energy, Environment and Climate Change, Equity Bank, the Republic of Kenya
- Ms Adaeze Usoh, Head of Corporate Finance, Babban Gona, the Federal Republic of Nigeria
- Ms Tamisha Lee, President of the Jamaica Network of Rural Women Producers, Jamaica.

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

IFAD13 LAUNCH

98. **Ms Satu SANTALA** (Associate Vice-President, External Relations and Governance Department, IFAD), introducing the IFAD13 launch event, said that she was especially pleased to welcome as moderator of the event Mr Jochen Flasbarth, State Secretary, Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development of the Federal Republic of Germany, a country with an instrumental role in advancing rural development and food security through such initiatives as the Global Alliance for Food Security as well as through its strong contributions to IFAD.

99. **THE MODERATOR**, preceding the launch event with a statement delivered in his national capacity and noting the centrality of food security to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, said that over 800 million people were facing hunger, which constituted a major violation of their most basic human rights. The COVID-19 pandemic and the Russian war against Ukraine had further derailed the already faltering progress towards achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular SDG 1 (No poverty) and SDG 2 (Zero hunger). It was vital to strengthen domestic food production capacities in order to break the negative cycle generated by reliance on humanitarian aid and to end the unsustainably high levels of dependence in some countries on food imports.

100. IFAD had amply demonstrated its know-how and its efficiency in supporting smallholder farmers and national agricultural systems. Through IFAD13, Member States must provide sufficient funding to enable IFAD to continue its work and link it with action to enhance the capacity of smallholder agriculture for climate change adaptation and resilience. Women were key to such endeavours insofar as strengthening their capacity in the supply chain boosted the resilience of food and agricultural systems. All Member States should mobilize sufficient funding for the replenishment.

101. Turning to the IFAD13 launch event, he invited Ms Federica Diamanti, Director of Multilateral Development Banks at the Ministry of Economy and Finance of the Italian Republic, to deliver an opening statement on behalf of Mr Giancarlo Giorgetti, Minister for Economy and Finance of the Italian Republic.

102. **Ms DIAMANTI** (Director of Multilateral Development Banks, Ministry of Economy and Finance of the Italian Republic), speaking on behalf of Mr Giancarlo Giorgetti, Minister for Economy and Finance of the Italian Republic, said that climate change and other recent crises had led to rising food insecurity and soaring food and energy prices, creating an unfavourable macroeconomic environment and greater

indebtedness. With their mission and expertise, the Rome-based agencies had a prominent role to play in accelerated action on food insecurity in the interest of achieving the SDGs by 2030.

103. As the sole international finance institution fully devoted to smallholders and rural communities, IFAD had a unique mandate. IFAD13 would enable it to sharpen its strategy to transform local food systems and boost their inclusiveness, productivity, resilience and sustainability. IFAD must leverage its comparative advantages by paying greater attention to the local dimension of food systems and supply chains; continuing to support attainment of the last mile in agricultural production; consolidating progress while strengthening institutional capacity, sustainability and efficiency; preserving its financial sustainability and rating; and further mobilizing and enhancing the effectiveness of climate finance. It was also critical to tackle the root causes of fragility and increase focus on the enhancement of national institutional capacity-building and performance. If well managed, IFAD's unfolding decentralization process could be instrumental in the design and implementation of increasingly effective projects.
104. Although public-private partnerships were nothing new for IFAD, direct financing from the private sector posed a different challenge that could lead to relevant capital consumption with consequent trade-offs. Any step in that direction must be coupled with robust guidelines on investment selection and a comprehensive risk model. It was also important to build partnerships and mobilize cofinancing. In that regard, IFAD's recently concluded cofinancing framework agreement with Cassa Depositi e Prestiti was indicative of the potential role of public development banks. Donors must work together towards the success of IFAD13 in order to overcome the major global challenge of eradicating rural poverty and hunger
105. **The MODERATOR**, thanking Italy for its strong message as both the host country of IFAD and an important donor to the Fund, invited the President of IFAD to take the floor.
106. **Mr Alvaro LARIO** (President of IFAD) underscored IFAD's mission-driven quality and unique mandate. He explained that working with the poorest, hungriest and most marginalized communities in fragile settings was getting costlier and riskier. He reiterated the Fund's willingness to always go the extra mile, despite the many challenges linked to gaps in infrastructure, governance, or the lack of cost-sharing partners.
107. IFAD's people-centred development approach had delivered results even in fragile, remote and marginal contexts. Through the projects that it supports, IFAD had: built links between small-scale farmers, their suppliers and customers; supported the availability of climate-proof finance and climate-proof infrastructure; and incorporated a range of high and low technology approaches to enable poor rural communities to continue to follow best practices even after projects ended.
108. He explained that IFAD was currently protecting 1.7 million hectares of land with climate-resilient practices. In drought-prone Sahelian countries, IFAD had spent over two decades working with farmers to improve traditional water-harvesting methods, reduce soil erosion and manage precious groundwater resources. In Burkina Faso and Niger, dry and degraded lands had been rehabilitated; crops had been diversified; and yields had been boosted. This had led to an increase in farmers' incomes, and enough local fodder available for livestock.
109. The creation of climate-resilient food systems cost around US\$1.3 trillion a year, with every dollar invested in agriculture development yielding up to a tenfold return. It was therefore illogical that, between 2017 and 2018, smallholder farmers had received just 1.7 per cent of global climate finance. Without the continued support of its donors, IFAD could not have achieved such progress for

rural people. As such, it was critical for donors to step up their contributions and partnerships in IFAD13 in order to deliver an even greener impact and get the world back on track towards ending poverty and hunger, and achieving the SDGs.

110. **The MODERATOR** introduced Ms Yeisully Tapias, one of the founders of a Colombian association of young entrepreneurs that had won several awards for its work with rural youth in Colombia.
111. **Ms TAPIAS** (Asociación de Jóvenes Emprendedores, the Republic of Colombia) said that some of the many young Colombians who had left the country's rural areas to escape violence, poverty, low prospects and lack of access to land were now returning to seek opportunities in agricultural activities, including farming, production and commercialization, and must be supported to build their knowledge and identify those opportunities. In IFAD13, the active participation of rural youth in the agricultural sector was envisaged as a crucial element of dynamic and sustainable rural economic growth. Rural youth capacities must therefore be strengthened against the backdrop of a new rurality with innovative solutions.
112. IFAD was an important ally for rural young people because it helped to foster dialogue between them and their governments and promoted their role as agents of change. For real impact, rural youth must be empowered to influence and participate actively in decision-making and in project development and implementation to ensure targeted IFAD funding and context-specific projects for youth living in fragile areas. It was thus important to consolidate and broaden IFAD's investments so as to provide the financial and technical resources needed to promote systematic and consistent youth inclusion in decision-making and political dialogue, as opposed to simply relying on volunteerism.
113. In that regard, the recent establishment of a Colombian grass-roots rural youth alliance through an IFAD pilot project on connecting youth voices to action was much appreciated. The alliance's direct participation in designing a project involving IFAD and the Colombian Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development demonstrated the viability of that approach as a model for other countries.
114. Lastly, it was essential to harness in addition the skills and expertise that universities, public and private organizations, farmers and Indigenous Peoples had to offer towards driving rural development and generating opportunities, with no one left behind.
115. **The MODERATOR**, thanking Ms Tapias for her inspiring intervention and underlining the importance of youth empowerment to transforming young people's livelihoods, said that the United Nations Food Systems Summit and the Sustainable Development Goals Summit to be held later in 2023 were expected to provide much-needed momentum to get the world back on track for achieving the SDGs. He invited participants to view a video message from Ms Amina J. Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations.
116. **Ms MOHAMMED** (Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations), in a pre-recorded video message, said that climate change and an uneven recovery from COVID-19 hindered the world's ability to deliver on the SDGs. Rural communities bore the heavy burden of rising food insecurity and extreme poverty. The international community could and must do more. The 2021 United Nations Food Systems Summit had called for food systems transformation in order to deliver on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the Black Sea Grain Initiative and the Global Crisis Response Group had contributed to soften the effects of the war in Ukraine on food prices. With food security key to the achievement of the SDGs, it was essential to attract investment, expand social and productive infrastructure, generate employment, develop green and climate-proof agriculture, support children's education, and transform food

- systems through water resilience, sustainable agricultural methods and climate change adaptation.
117. In that regard, IFAD's projects and programmes for small-scale farmers, rural women entrepreneurs, Indigenous communities and young innovators in the poorest rural communities were crucial. For more than 40 years, IFAD had been delivering results to improve rural people's incomes, strengthen their resilience and restore hope to communities. With the United Nations Food Systems Stocktaking Moment and the Sustainable Development Goals Summit on the 2023 horizon, efforts to leave no one behind must be redoubled to achieve the SDGs. IFAD remained part of the solution to accelerate action and boost progress.
 118. **The MODERATOR** invited three speakers to share their national perspectives and insights, including with respect to international endeavours: Her Excellency Khadija Mohamed Almakhoumi, Minister for Environment and Climate Change of the Federal Republic of Somalia; Her Excellency Jeanine M. Cooper, Minister for Agriculture of the Republic of Liberia; and His Excellency Phouthanouphet Saysombath, Deputy Minister for Finance of the Lao People's Democratic Republic.
 119. **Her Excellency Khadija Mohamed ALMAKHZOUMI** (Minister for Environment and Climate Change of the Federal Republic of Somalia) said that climate shocks and insecurity were the primary drivers of food insecurity, poverty and social and institutional fragility in her country. In order to support governmental and non-governmental institutions and programmes that shared its mandate, IFAD must take a strategic context-specific approach to fragility, resilience and state-building. Together with international partners, IFAD should work with the Somali Government to plan fragility responses and formulate appropriate resilience and development programmes, including for climate change mitigation and adaptation. Coordination among IFAD, the Government and domestic and international farmers' organizations was the only way to address fragility effectively.
 120. Lastly, given the frequent failure or ineffectiveness of fragility interventions not tailored to the Somali situation, it was crucial for IFAD to engage locally. Context-specific responses would be possible only if IFAD had local agents on the ground to ensure full social inclusion of the target communities and thereby promote success.
 121. **Her Excellency Jeanine COOPER** (Minister for Agriculture of the Republic of Liberia), conveying her Government's strong commitment to food systems and food sovereignty, said that her country faced conundrums despite the advantages for production of a rapidly urbanizing and very youthful population. Although 40 per cent of its gross domestic product was derived from agriculture, Liberia was nonetheless dependent on food imports, even for staple crops, and its agricultural exports were almost entirely primary commodities. Furthermore, women remained disempowered despite the fact that their inclusion as the key drivers of agricultural production was promoted in planning. IFAD was working with her Government to resolve such challenges.
 122. IFAD-funded projects in five major intervention areas were supporting Liberian smallholder farmers and their rural communities. Cocoa farm rehabilitation, agronomic training and high-quality inputs, including certified cocoa seed, had enabled farmers to produce high-quality cocoa and obtain higher prices in premium markets. From 2024, the IFAD-funded national seed garden would provide farmers with certified, domestically grown, high-quality seed. In addition, IFAD had rehabilitated more than 120 kilometres of feeder roads in one of the country's most populous counties, cutting travel times and transportation costs by 75 per cent.
 123. The host country agreement concluded between her Government and IFAD in

- 2022 would enhance Liberia's participation in the United Nations Joint Programme on Accelerating Progress towards Rural Women's Economic Empowerment, through which the first-ever centres of excellence for women in agriculture would be established. It was essential to invest in smart methods, attract private sector engagement and strengthen market and trade linkages so as to transform farmers' lives in a meaningful way and meet the goal of ending hunger by 2030.
124. **His Excellency Phouthanouphet SAYSOMBATH** (Deputy Minister for Finance of the Lao People's Democratic Republic) said that over 70 per cent of the population in his country was primarily dependent on smallholder agriculture. His Government had instituted a comprehensive programme of agricultural reform for 2030, with four key programmes relating to food security and nutrition, agricultural commodity production, sustainable forest management, and rural development and poverty alleviation. The aim was to achieve food security by 2030, increase agricultural production, and develop clean, safe and sustainable agriculture using modern industrial techniques, thereby supporting rural development and the national economic infrastructure.
 125. Following the 2021 United Nations Food Systems Summit and the associated dialogues, moreover, his Government had been working with development partners to transform the national food system by ensuring safe and nutritious food for all, boosting nature-positive food production, advancing equitable livelihoods and value distribution, and building resilience to vulnerability and shocks.
 126. The main priority in 2023 was to modernize the country's agriculture and forestry sectors to achieve sustainability, food and nutrition security, and better livelihoods for all. Agriculture modernization must respect traditional ways of life, preserve the rich diversity of ethnic groups and address climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. It was also important to continue strengthening the productivity, livelihoods and resilience of small-scale farmers and to ensure the inclusion and empowerment of women, youth, Indigenous Peoples, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups. Lastly, infrastructure improvement and rural development would enable his Government to strengthen and protect national resources and ecosystem services.
 127. **The MODERATOR** asked the three speakers to set out their main aspirations for IFAD13.
 128. **His Excellency Phouthanouphet SAYSOMBATH** (Deputy Minister for Finance of the Lao People's Democratic Republic) said that the first priority under his country's national development policy was to encourage private sector engagement and attract private cofinancing for joint partnerships in investment projects. Further resource mobilization and the sharing of technology, knowledge and best practices to support agricultural modernization were crucial. It was likewise important to facilitate access to finance for smallholder farmers and support green growth.
 129. **Her Excellency Jeanine COOPER** (Minister for Agriculture of the Republic of Liberia) said that, in 2015, Member States had had high hopes for attracting the private sector to take up the development baton from the public sector. Given the different orientations and socio-economic and commercialization priorities of the two sectors, however, translating those aspirations into practice had proven complicated for her country.
 130. To address that problem, the Liberia Agriculture Commercialization Fund had been established with funding from the World Bank and contributions from IFAD. The flagship fund was intended to improve access to finance for smallholder farmers and small and medium-sized enterprises, but progress had been slow and sometimes frustrating owing to the built-in challenges of using development

project financing for commercialization. The number of mechanized farm operators had almost doubled nonetheless, while in 2022 the number of packaged consumer foods and goods from Liberia's agricultural produce had increased tenfold. The Liberia Agriculture Commercialization Fund and other similar mechanisms were being used in an attempt to de-risk the private sector in order to attract commercial entities and scale up food production. Her Government was reviewing incentive package options for enterprises focused on such priority enablers as seed, feed, fertilizer, organic fertilizer development, farm mechanization services and rice production.

131. **Her Excellency Khadija Mohamed ALMAKHZOURI** (Minister for Environment and Climate Change of the Federal Republic of Somalia) said that her Government sought effective partnership with IFAD and other local and international partners for planning targeted development and resilience programmes on climate change with the aim of reducing food and livelihood insecurity and fragility. Somalia also looked forward to IFAD's support for its green initiative to plant 10 million trees.
132. **The MODERATOR**, after wishing Somalia well in that endeavour, invited participants to view a video message from Ms Sabrina Dhowre Elba, United Nations Goodwill Ambassador for IFAD, who had recently received the World Economic Forum Crystal Award, as had her husband, actor Mr Idris Elba, for their advocacy on behalf of IFAD.
133. **Ms DHOWRE ELBA** (United Nations Goodwill Ambassador for IFAD), in a pre-recorded video message, said that she had witnessed for herself how IFAD's work had changed the lives of rural people for the better by supporting women entrepreneurs, boosting farmers' income and enabling children to attend school. Currently, some 800 million people — including farmers who produced the world's food — were faced with hunger in a situation that had worsened significantly as a consequence of COVID-19, conflict and inflation.
134. In 2021, IFAD had been rated the most effective and efficient multilateral development organization. Its results and impact were measurable and its ability to generate cofinancing and partnerships meant that each dollar of core contributions delivered six times that amount for investment in rural transformation. That investment went entirely to projects for the poorest and most marginalized communities and contributed to poverty eradication, zero hunger, gender equality, decent work and climate action. In addition to being a source of pride, those were all reasons for Member States to step up their support through IFAD13.
135. At the time of IFAD's establishment in 1977, Member States had provided funding equivalent to almost US\$5 billion at current rates. The world was again facing multiple crises, and more IFAD investment was needed. With fewer than seven years left to fulfil their solemn commitment to end extreme poverty and hunger by 2030, Member States must rekindle the ambition on that score, demonstrate their commitment to the 2030 Agenda, and contribute to IFAD13 so as to make a bright new day possible for millions of people.
136. **Ms SANTALA** (Associate Vice-President, External Relations and Governance Department, IFAD), thanking the moderator for his stewardship and the participants for their thought-provoking contributions to the event, said that IFAD13 represented an opportunity to advance food security and reduce poverty after decades of underinvestment in smallholder agriculture. She looked forward to hearing the ideas of Member States concerning the role of IFAD13 in achieving sustainable, inclusive and resilient local food systems and transforming rural livelihoods. She introduced the Chairperson of the Governing Council, His Excellency Alex Alonso Contreras Miranda, as Chairperson for the high-level dialogue with Governors segment.

HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE WITH GOVERNORS

137. **During the high-level dialogue, several speakers expressed heartfelt condolences to the Governments of Türkiye and the Syrian Arab Republic and to all those affected by the recent earthquake in those two countries.**
138. The Chairperson of the Governing Council, His Excellency Alex Alonso Contreras Miranda, assumed his role as Chairperson for the high-level dialogue with Governors segment.
139. **The CHAIRPERSON** invited Governors to discuss the overarching theme of the session, “Accelerating action for food security”, on the basis of two guiding questions. The first question concerned the priorities to be addressed by IFAD13 in order to start accelerating progress towards sustainable, inclusive and local food systems and transforming rural livelihoods. The second question pertained to how IFAD13, in the context of multiple escalating crises demanding rapidly scaled-up financing for equitable and sustainable food systems, could galvanize renewed global solidarity and a strong financial response to increasing food insecurity.
140. **A delegate from CHINA** said that his country fed 20 per cent of the world’s population but had less than 9 per cent of the world’s arable land, effectively making a huge contribution to global food security, and that its agricultural production system of smallholder farmers generating large quantities of produce was in line with IFAD’s focus on smallholder development. In order to accelerate action for food security, the United Nations should play a central coordinating role and bring its comparative advantages to bear in the food sector, with related risks and challenges tackled synergistically. Financial channels should be expanded, market borrowing accelerated and cooperation with multilateral development agencies enhanced so as to mobilize more resources for food production and build a resilient and sustainable global food system. Lastly, Member States should be helped to innovate in agricultural operating systems that provided professional and social services for smallholder farmers. For their part, cooperatives and enterprises should be connected to smallholder farmers in order to improve the latter’s production conditions and risk capacity at the same time as helping them address food security crises.
141. As a large and responsible developing country, China was willing to support IFAD13 within the limits of its capacity and called on developed countries to increase their contributions. It was also ready to strengthen collaboration with IFAD with a view to facilitating global poverty reduction, cooperation and food security and to providing support for other developing countries to the extent that it could, thereby further contributing to implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the development of a shared future for mankind.
142. **A delegate from the DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**, after describing the aims of the IFAD-funded Rural Families’ Productive Inclusion and Resilience Project currently under way in his country, said with respect to IFAD’s involvement in the agricultural development of the world’s poorest countries that IFAD interventions should be designed with a view to how action on any one of five formidable barriers encountered by small-scale farmers in such countries, namely access to markets, water, credit, technology and land, might affect the other four. Those interventions should furthermore target groups such as women and young people, who faced the stiffest barriers. IFAD should also ensure that its interventions were transformed into broader, more inclusive and resilient policies for more widespread rural transformation. In addition, it should adopt a differentiated approach to the rural development of small island developing states, especially in the Caribbean, which were unfortunately more vulnerable to climate change. Lastly, IFAD should diversify its funding sources.

143. The Dominican Republic planned to double its contribution to IFAD and increase its contribution to IFAD13. It hoped that IFAD would reciprocate by focusing attention on the country.
144. **A delegate from ICELAND**, speaking also on behalf of the Nordic countries of Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden, said that recent global crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic, climate shocks and the Russian war of aggression in Ukraine had demonstrated just how fragile international food supply chains could be. Those crises had also highlighted the importance of IFAD's work with the poorest smallholder farmers aimed at boosting food security, supporting local production and nature-based solutions, and securing rural access to markets. The Nordic countries therefore fully supported the overarching priority of IFAD13, as detailed in document IFAD13/1/R.6/Rev.1 entitled IFAD13 Directions, which was to build resilience, mobilize financing for climate action and biodiversity, and increase private sector engagement in rural areas. Likewise supportive of the high priority attached to gender, youth, social inclusion and nutrition, the Nordic countries considered that IFAD13 should focus on the poorest and most vulnerable farmers and primarily mobilize general core funding.
145. The 2021 United Nations Food Systems Summit had drawn global attention to the importance of transforming food systems to improve the livelihoods of the many poor living off the land, preserve the environment and climate, and ensure adequate and healthy diets for all. Such transformations required tangible action at country level and innovative solutions that drew on the international sharing of know-how acquired by coalitions working on, among others, school meals, aquatic blue foods, healthy diets and food wastage. Mobilizing for IFAD13 meant that IFAD must play a visible role in food systems transformation at the global level, which in turn required cooperation among the three Rome-based agencies, in the spirit of One United Nations, and among all multilateral stakeholders to ensure system effectiveness. The Nordic countries were committed to providing unwavering support for IFAD's work on food security, poverty eradication and climate-resilient food systems.
146. **A delegate from FRANCE** said that, in the current context in which many countries were addressing multiple shocks, it was vital to mobilize all international financial institutions and development banks. With its unique perspective and overarching approach to challenges, IFAD had a crucial role to play in that regard. It should continue to focus on Africa, fragile countries, entrepreneurship in rural areas, rural poverty and the private sector. In order to ensure the success of IFAD13, climate change-related activities should be mainstreamed and focus on adaptation, with the Fund striving to achieve its goals relating to climate financing.
147. In that connection, while a specific climate envelope might sound attractive, it was especially important for IFAD to be properly financed in terms of core resources so that it could act from project preparation and design through to completion and spearhead development bank activities in the area of biodiversity. In view of its position at the heart of the multilateral system addressing food-related challenges, it was important for IFAD to be visible and for lobbying efforts to be made on its behalf.
148. **A delegate from KUWAIT**, welcoming the session's overarching theme in the light of the acute food insecurity facing millions around the world, said that the key question was how IFAD13 could leverage renewed global solidarity to galvanize a global financial response to that problem. At the current critical juncture, IFAD13 in fact presented an opportunity to boost progress towards better food security and poverty reduction after decades of underinvestment in smallholder agriculture.
149. Kuwait had long advocated poverty alleviation worldwide, as demonstrated by its

consistent support for economic development and emergency response. It had always been a proponent of multilateral forums for addressing global development challenges, as evidenced by the 100 per cent increase in its support for the current IFAD12 replenishment cycle.

150. IFAD13 should be focused on building sustainable, resilient, inclusive and nutrition-focused food systems, adapting to climate change and strengthening local production, especially in contexts of increased risk and fragility. For its part, IFAD should reinforce its domestic and international partnerships and mobilize cofinanced resources at the country level. Specifically, it should explore the possibility of working with the Arab Coordination Group, which, in response to the global food supply crisis, had launched initiatives that sought to catalyse at least US\$10 billion for a three-pronged effort centred on medium- and long-term action to ensure a comprehensive response and help build resilience.
151. **A delegate from CAMEROON** said that mounting fragility, conflict and calamity around the globe continued to undermine food security, especially in the developing world and notably in sub-Saharan Africa. Action was needed to promote such security and bring about sustainable agriculture, which called for innovation in the face of climate change and current crises. It was also important to create production systems that would guarantee food security while also protecting the environment and generating opportunities for economic growth, with an emphasis on youth.
152. Cameroon had benefited from IFAD support for many of its projects to mobilize private sector involvement in agriculture and animal husbandry and to sustain the employability of young people and women in those spheres. IFAD's targeting of rural populations specifically was both right and fitting. Sufficient funding must therefore be made available for IFAD13, including to enable the establishment of fair systems that tackled climate- and biodiversity-related issues for the benefit of small-scale producers.
153. **A delegate from SWITZERLAND** said that food systems suffered from multiple deficiencies, including dependency on non-renewable resources and vulnerability to climate change, biodiversity loss and land degradation. Access to nutritious and healthy food was further hampered in many countries by rising food, energy and fertilizer prices, with debt distress an added factor.
154. In that context, the first step was to further accelerate food systems transformation towards sustainability, locality, equity and resilience, including through agroecological approaches. The second was to connect that holistic long-term vision to an approach that reinforced the humanitarian-development-peace nexus. The third was to enable women, young people and marginalized groups to participate meaningfully in those processes.
155. Addressing the food crisis required effective coordination and collaboration not only among IFAD, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Food Programme (WFP) and other international financial institutions but also with the Green Climate Fund and the private sector. It meant in addition that available resources must be leveraged and that business as usual was no longer an option. Private sector investment aimed at redirecting food finance architecture to the transformation of food systems was a prerequisite to delivering on the commitments made at the 2021 United Nations Food Systems Summit. As the lead entities for the workstream on means of implementation within the United Nations Food Systems Coordination Hub, IFAD and the World Bank had a key role to play in that connection. With blended finance and de-risking set only to grow in importance, IFAD's own capacity and competency in channelling private sector financing and impact investment would be a critical building block in need of further development.

156. **A delegate from SAUDI ARABIA**, observing that multiple mutually reinforcing crises had driven food prices to record levels, said that the expertise of specialized institutions such as IFAD, FAO, WFP, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) could be used to enhance understanding of food insecurity, explore solutions, elaborate firm action plans and assign responsibility for implementation. With the ultimate aim of accelerating action on food security and achieving SDG 2 (Zero hunger), direct support should be channelled to the most vulnerable people and countries, with support also strengthened for international efforts, including IFAD13, to mitigate the effects of food insecurity.
157. In that regard, he concurred that IFAD should be involved in the Arab Coordination Group initiative for action on food security. It was also important to roll back trade protectionism. Member States should review trade-restrictive measures, including those affecting food-related exports, with a view to enhancing market predictability, bolstering business confidence and allowing agrifood trade to flourish. Moreover, linkages between fertilizer manufacturers and consumers should be strengthened by facilitating the distribution of fertilizer in areas suffering shortages, as lack of access to fertilizers resulted in lower yields and affected quality, potentially leading to other health and nutritional problems.
158. Reliable, affordable and accessible energy was key to addressing food insecurity. Looking ahead, a well-diversified energy mix could protect the global economy from economic shocks and boost global economic growth instead of driving future crises. IFAD13 should adopt the circular carbon economy approach endorsed by the G20 in 2020.
159. **A delegate from the REPUBLIC OF KOREA**, noting that his country's contribution to IFAD had steadily increased, said that the IFAD13 Consultation was starting at a critical juncture, just seven years before 2030 and at a time when global food security was being threatened by unprecedented levels of crisis. It was to be hoped that the Consultation would be fruitful and enable IFAD13 to contribute to the attainment of the SDGs. With long-term development vital to the achievement of sustainable agriculture and food systems, his Government was keen to strengthen its partnership with IFAD and stood ready to share the expertise and knowledge it had gained from its own development experience.
160. **A delegate from FINLAND** said that the global food crisis and climate change had clearly demonstrated the vulnerability of food systems and that resilient, inclusive and sustainable food systems were key to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. IFAD could pave the way through adopting the holistic approach required to break down silos and bring together stakeholders from the food, nutrition, health and environmental sectors. The Rome-based agencies, international financial institutions and others had to work together globally and, in particular, at the country level. While a focus on local food systems development was vital, linking local systems to regional food systems, trade and the processing industry would create more opportunities for improving livelihoods in the long run.
161. It was also vital to ensure access to fertilizers at affordable prices. Special efforts should therefore be made to strengthen local trade in fertilizers, along with markets and manufacturing capacity, to which end IFAD should facilitate regional and other cooperation. The private sector, too, played a crucial role in agriculture and rural development, creating jobs, spurring economic growth and improving people's lives. IFAD's proposal to enhance engagement with the private sector in IFAD13 was therefore commendable. Indeed, the Private Sector Financing Programme established during IFAD12 had already shown potential and should be further developed and strengthened.
162. IFAD should also continue working on innovations and digital development, which could make a difference in the structural development and functioning of inclusive food systems. IFAD's mainstreaming of social inclusion in all aspects of its work

was laudable, as were its important efforts to advance gender equality through targeted measures and mainstreaming, which should be continued. Lastly, bearing in mind that young people could contribute substantially to food systems, innovative ways of involving them in IFAD's activities should be explored.

163. **A delegate from NIGERIA**, underlining his country's essential role in the food chain of West Africa and beyond, said that agricultural production across Africa, and in Nigeria especially, had been adversely affected by climate change, insecurity, the COVID-19 pandemic and the Russia–Ukraine conflict. The Nigerian Government was therefore working assiduously to ensure food security, stimulate agricultural employment services, promote the production and supply of raw materials for agro-industries, find markets for industrial products, and generate aid for rural socio-economic development. Against that backdrop, the hope was that the current session of the Governing Council would result in renewed commitment to common initiatives aimed at achieving food and nutrition security.
164. **An observer for the EUROPEAN UNION**, welcoming the session's overarching theme and the launch of the IFAD13 Consultation, said that the new replenishment should continue the previous focus on transformative, long-term solutions and thus contribute to achievement of the SDGs. Long-term investment in resilience-building and climate change adaptation were important elements of the response to the deteriorating global food security situation. Quick fixes should not distract from efforts for long-term sustainable solutions and food systems transformation.
165. European Union investments in IFAD were framed by the IFAD–European Union 2022 Strategic Dialogue and its three priority themes: innovative finance for inclusive agrifood systems; conditions conducive to innovation and youth employment; and climate change resilience, carbon sequestration and smallholders. The European Union's latest cooperation programmes with IFAD were part of its response to the food crisis and centred on investment in healthy soils, biodiversity and nature-based solutions, such as agroecology. The European Union strongly urged IFAD to continue its pursuit of transformative action that addressed food systems sustainability and incentives for the farming generation of tomorrow.
166. **A delegate from JAPAN**, responding to the first guiding question posed, said that his country was a proponent of scene-setting: systemic change was urgently needed but complex and required partnerships. IFAD should therefore act as a reliable assembler of finance for rural areas. To that end, it should generate sustainable and resilient food value chains on the ground, starting by connecting small-scale farmers to the processing and distribution sectors so as to limit food loss, and ending by forging connections with consumers through functioning markets. As there was no one-size-fits-all solution for food systems change, IFAD should design good practices for each region, including in order to encourage further cofinancing by various stakeholders, among them the private sector.
167. As to the second guiding question, while the current situation of food insecurity might allow IFAD to expand its activities, it also entailed an inherent risk of mission drift. IFAD's comparative advantage did not lie in short-term emergency solutions, which should be implemented by other United Nations agencies, but rather in building the resilience of rural areas to prepare for future crises. In that sense, the real challenge for IFAD was to continue implementing its activities to enhance resilience in parallel with other United Nations agencies conducting emergency operations in the same location. IFAD's cross-cutting themes, whether nutrition, gender or youth, were important in that respect because they focused on individual people and were therefore strong factors of resilience in rural areas.
168. **A delegate from GUINEA** said that Africa was home to some 13 per cent of the global population and accounted for only 2 per cent of climate change but was

- affected by up to 21 per cent of the impact. Green financing was slow to materialize in Africa and no large amounts were allocated in African national development budgets to combating climate change. The time had come to rethink the approach to agriculture from two standpoints. First, consideration must be given to the production of short-life-cycle crops and crops requiring less water and fewer inputs, which called for research that was expensive and attracted very little funding. Moreover, there was no one to replace the many researchers in African countries, notably Guinea, who were retiring. Much more investment in building research capacity was therefore an urgent need.
169. Secondly, owing to lack of access to processing units, most African farmers sustained high crop losses and perishability levels amounting to 40 per cent of fruit and vegetable harvests and 25 per cent of rice harvests. A paradigm change was needed that would shift the focus towards research and the transformation of agriculture in the broadest sense, encompassing plant crops, fisheries, livestock breeding and the environment.
170. **A delegate from PERU**, referring to the Joint Statement issued on 8 February 2023 by the heads of FAO, the IMF, the World Bank Group, the WFP and the World Trade Organization (WTO) on the global food and nutrition security crisis, said that 80 per cent of poor people worldwide lived in rural areas and one fifth of the global rural population lived in extreme poverty. By contrast, however, small-scale agriculture made a huge contribution to global food security. A new model of rural development was therefore needed – one that invested more heavily in agriculture and sustainable infrastructure with a view to harnessing the potential of rural populations and resources. Increased contributions to IFAD13 were also required in order to roll out programmes that would improve the livelihoods and productive capacity of those populations by addressing the needs of men, women and young people on an equal basis. Farming families would then be able to participate effectively in markets, and the sustainability and resilience of their activities would be strengthened.
171. The amounts invested should be increased and new forms of investment developed whereby the risks and benefits were shared by investors and by small-scale farmers, who should be involved in food sector value chains and be present on local, national, regional and global markets. To that end, conditions conducive to proper public-private-producer partnerships must be generated.
172. **A delegate from the SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC**, after thanking those who had expressed solidarity with the Syrian Arab Republic and Türkiye following the recent earthquake, said that it was time to adopt measures promoting sustainable agricultural systems, which would require increased investment in climate-smart agriculture, green programmes, technology and global transformation for all. Job opportunities must be created in the most vulnerable areas and for small-scale farmers, whether women, youth or persons with disabilities.
173. Financing was a crucial aspect, but not the only one: small and medium-sized projects should be linked to cluster projects that helped beneficiaries to expand their operational requirements and market stable and safe products while providing funds to insure against risks. In practice, providing young people and women with production jobs did more harm than good unless market opportunities were also created. Given that progress was driven by technology, food and agricultural research was essential to ensuring that IFAD funds were channelled to the right places. Peace and stability were also crucial to combating terrorism and to enabling IFAD to do its work. Complementarity between organizations was vital to achieving the desired results. The focus had to be on the areas most vulnerable to climate change, which was becoming a problem affecting everyone.
174. **A delegate from BURKINA FASO**, having described the security situation in

Burkina Faso and its impact on the rural population, said that IFAD support for the countries of the Sahel would help them resolve the many problems that they faced. First and foremost among those problems were food insecurity and how to include internally displaced persons who had been forced to abandon everything. Another problem was unemployment, above all among young people. The creation of job opportunities through heavy investment in agriculture would contribute towards combating terrorism.

175. **A delegate from BRAZIL** said that Brazil was paradoxically a major food exporter that nevertheless relied on financial support for the development of resilience programmes in some of its regions. While Brazil supported cooperation projects to promote rural family farming and school meal networks, notably in Latin America, the Caribbean and Africa, it was also the recipient of financial support from IFAD and other multilateral institutions for projects that provided experience and lessons that IFAD could then draw on for its programmes elsewhere. Multilateralism was the most effective means of countering setbacks to the development gains of recent decades, and IFAD should continue to defend multilateral cooperation between developed and developing countries within the framework of international financial institutions.
176. The private sector also played an important role in official development aid and in championing local and international initiatives aimed at increasing resilience to shocks and guaranteeing food security for the most seriously affected populations worldwide. Public banks and institutions, moreover, helped to leverage private sector investment. Given its specific mandate as the leading international organization dedicated to fighting rural poverty, IFAD was well placed to promote coordination, leverage government and civil society resources, and boost knowledge-sharing and cooperation. As a knowledge organization, it should also seek synergies between projects, including through regional centres.
177. IFAD should be more assertive in identifying opportunities to build on initiatives that had an acknowledged impact worldwide, in which context its collaboration with the African Development Bank served as a good example. In so doing, however, it must take care to avoid overlap and duplication of efforts. In that regard, IFAD's robust collaboration with the other Rome-based agencies was commendable, and it should engage in more cofinancing so as to benefit from the comparative advantages of other cofinanciers. Sustainable finance was one means of leveraging resources to fund projects focused on the inclusion and empowerment of women, youth, persons with disabilities and other groups at risk of being left behind. Relevant national government initiatives should be discussed in other forums, such as the G20 Sustainable Finance Working Group, and IFAD should also cooperate with financial development institutions dedicated to climate and green funding. In conclusion, a substantive IFAD13 would bring lasting and irreversible change to rural farmers in need around the world.
178. **A delegate from the PHILIPPINES** said that the Philippines faced mounting food insecurity as the climate crisis morphed into a climate emergency and that its current administration was endeavouring to address gaps in the agricultural value chain, strengthen local agricultural capacity and pursue nature-based solutions with a view to improving yields. Those objectives would be achieved only if the country's partners, in particular IFAD, continued to channel significant financial and technical support to the agricultural sector. Indeed, IFAD's portfolio of projects in the Philippines remained highly relevant to the needs of the rural poor and was aligned with the country's policies and national priorities for the agricultural sector. The Philippines was grateful to IFAD and would continue to work with it on IFAD13 in order to foster action on food security for all.
179. **A delegate from SOUTH SUDAN**, responding to the first guiding question, said that IFAD programmes and projects must link farm production to how processing

and supply chains were organized and public policy decisions made with a view to determining socio-economic and environmental outcomes. For IFAD to influence food system outcomes effectively, its investment programmes must identify the challenges facing primary and secondary food system participants along the agriculture value chain. IFAD could support countries undertaking national food systems assessments and ensure that such assessments were regularly reviewed and updated. To transform food systems, IFAD should support government efforts to strengthen the mechanisms for cross-sectoral collaboration with a view to alleviating pressures from, for example, land and ecosystem degradation, desertification, encroaching salinity, drought, floods, deforestation, water scarcity, and plant and animal pests and diseases.

180. No single entity could address those challenges alone. IFAD must therefore build local partnerships based on an excellent understanding of each country's food systems and the capacities of their components, from smallholder farms to markets and consumers. Its admirable work on community-based seed multiplication notwithstanding, IFAD should also build new partnerships, strengthen those already in place between national and international research institutions in agriculture, and involve primary food systems participants, such as agronomists and researchers, in scaling up work in that domain. IFAD should additionally provide support for potential credit providers and local financial partners involved in helping smallholder farmers to acquire inputs and tools through, for example, farmers' organizations and cooperatives.
181. Concerning the second question, the Financial Mechanism established under Article 9 of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change enabled IFAD to support government and stakeholder action to assess and prioritize financial needs for climate-resilient development. The challenge was to identify interventions that increased the productive capacities of smallholder farmers while enhancing sustainability and resilience, expanding and improving their access to markets, and enhancing their capacity to manage risks. There was no one-size-fits-all approach to increasing agricultural production and productivity. Knowledge of the context in each country was therefore critical for programme design, implementation and monitoring, which was where IFAD could make a difference as a facilitator and coordinator of efforts by governments and food systems participants to organize markets and increase agricultural production and productivity.
182. **A delegate from UGANDA** said that, in order to accelerate progress towards realizing sustainable, inclusive and resilient local food systems and transforming livelihoods, IFAD13 needed to channel more resources towards animal husbandry. While Uganda appreciated the IFAD-funded National Oil Palm Project, which had had a tangible impact on communities in the project area, global demand for animal protein could not be ignored in food and nutrition security systems.
183. **The CHAIRPERSON** said that delegates who had not been able to take the floor for want of time should send their statements to the Secretariat, which would make them available online.
184. **Ms SANTALA** (Associate Vice-President, External Relations and Governance Department, IFAD), summing up the dialogue, said that speakers had expressed concern about the food crisis currently facing the world and had called for greater investment in resilient food systems. They had stressed the urgent need to focus on rural people, small-scale farmers, marginalized or excluded communities, and vulnerable groups. They had encouraged IFAD to invest more and to mobilize other resources and partners by functioning as an assembler of development finance.
185. Speakers had also said that IFAD should continue to focus on agricultural transformation and on the things that it had a long record of doing. It should

address climate change adaptation, biodiversity issues, and the drivers and impact of fragility. It should continue to explore ways of engaging with the private sector and to emphasize gender equality, women's empowerment and youth engagement. It should also continue to advance social inclusion in all its forms and use innovation and technology to take its work to the next level.

186. It had been very heartening to hear the message of strong support for IFAD as a trusted partner for Member States. It had also been a source of satisfaction to hear strong support for IFAD13 and pledges to advocate for IFAD and the replenishment during 2023.
187. **A video entitled "[A New Day](#)" was screened.**
188. **The CHAIRPERSON** thanked delegates for their engagement in the high-level dialogue and echoed their message that extraordinary times called for extraordinary action. Addressing the root causes of food insecurity would help to mitigate current global challenges and crises. IFAD's experience showed that investment in food systems and rural livelihoods was the entry point for change.

SYNTHESIS OF DELIBERATIONS OF THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' FORUM

189. **Ms Margaret Tunda LEPORE** (member of the Indigenous Peoples' Forum at IFAD [IPFI] Steering Committee), presented a synthesis of the deliberations of the sixth global meeting of the IPFI, held on 9, 10 and 13 February 2023, on the theme "Indigenous Peoples' climate leadership: Community-based solutions to enhance resilience and biodiversity". The full text of the synthesis is reproduced in chapter 4.
190. **The CHAIRPERSON**, conveying appreciation of the outcomes of the very important deliberations of the IPFI, said that IFAD recognized Indigenous Peoples as key stakeholders in the fight against rural poverty and as agents of change.

The meeting rose at 7.35 p.m.

- (iii) Summary record of the third meeting of the forty-sixth session held on Wednesday 15 February 2023 at 9.30 a.m.

Chairperson: His Excellency Alex Alonso Contreras Miranda (Peru)

Later:

Her Excellency Haifa Aissami Madah (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela)
(Vice-Chairperson)

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

APPLICATION FOR NON-ORIGINAL MEMBERSHIP (agenda item 3) (GC 46/L.2)

192. **The CHAIRPERSON** said that an application for non-original membership by Ukraine had been presented to the 137th session of the Executive Board in December 2022. The Executive Board had recommended that the application be submitted to the Governing Council for approval. Document GC 46/L.2 contained the text of the related draft resolution.
193. **Ms Katherine MEIGHAN** (Associate Vice-President and General Counsel; Associate Vice-President a.i., Financial Operations Department, IFAD) confirmed that the application for non-original membership of IFAD by Ukraine had been duly received, that the three main criteria for eligibility had been fulfilled and that all procedures had been duly followed in accordance with articles 3.1(a), 3.2(b) and 13.1(c) of the Agreement Establishing IFAD and section 10 of the By-laws for the Conduct of the Business of IFAD.
194. The first of those criteria was that applicants for membership of the Fund must be a State Member of the United Nations or any of its specialized agencies, or of the International Atomic Energy Agency, which was the case with Ukraine. The second was that the application for membership must be signed by the Head of State, Head of Government or Minister for Foreign Affairs of the country concerned and submitted to IFAD. In the case of Ukraine, the letter of application had been duly signed by the country's Minister for Foreign Affairs. The third was that the Executive Board must consider the application for membership and make its recommendation to the Governing Council, which was empowered to approve membership applications. With all three criteria met and all required procedures complete, the Governing Council could therefore now appropriately decide whether to adopt the draft resolution approving the membership of Ukraine of IFAD.
195. **A delegate from the RUSSIAN FEDERATION**, while agreeing that every Member State of the United Nations had the right to apply for membership of international organizations if they met the necessary criteria, said that the application by Ukraine merited certain comment. In referring the previous day to Ukraine as a breadbasket of the world, the Executive Director of the World Food Programme (WFP) had omitted to state that, under the Black Sea Grain Initiative, some 20 million tons of agricultural products had been moved from the territory of Ukraine and that, of those products, 47 per cent had gone to the European Union, the United Kingdom and other developed countries, and 33 per cent, or 6.1 million tons, to other countries with above average incomes.
196. The Secretary-General of the United Nations should acknowledge that the initiative was no longer a humanitarian operation but a purely commercial one, which accounted for his failure to provide data as to the destination of those products. According to the Joint Coordination Centre in Istanbul, which was responsible for monitoring the initiative, only 3 per cent of the food produce went to least developed countries, including just 396 tons, or 2 per cent, carried by vessels chartered by the WFP to Ethiopia, Somalia and Yemen.
197. On 25 January 2023, the Polish delegation to the Council of the European Union, also on behalf of the Bulgarian, Czech, Hungarian, Romanian and Slovak delegations, presented Note 5722/23, which points to the dramatic rise in maize imports from Ukraine to European Union Member States bordering Ukraine between January and November 2022 in comparison with previous years. For example, imports of maize to Poland over those months had amounted to 1,637,000 tons, compared with 6,000 tons previously, while imports to Hungary had amounted to over 900,000 tons, compared with 5,000 tons previously, all in all an increase of over 5,000 times the previous volume. Part of the imported

grain was furthermore processed in domestic European markets, resulting in decreased demand for domestic producers.

198. One of the proposals set out in Note 5722/23 was to seal “solidarity lanes so that Ukrainian agricultural products transit EU Member States and reach destination markets, without remaining on the EU internal market causing disturbances on the markets of EU countries.” Given that Ukraine was applying for membership as a List C2 country and hence as a net recipient, the question arose as to how that proposal would affect not only European agricultural markets but also List C2 countries receiving sponsorship from IFAD. As a donor country and with that question in mind, the Russian Federation could not approve the application of Ukraine as a List C2 country. It would, however, have no issue were Ukraine to apply as a contributor, or List A country.
199. **Ms MEIGHAN** (Associate Vice-President and General Counsel; Associate Vice-President a.i., Financial Operations Department, IFAD) said that, on the basis of the economic data analysed, Ukraine was currently identified as a lower-middle-income country and would accordingly be in List C, sub-List C2, in accordance with Schedule II of the Agreement Establishing IFAD. Under the applicable legal framework, a new member joining IFAD for the first time would join the appropriate list, which in the case of Ukraine was list C2.
200. **The CHAIRPERSON**, noted that while the Russian Federation had informed that it could not join in the consensus approval of this item, this did not affect the majority required for the approval of the application by Ukraine.
201. **On that understanding, the Governing Council adopted resolution 229/XLVI on the approval of Ukraine as a non-original Member of the Fund.**
202. **A delegate from UKRAINE**, expressing sincere gratitude for the approval of its membership of IFAD, said that Ukraine had sought membership of the Fund with a view to engaging more fully with the international community and contributing to the development of rural regions in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As a founding member of the United Nations, Ukraine was one of the guarantors of global food security and a major agricultural producer with much to contribute as a member of IFAD. Although suffering the misfortune of the unprovoked and unjustified war of aggression waged against it by the Russian Federation, Ukraine remained committed to contributing to global food security, diffusing the food crisis and saving millions of people from hunger, which would require international assistance and investment, particularly through credit programmes for farmers and support for increased exports and sowing and harvesting campaigns. The war was complicating all production processes and significantly limiting the financial resources of Ukrainian farmers. In difficult times, the only way to overcome challenges was through unity. Ukraine welcomed the historic decision concerning its membership of IFAD and looked forward to close cooperation in future.

INTERACTIVE SESSION 3 – YOUTH AND AGRICULTURE: ACCELERATING A JUST TRANSITION TOWARDS FOOD SECURITY

203. **The CHAIRPERSON** introduced the moderator for the interactive session, Mr Qasa Alom, a BBC journalist. The panellists were:
- Ms Elizabeth Wathuti, Green Climate Fund Youth Champion, Republic of Kenya
 - Ms Dali Nolasco Cruz, Indigenous young woman from the Nahua tribe, the United Mexican States
 - Ms Fatima Amaguar, Youth Grassroots Approach, the Kingdom of Morocco
204. The discussion can be viewed through this [link](#).

205. **Her Excellency Haifa Aissami Madah (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) took the Chair.**

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CONSULTATION ON THE THIRTEENTH REPLENISHMENT OF IFAD'S RESOURCES (agenda item 6) (GC 46/L.4)

206. **The CHAIRPERSON** 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 to ensure the continuity of its operations. The time had now come to focus on IFAD's resource requirements from 2025 onwards, as recommended by the Executive Board, in which connection she drew attention to the draft resolution set out in document GC 46/L.4. As indicated therein, based on the favourable experience with an external chair during recent replenishment consultations, it was proposed that Mr Kyle Peters be appointed as the External Chair for the Consultation on the Thirteenth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources (IFAD13). It was also proposed that the composition of the IFAD13 Consultation should follow that of the IFAD12 Consultation, namely 25 Member States from List A, 10 Member States from List B and 22 Member States from List C. The countries participating from each List should be determined by the members of the List concerned.
207. **A delegate from the UNITED STATES**, in supporting the establishment of the IFAD13 Consultation, said that the promotion of global food security required investment in climate-smart resilient agriculture and food systems, backed up by productive collaboration among the international community. The earlier discussions with young women leaders and Indigenous Peoples had demonstrated just how critical the voices of both groups were to strengthening global food security.
208. Also essential to global food security, the Black Sea Grain Initiative ensured the delivery of critical food, including humanitarian aid, to many of the world's most food insecure people, such as communities in Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Somalia and Yemen. The initiative was life-saving, having improved supply and lowered prices, and should be extended beyond March 2023 to continue keeping vulnerable people from going hungry. As emphasized by the United Nations, all grain exported from Ukraine was crucial for the world's poor, even if it did not go to them directly, because it calmed markets and mitigated price spikes in key commodities. Inspections had slowed, however, creating shipping backlogs, and should therefore be scaled up.
209. **A delegate from CHINA**, underlining the significance of the IFAD13 Consultation, expressed support for the appointment of Mr Kyle Peters as the External Chair. His expertise had played a key role in raising IFAD12 to new heights and he would undoubtedly continue to act in a professional, objective and neutral manner in working for the success of IFAD13.
210. The overall priority for IFAD13 would be the establishment of sustainable, resilient and inclusive local food systems and the improvement of rural livelihoods, proceeding from the three policy priorities of addressing vulnerability, climate and biodiversity financing, and cooperation with the private sector. It would also be founded on the three pillars set for IFAD operations, namely transformative country programmes for rural empowerment, development financing and institutional reform. In that context, China supported the very meaningful action undertaken by IFAD to further refine and implement the consensus of the 2021 United Nations Food Systems Summit, based on its own characteristics.
211. Lastly, all parties should unite to ensure a successful IFAD13 providing more preferential resources for developing Member States. As a responsible, large developing country, China was willing to support IFAD13 within its capacities, but called on developed countries to take the lead in increasing contributions. China

also supported the provision of more resources to low-income and mid- to low-income countries. In that regard, it expected IFAD to retain its universality, focus on the rural poor in all developing countries, further innovate in its financing models, make substantive strides in market borrowing, and establish a sustainable financing mechanism.

212. **A delegate from FRANCE** said that IFAD13 was critical to increasing food security worldwide and making progress in the transformation of food systems, which was especially vital in the current context. All members should show ambition for IFAD13 to ensure that IFAD's action continued to benefit the poorest and most marginalized, especially in the light of the existing food crisis. Climate change and climate vulnerability should feature large in the IFAD13 Consultation, with IFAD, for its part, accelerating the greening of its portfolio and stepping up its ambition in the area of biodiversity. Collaboration with the private sector should also be considerably strengthened with a view to effectively addressing such issues as funding for climate transition and adaptation.
213. Concerning the earlier statement made by the Russian Federation under agenda item 3, it was worth noting that the Russian Federation continued to disseminate disinformation and avoid its responsibilities in waging its unlawful war of aggression, which was undermining global food security. Thanks to the Black Sea Grain Initiative, global food prices had fallen and, as repeatedly emphasized by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the initiative itself and the solidarity lanes supported by the European Union were benefiting everyone, in particular the poorest countries most in need, by helping to calm markets and curb food price inflation. The initiative should therefore be unconditionally renewed and strengthened, with an increase in the number of inspections.
214. **A delegate from the UNITED KINGDOM**, in expressing support for IFAD13, said that the Black Sea Grain Initiative chimed well with the focus of the Rome-based agencies on hunger reduction and that it must be extended to prevent hunger from becoming even more widespread. Already mentioned by previous speakers, its benefits for and impact on hungry people and food security in developing countries above all must be recognized, including through strong support across the board for its extension.
215. **A delegate from RWANDA**, reaffirming that food was a basic human right, said that more initiatives for scaling up food production were needed to deal with the current crisis. It was therefore important to support the Fund through IFAD13 so that it could help small-scale farmers towards achieving acceptable crop and livestock productivity. If those farmers were going hungry, it was very difficult to call upon them to act as stewards of the environment.
216. In its work with IFAD over the preceding 40 years, Rwanda had never been disappointed. IFAD focused on production, post-harvest management, value addition, transport and marketing and was one of the stakeholders that catered for the food system as a whole. Rwanda therefore encouraged countries to increase their commitment to IFAD13.
217. **A delegate from ARGENTINA**, expressing support for the Consultation on IFAD13 and looking forward to a successful replenishment process, said that the data on world food insecurity set out in the 2022 edition of The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI) were truly alarming. The current situation again resembled that in 2015 when the SDGs had been adopted, with SDG 1 (No poverty) and SDG 2 (Zero hunger) far from attainment, posing a difficult challenge for the Rome-based agencies and all their partners.
218. In that context, the principle of the universality of IFAD was vital and in no way contradicted the focus on the poorest of the poor. Rural poverty was very real wherever the poor might be, and the SOFI figures showed just how dramatic the

situation was. Specific variables, such as per capita or average income, did not truly seize the deep reality of countries, including many with middle-income economies, where there were often very large and growing pockets of rural poverty. Moreover, as the 2022 edition of SOFI did not include the consequences of the war in Ukraine, it was reasonable to expect even worse figures in the next edition. Care should therefore be taken not to over-simplify reality. It was essential to be aware of the deep causes of rural poverty, wherever it existed, and defend the principle of the universality of IFAD.

219. **A delegate from INDIA** said that global food security could be strengthened by governments through smart and targeted support for food producers and consumers alike that sought, among other things, to improve farm productivity in a sustainable manner. For its part, the Government of India was continuing to promote its agenda on the availability, affordability and accessibility of food grains at all times.
220. As to IFAD13, the key priorities for consideration included the continued facilitation of effective targeting through holistic and inclusive development approaches and a focus on rural women, youth and Indigenous Peoples. Support for climate-resilient food systems should also be provided through the enhancement of agricultural food value, which would require huge financial and technical resources and in which IFAD had a critical role to play. In addition, IFAD's Private Sector Engagement Strategy would need to be reviewed in order to mobilize sustainably greater financial resources by accelerating operations, exploring new private partnerships, and fast-tracking existing private sector engagement with a view to adding measurable value.
221. As the world's largest producer of millets and using the opportunity provided by the declaration of 2023 as the International Year of Millets, India was aiming to create awareness and increase the production and consumption of millets as a food option with high nutritional value and resilience to climate change. It was also seeking to share best practices, research and technology to encourage millet production. Work must be carried out in tandem with multiple stakeholders, including the public and private sectors, bilateral and multilateral agencies, with a view to mobilizing resources and harnessing knowledge and experience as a means of doubling the impact on food system transformation.
222. **A delegate from the RUSSIAN FEDERATION**, in expressing support for the endeavours to establish the Consultation on IFAD13, said that universality should be preserved as the guiding principle of IFAD in the provision of funds and that the consultations should be non-politicized, objective and take into consideration the interests of all stakeholders.
223. As to the Black Sea Grain Initiative, the statistics provided by the Joint Coordination Centre in Istanbul showed that only 3 per cent of grain exports from Ukraine were reaching poor countries, specifically Djibouti, Ethiopia, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen, while 47 per cent were going to high-income countries and 33 per cent to upper-middle-income countries. Delegates should also note that the illegal sanctions imposed on the Russian Federation and its banking system were obstructing its contributions to the Fund.
224. **A delegate from CANADA**, fully endorsing the appointment of Mr Kyle Peters as facilitator of the consultation, said that the potential role of private capital in adding to the replenishment process should be closely considered. Moreover, multiple escalating crises should not be seen as competing demands in the rapid scaling up of financing. The current crises of food insecurity, climate change and biodiversity loss were deeply connected and required a collective response in order to build strong and resilient food systems more capable of withstanding future shocks. IFAD's work was not merely a question of numbers. It was important to seek the diversification of resources as one part of the response,

while examining how the Fund could achieve further impact and optimize the use of the resources at its disposal as twin tracks for reflection in the replenishment process. The consequences of decades of under-investment in smallholder agriculture were now being felt. IFAD13 therefore represented an opportunity to define the path towards improved food security and poverty reduction.

225. **A delegate from BRAZIL** said that Brazil was committed to the important IFAD13 Consultation, which should serve to hold high the banner of multilateralism at a time of crisis with multiple strands. An important guiding principle in the consultation was the inclusiveness that had been demonstrated at the present session of the Governing Council in the interactive sessions involving youth, women and Indigenous Peoples. Emphasis should also be placed on the addition of value in the use of IFAD's resources, based on both the innovative mobilization of resources and the optimization of their use through private sector engagement and cofinancing. While there was no shortage of resources for climate finance, financial institutions such as IFAD could act as real catalysts for innovation. In the IFAD13 context, it was important to identify and adopt an optimized approach to the inclusion of climate finance in all IFAD projects relating to food security, small farming and agriculture. As the share of that finance increased in IFAD programmes, it should be remembered that it was a subject of discussion in many forums and that due weight should be given to the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, as set out in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.
226. **A delegate from IRELAND** said that IFAD13 offered an essential opportunity at a critical moment to invest in the food and nutrition security of the poorest rural populations. It was in the collective interest for IFAD13 to be strong in terms of both its focus and quality and the financial resources that it commanded. IFAD13 would come to an end in 2028 and therefore in effect offered a final opportunity for strategically equipping IFAD, its members and the people it served to meet the many challenges that justified its existence, particularly with 2030 on the horizon.
227. It was therefore vital to prioritize the implementation of pathways for sustainable food system transformation. Nutrition-centred food systems were an essential framework for the achievement of the SDGs and would require ambition and energy in IFAD's work on nutrition. IFAD should also continue to develop its offer and capacity as a global leader in driving climate financing for agriculture, biodiversity and environmental sustainability. Climate should remain an absolute priority for IFAD, backed by research, innovation and strategic policy engagement.
228. It was also important for IFAD to develop its ability to operate in fragile and conflict-affected situations, in which flexible and responsive mechanisms were crucial in contributing to a coordinated and coherent approach to humanitarian development and peace. With girls and women disproportionately affected by the global food security crisis, IFAD should continue to build on its efforts to ensure that its work was gender transformative, attuned to the youth perspective and contributed to sustainable solutions to entrenched inequalities.
229. Lastly, although core resources were critical for IFAD to continue supporting low-income countries and those left furthest behind, its ability to leverage its financing and drive investment in rural food systems would also be very important. IFAD should therefore be encouraged to develop its strategic engagement with the private sector, including through the leveraging of private capital where sustainable and meaningful impact could be achieved.
230. **A delegate from JAPAN** said that Japan supported the establishment of IFAD13 and wished to emphasize the need to extend the Black Sea Grain Initiative, failing which the consolidated efforts to improve global food security would be undermined.

231. **A delegate from INDONESIA** said that IFAD13 should be aligned with the current global action taken to mitigate the multidimensional crises, enhance community engagement as IFAD's core business and maintain IFAD's people-centred approach. IFAD's South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) should furthermore be strengthened to provide capacity-building for poverty reduction, imports and inclusive rural transformation. SSTC could also offer an innovative funding modality that could be explored as a means of mobilizing resources for South-South and North-South cooperation.
232. **A delegate from GHANA**, welcoming the collective commitment to achieving sustainable solutions in relation to IFAD13, said that important areas of focus should include rural transformation and empowerment, capacity-building, financing inclusion, optimization of opportunities for smallholder farmers to reduce food insecurity, and value addition to food produce.
233. **The Governing Council adopted resolution 230/XLVI on the establishment of the Consultation on the Thirteenth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources.**
234. **The CHAIRPERSON** said that the world was at a critical inflection point where profound changes were required if the SDGs were to be achieved by 2030. The replenishment consultations would be vital to ensuring that IFAD had the required resources to continue its work of advocating for smallholder farmers as key agents of change in transforming rural livelihoods.

IFAD'S 2023 RESULTS-BASED PROGRAMME OF WORK, REGULAR AND CAPITAL BUDGETS, AND MEDIUM-TERM STRATEGIC BUDGET OUTLOOK FOR 2024-2025, AND THE INDEPENDENT OFFICE OF EVALUATION OF IFAD'S RESULTS-BASED WORK PROGRAMME AND BUDGET FOR 2023 AND INDICATIVE PLAN FOR 2024-2025, AND THE HIPC AND PBAS PROGRESS REPORTS (agenda item 8) (GC 46/L.6)

235. **The CHAIRPERSON**, drawing attention to document GC 46/L.6 and its contents, said that, at its 137th session in December 2022, the Executive Board had approved the programmes of work of IFAD and of the Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD (IOE) and reviewed the proposed budgets for both, recommending that they be submitted to the Governing Council for approval. The Board had further recommended that the progress reports on the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Initiative and the performance-based allocation system (PBAS) be presented to the Council for information. While document GC 46/L.6 provided 2022 data in relation to the HIPC Initiative, it should be noted that the arrears of Somalia outside the HIPC entitlement had since been cleared with the generous support of Belgium, Germany, Italy and Sweden.
236. **Mr Dominik ZILLER** (Vice-President of IFAD), introducing the Fund's budget proposals set out in part one of document GC 46/L.6, recalled that the Governors and keynote speakers had called on IFAD to scale up its impact and maximize its contribution to tackling hunger and poverty, which was precisely what the 2023 budget proposals sought to achieve. Those proposals had been defined through a thorough consultation process with the Board members and the main priority was to meet the resource requirements for the second year of the implementation of IFAD12. It had been jointly identified that there was room for improvement in IFAD's country programme design and programme delivery and in maximizing the impact of country programmes. Most of the additional budget being sought would therefore be directed to those ends.
237. The themes jointly negotiated over time would continue to be mainstreamed, with an emphasis on increasing IFAD's presence in fragile contexts. IFAD's decentralization would also continue in order to bring the Fund closer to its beneficiaries, including through better leveraged supplementary funds. Such funds would only materialize if the Fund could demonstrate street credibility in partner countries, including through the additional special purpose vehicles that had been

- created, such as the enhanced Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme (ASAP+) for climate finance and a private sector window.
238. The Executive Board had approved a programme of work of up to US\$1.55 billion for 2023, subject to the availability of resources for commitment, and recommended that the Governing Council approve the 2023 administrative budget comprising the regular budget of US\$175.7 million, representing a growth in real terms of 2.9 per cent compared with 2022; the capital budget, amounting to US\$6.5 million, to finance regular facilities, information technology infrastructure and the establishment and enhancement of country and regional offices as part of the decentralization plan; and the IOE budget, amounting to US\$5.97 million. Over one half of IFAD's administrative budget would be allocated to operations-related expenditure, which meant that IFAD's real overheads were much lower than they might appear.
 239. Approval was also being sought for the special expenditure budget of US\$1.17 million for the IFAD13 replenishment exercise. IFAD13 would be of particular importance because the Fund in its present form was the result of several years of deep internal transformation and reform intended to increase IFAD's efficiency and effectiveness while diversifying funding sources. Additional funding through cofinancing, supplementary funds and the mobilization and leveraging of private sector and climate finance was required to address the additional challenges and crises that were arising. The steadily increasing number of countries in fragile situations, affected by conflict or heavily indebted had been further stressed by the need to find additional expenditure to buffer the effects of COVID-19 and the rising prices of commodities, fertilizers and food seen over the preceding year especially.
 240. Against that backdrop, IFAD needed to provide ever more grants for assisting those most in need, which could not be sourced through borrowing or through the budget increases necessary for transforming the institution and tapping into market funds. Despite the broad commitment to the SDGs, including SDG 2 aimed at zero hunger, the incidence of hunger remained high and was even rising. The multilateral partners would lose credibility if they could not turn that around.
 241. IFAD13 would be of great importance to averting such a failure, notwithstanding that all countries were affected by the multiple crises and that official development assistance budgets in traditional sponsor countries were being reduced, as was in some cases expenditure on agriculture. It was therefore to be hoped that IFAD's partners would be able to buck the trend of budget reduction and ensure a successful IFAD13.
 242. **Mr Indran NAIDOO** (Director, IOE, IFAD), introducing IOE's results-based work programme and budget for 2023 and its indicative plan for 2024–2025, as set out in part two of document GC 46/L.6, said that, in 2023, IOE would complete a thematic evaluation of IFAD's progress on gender equality and a corporate-level evaluation of IFAD's knowledge management. It would also start a new thematic evaluation of IFAD's progress in the areas of nutrition and food security, conduct corporate level reviews of the IFAD12 Results Management Framework and of follow-up to the 2018 corporate-level evaluation of IFAD's financial architecture, and prepare the Annual Report on the Independent Evaluation of IFAD (ARIE). It would furthermore complete country strategy and programme evaluations (CSPEs) in China and Ethiopia, and conduct data collection in Argentina, India, Mauritania, Rwanda and Türkiye. A new CSPE would be started in the Dominican Republic, to be completed in 2024, whereas the CSPE in Haiti had been placed on hold in view of the special security situation in that country.
 243. In addition, IOE would start a new subregional evaluation on the dry corridor of meso-America and complete a project cluster evaluation of rural finance projects in the East and Southern Africa regions. Project performance evaluations would be

carried out in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Chad and the Solomon Islands. IOE would validate all project completion reports, engage in internal and external evaluation capacity support in collaboration with IFAD Management and existing global networks, and continue to engage with international evaluation networks.

244. A modest but crucial increase was proposed in staff resources in order to enable IOE to move forward with the implementation of its strategy. The proposed budget for 2023 was US\$5.97 million, amounting to 0.51 per cent of IFAD's expected programme of loans and grants, which was well below the cap of 0.9 per cent set by the Executive Board and lower in nominal terms than IOE's budget in 2019, 2020 and 2021.
245. **A delegate from FRANCE**, welcoming the changes made in the preparation of the budget for 2023, said that, despite the difficulties caused by the COVID-19 crisis and the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine, IFAD had managed to withstand the shocks and was continuing to help the most vulnerable countries. Taking into account the ambitious reforms undertaken by IFAD, above all in connection with the decentralization process, and the current crisis context, France supported the proposed budget increases for 2023 on the ground that they were occasional, moderate and justified. IFAD would undoubtedly use the resources at its disposal wisely, with the record number of 40 new projects and programmes for 2023 bearing witness to IFAD's exceptional efforts in favour of rural populations. France thanked Mr Ziller for his commitment to rural populations through his work at IFAD.
246. **A delegate from ETHIOPIA** said that Ethiopia was grateful for IFAD's support to its lowlands livelihood resilience and small- and medium-scale irrigation projects and for IFAD's contribution to its rural financing initiatives and smallholder farmers. As part of its commitment to making its own contribution to IFAD programmes, Ethiopia was working for a climate-resilient green economy enabling farmers in the fragile Horn of Africa region to adapt to the shocks of climate change.
247. IFAD financing through grants was greatly needed for harnessing the available water resources towards building resilience among the country's farmers to climate change. Indeed, water should be central to rural development programmes, in which context existing small- and medium-scale irrigation initiatives, which were best targeted at smallholder farmers, should be scaled up. Rural assets and the rural economy were often not recognized by financing institutions in developing countries. It was consequently essential to create and implement models and experiences to promote access for smallholder farmers to the technologies and inputs required to build their resilience.
248. **The Governing Council adopted resolution 231/XLVI on the administrative budget comprising the regular budget and capital budgets of IFAD and an Independent Office of Evaluation of IFAD budget for 2023.**

IFAD TALK: AFRICA'S FOOD INSECURITY: A PARADOX TO BE TACKLED

249. **Ms H  l  ne PAPPER** (Director, Global Communications and Advocacy Division, IFAD), speaking in her capacity as moderator of IFAD Talk, introduced Ms Cristina Duarte, Under-Secretary-General and Special Adviser on Africa to the United Nations Secretary-General.
250. IFAD Talk with Ms Duarte can be viewed through this [link](#).
251. **A video entitled "Africa Food Systems" was screened.**
The meeting rose at 1.40 p.m.

- (iv) Summary record of the fourth meeting of the forty-sixth session held on Wednesday 15 February 2023 at 3 p.m.

Chairperson: His Excellency Alex Alonso Contreras Miranda (Peru)

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252. **The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.**

INTERACTIVE SESSION 4 – CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN THE WATER–FOOD–ENERGY NEXUS

253. The interactive session was introduced by the moderator, Mr René van Hell, Director, Inclusive Green Growth and Ambassador for Sustainable Development (Netherlands [Kingdom of the]). The panellists were:

- Her Excellency Dr Rania A. Al-Mashat, Minister for International Cooperation (coordinating Egypt’s Nexus of Water, Food and Energy Programme), the Arab Republic of Egypt
- Dr Kevin Kariuki, Vice-President, Power, Energy, Climate and Green Growth, African Development Bank Group
- Ms Esther Penunia, Secretary-General, Asian Farmers' Association for Sustainable Rural Development, the Republic of the Philippines
- Mr Aaron Leopold, Chief Executive Officer, Energrow, Republic of Kenya

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

OTHER BUSINESS (agenda item 10)

255. There was no other business.

CONCLUDING REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT OF IFAD

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

CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

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

258. He declared closed the forty-sixth session of the Governing Council.

The meeting rose at 4.35 p.m.

Chapter 4 Statements and special addresses



His Excellency Hassan Sheikh Mohamud
President of the Federal Republic of Somalia



Her Excellency Mia Amor Mottley
Prime Minister of Barbados



The Honourable Edmondo Cirielli
Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
of the Italian Republic



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



Mr David Beasley
Executive Director of the World Food Programme



His Excellency Alex Alonso Contreras Miranda
Chairperson of the Governing Council
Republic of Peru



Her Excellency Haifa Aissami Madah
Vice-Chairperson of the Governing Council
Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela



Mr William Roos
Vice-Chairperson of the Governing Council
French Republic



Under-Secretary-General Cristina Duarte
Special Adviser on Africa to the United Nations Secretary-General



Ms Margaret Tunda Lepore, Member of the Steering Committee of the
Indigenous Peoples' Forum



Mr Alvaro Lario
President of IFAD



Ms Deirdre Mc Grenra
Secretary of IFAD, ad interim

Welcoming statement by Mr Alvaro Lario, President of IFAD to keynote speakers

Chairperson,
Vice-Chairs,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Governors,
Ladies and gentlemen,

I have the honour to welcome you all to the forty-sixth session of the Governing Council of IFAD.

I would like to welcome our first distinguished inaugural speaker and close partner, Mr QU Dongyu, Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Thank you very much for welcoming us, once again, at FAO. We are grateful for your continued and solid partnership. Together, the Rome-based agencies have the structures and the know-how to tackle hunger and poverty. We need to continue joining forces and mobilizing resources to support poor rural people in the most fragile contexts. Our unwavering cooperation is essential to feed the world sustainably and pave the way towards a more resilient and sustainable future.

It is an honour to welcome His Excellency Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, President of the Federal Republic of Somalia. We are very happy to have you here. I commend your leadership and your efforts to address rural poverty eradication and its effects on food security in Somalia.

We would like to echo your government's urgent call to international partners for support in addressing the deteriorating drought situation in Somalia. We believe that IFAD's programmes, along with other United Nations organizations, can help Somalia build resilience for rural livelihood. Be assured of IFAD's resolve in supporting Somalia every step of the way.

My sincere appreciation to Her Excellency Mia Amor Mottley, Prime Minister of Barbados for sharing a video statement. Her Excellency's powerful advocacy for climate action on behalf of small island developing states (SIDS), has had an impact worldwide. IFAD and its partners have invested in the Caribbean and in other SIDS to link rural poor people's adaptation to climate change through capacity-building, climate-smart agriculture and resilient infrastructure, all supported by digital innovation.

It is my privilege to welcome a statement by His Excellency Antonio Tajani, Vice-President of the Council of Ministers and Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Italian Republic, delivered on his behalf by the Honorable Edmondo Cirielli, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. We are delighted to have a representative of our wonderful host country. We commend Italy's long-lasting commitment to building sustainable, resilient and inclusive food systems. We are also extremely pleased with IFAD's partnership with Cassa Depositi e Prestiti that has gone from strength to strength.

While he could not be with us today, I thank also Mr David Beasley, World Food Programme Executive Director, for the video statement we shall see shortly. I would like to thank him for his leadership. Amid crises new and old, the World Food Programme is once again rising to the challenges. In this particularly alarming food security context, IFAD stands by his side to halt the cycle of crisis and provide long-lasting solutions to build a world free of hunger.

Welcoming statement by Mr QU Dongyu, Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Excellences,
Ladies and gentlemen,
Dear colleagues,

I am pleased to address you today on behalf of FAO, and I thank my dear colleague, Alvaro Lario, IFAD President, for this invitation. We want to offer all services to members of IFAD and of FAO. We are pleased to host the IFAD Governing Council here at FAO premises at headquarters, in the spirit of our close brotherhood and working together and supporting each other. There are many challenges we have to face together, and to achieve our shared goals of eradicating hunger and achieve our noble mandates together. Conflicts, the pandemic, climatic crises, economic slowdowns and downturns, and inequality continue to limit the quantity and quality of food that is available, accessible and affordable for all people, especially for the vulnerable. The war in Ukraine has exacerbated food availability, food accessibility and food affordability, casting a daunting shadow over global food security and food supply. It is critical that we tackle these global overlapping challenges in coordination with each other, and building on each other's comparative advantages.

Let me share a few thoughts on what is needed to bring about real change together. First, we need to increase responsible investment in agrifood systems and rural development. It is one of the most effective ways to reduce hunger and poverty, while safeguarding the planet. The FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31 sets out 20 Programme Priority Areas, with one specifically dedicated to "Scaling up Investment", which features close collaboration with international financial institutions such as the World Bank, IFAD and others. Through FAO's Investment Centre, we are bringing technical expertise to attract large-scale public investment in food and agriculture at large. Since 1977, when IFAD was created, our Investment Centre has assisted in preparing over 400 IFAD-funded projects in 160 countries, helping to leverage investments of almost US\$16.5 billion.

Second, we need to harness the potential of innovation and technology. FAO's new Science and Innovation Strategy will enable us to step up our efforts and address the urgent, complex and interlinked challenges facing our agrifood systems, by driving a new business model to help us deliver better. In the middle of October of 2022, we hosted the first Science and Innovation Forum, in the context of the annual World Food Forum, held in parallel with the Hand-in-Hand Investment Forum and the Youth Forum – bringing together three key components for transformation of agrifood systems and rural development.

Together with IFAD, we have successfully supported Members through a combination of finance with technical expertise. We have been working on building on the existing and successful innovative solutions across both organizations. This includes block chain technology, automation and the use of artificial intelligence in agrifood systems, to help us deliver value added to our Members and ensure that no one is left behind – especially our farmers. FAO is also supporting IFAD in developing regional action plans for scaling up Digital Agriculture transformation in Latin America and the Caribbean, and developing projects in East Africa. I have just come back from Barbados and am happy with our collaboration in the CARICOM Resilient Caribbean Initiative in the region together with WFP and IFAD.

Third, we must ensure that farmers are at the core of all our work and remain central to everything we do. Farmers contribute far more than just the food they produce. Family farmers, Indigenous Peoples, pastoralists, foresters and fishers are fundamental to efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems worldwide - And to ensure the Four Betters: better production, better nutrition, a better environment and a better life for all.

Dear colleagues,

It is important to recognize the impact of our collective and coherent work, including increased support for small-scale producers. FAO has strengthened its commitment to ensure equitable access to natural resources, tenure rights, productive resources, information, technology, innovation, markets and decision-making processes. I am happy to share with you that FAO and IFAD are working more and more closely to act on this commitment. Through the Joint Secretariat for the United Nations Decade of Family Farming, we are coordinating actions for tangible impact on the ground. Under the umbrella of the Decade, we have contributed to the establishment of 12 National Action Plans, and three Regional Action Plans aimed at strengthening family farming.

Another key area of our collaboration is our joint work with Indigenous Peoples.

During the sixth IFAD Forum on Indigenous Peoples held yesterday, the RBAs, Members, and indigenous leaders discussed ways to further strengthen and continue building on the work of the Coalition on Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems, - which was officially launched during the World Food Forum 2022 at the Boassu nomadic tent that was set up on the premises here at FAO headquarters – a significant and historic event.

Dear colleagues,

A further important example of RBA collaboration includes our joint work on the Sahel Programme, where each of our agencies has contributed with its own comparative advantage to address the root causes of hunger, and strengthen the resilience of the most vulnerable, to ensure food security, nutrition and sustained peace. I can see first-hand how the collaboration between FAO and IFAD, together with WFP, continues to grow in strength, and is now more important than ever before. There is still much to be done with only seven planting seasons left to achieve the 2030 Agenda and support Members to speed up the SDG targets. We have to act now, efficiently, effectively, coherently and together. IFAD's strategic vision and support are key for our successful collaboration and collective outcomes.

I wish the IFAD Governing Council a successful meeting with effective guidance and nice engagement. Before closing, I want to use this special time to send deep condolences on the loss of life last week in Türkiye and the north of the Syrian Arab Republic. God bless you all and Mohammed protect you all.

Thank you very much.

Keynote address by H.E Dr. Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, President of the Federal Republic of Somalia

Good morning, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great honour to be participating in the forty-sixth session of the IFAD Governing Council here in this historic city of Rome, Italy. I thank the government and people of Italy for the warm welcome and hospitality accorded to myself and my delegation during this visit. I also recognize the great effort of all the IFAD professionals who have made this meeting possible.

The theme of the year: “Accelerating Action for Food Security” is both tragic and timely. It is tragic because, in this day and age when our world is richer and more technologically advanced than it has ever been in human history, the United Nation’s 2022 edition of The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World report shows that the number of hungry people was rising to as many as 828 million in 2021. Billions of people could not, and still cannot afford, a healthy diet and women and children, as is sadly often the story, remain the most vulnerable to the acutest form of hunger. I am truly tired of these terrible statistics and painful stories and my government is determined to do something about it in Somalia. This is why I feel very strongly that this IFAD meeting is timely as it must re-energize and re-focus our passion and determination to turn the tide sustainably against unnecessary hunger once and for all despite all the challenges that exist today.

In Somalia, we are taking food security very, very seriously. In fact, I have stated many times before that food security is a fundamental part of national security for my government. In this sense the old saying that “A hungry person is an angry person” is correct because lack of food, hunger and deterioration of the conditions to make agriculture a viable economic opportunity like in the past has played a major role in prolonging local conflicts and spurred on the international terrorist group Al-Shabaab to create spaces from which they control, radicalize and subjugate parts of our rural population, particularly the young people. We are now responding fiercely with successful military offensives which is liberating most of these territories from the terrorist group, but we have the challenge of a rebuilding a hopeful future for a truly resilient and deserving people with a strong innovative agricultural base to address insecurity, food insecurity and sustainable development.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

Accelerating Action for Food Security is central to the survival, and prosperity of the world in the twenty-first century. The war in Ukraine has very painfully illustrated that food security is an international challenge with complex global supply chain with regional concentrations. Nations like Somalia, and most other nations which import most of their key food items, must adapt to survive and feed their population going forward.

In Somalia, over half of our population is food insecure today and this includes the most vulnerable in our society including women and children. As the fourth consecutive rainy seasons failed many rural communities lost their livelihoods, food prices increased and the drought-induced humanitarian crisis worsened. While we still need emergency humanitarian assistance to avert the worst of the drought and hunger today, I strongly believe that in Somalia we can be food secure in the future.

Somalia has abundant land and agricultural opportunities within our own territory and with a young population and a history of agricultural production which is almost 65 per cent of our economy at present, we have a real opportunity to make food security a genuine reality on the ground. Food security, as an overarching policy goal, compliments our government’s wider vision of a strong, united, and progressive Somalia at peace with itself and the world. All our major policy priorities today whether it is security, economic reform and recovery, basic public service delivery and job creation can all be achieved in, through and with the agricultural reforms and investment that we are pursuing.

Ambition is a good starting point to accelerate action for food security, but we realize that action must follow quickly to capitalize on the national and global momentum. In Somalia, we have clear direction through our Food and Agricultural Delivery Compact, and we have started to take action by committing to strengthening our agricultural policies and processes, accelerating human capital investments and refocusing our collective efforts on achieving sustainable socio-economic development with real impact on our people's lives.

Our focus is supporting smallholder farmers, pastoralists, and agro-pastoralists to revive their lands and turn them into thriving businesses which provide food security for the wider rural communities and Somali nation while producing enough to both consume locally and sell in the international markets to turn a profit.

In this regard, Somalia's vibrant private sector and growing financing institutions are all supportive of agricultural investments to modernize the sector and many have started working directly with farmers, especially women and young men, to re-inject hope and opportunity into agriculture. We are also actively encouraging all our bilateral and multilateral partners, including IFAD, to support us in reviving agriculture for food security, peace, jobs and prosperity.

This is very important at a critical time for our country and will most certainly contribute to accelerating food security in Somalia.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

Somalia is a rich country in terms of land and marine resources which should make our country a FOOD BASKET and not FOOD INSECURE. However, our major obstacles to achieving food security have been 3 major things: conflict, climate and unsustainable national debt and arrears.

On the matter of conflict, we are now, as I informed you earlier, focused on defeating the international group at home together as one people alongside our international partners. The Somali people have answered our government's call to stand together to defeat the evil of terror from our land and have organically mobilized and are actively supporting the Government security services to liberate their territories. These newly liberated territories include much agricultural land which needs investment, and we are hopeful this can happen soon.

The reasons for our optimism are many but at the forefront is that we are progressing steadily through our debt relief programme and hope to reach the Completion Point of the World Bank and IMF Highly Indebted Poor Countries Initiative by the end of this year. We hope that this will unleash a greater number of national and international potential resources to invest in our food security and this will help our government accelerate the push through real tangible investments alongside all our partners, including our friends, IFAD.

Climate change is a real challenge in Somalia, and we need to put in place mitigation and adaptation measures that help us all to overcome the recurrent climate-induced crisis and shocks, including better water resource management, floods management systems and soil erosion. We have, for the first time, created the Ministry of Environment in Somalia to lead in these key areas and this is evidence of how seriously we are taking the need to address this existential threat to our fragile food systems and whole way of life.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

I am glad to say that Somalia's arrears with IFAD are now cleared thanks to the generous and timely support of the Governments of Germany, Belgium, Sweden, and Italy. Thank you very much.

Now, with this new start, IFAD can deepen its engagement with Somalia as we are able to access all the available services from this great institution. I understand that IFAD is

already designing a new programme with our government to address food insecurity, climate adaptation, land degradation and biodiversity. This is indeed the beginning of a hopeful and new engagement which will, and must, accelerate action for food security on the ground for Somali farmers, pastoralists, and agro-pastoralists as well as the wider Somali population.

In conclusion, I believe that the current food insecurity challenge in Somalia and across the world is not insurmountable. We can overcome it together through renewed and strengthened partnerships to accelerate and coordinate action against food insecurity. Knowledge sharing, burden sharing, common resource mobilization strategies and promoting investment and trade are real solutions we can work on together.

There already are global discussions and actions around relevant issues like climate change, conflict management, infrastructure, blue economy, technology, irregular migration, rapid urbanization, supporting internally displaced people, gender, and creating decent jobs, to name a few of the current.

However, we now need to connect all these important themes together as they are all intertwined with accelerating food security. Furthermore, let us look at all food systems together, not just agriculture but livestock, and fisheries to design and implement innovative and comprehensive policies accompanied by accessible financing and investments to overcome the chronic global food insecurity crisis today. This needs new and innovative creative ideas and openmindedness.

We cannot afford to act in silos or alone if we are to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals, especially, ending hunger and malnutrition by 2030, across the world as we hope and envisage in this gathering today. Going forward, we will do our utmost to continue to stay out of arrears with potentially higher domestic revenue earnings from the agricultural sector playing a key role.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

Again, I would like to thank all those who are standing with Somalia at the difficult times and have been standing for the last couple of decades when our country was going through such difficult circumstances. I again appreciate and welcome the new re-engagement of IFAD with Somalia.

I thank you.

Keynote address by H.E. Mia Amor Mottley, Prime Minister of Barbados

Your Excellency Alvaro Lario, President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development,
Distinguished members of your Governing Council,
and all gathered for this forty-sixth session of the Governing Council of IFAD,

I say thank you for giving me the opportunity to address your leadership, and to do so in a way that reflects my respect for you as an organization whose mantra so deeply resonates with me: investing in rural people.

I grew up in urban areas largely because my father and grandfather were both representatives of the capital city of Bridgetown. But I have always had, despite the hustle and bustle of city life being part of my DNA, a deep connection and admiration for people who grew up in rural settings, not to mention their ability to enjoy the bucolic nature of such a setting. For me, in so many ways, it is only when you get out of the rat race of urban settings, or what Bob Marley would call a concrete jungle, and connect with people who live in the country, who live in these open spaces, that sometimes you see the best of what we can offer as human beings, largely because that sense of space also amplifies the space in our head so much to be able to have a different perspective and to be able to dream.

I say all of this not to be overly romantic. In truth, I see it as an utterly pragmatic statement to make that if we wanted to achieve the best for our planet and the best for humankind, then we must invest in all of our people, but especially rural people who very often are not given the chances largely because of their separation through distance. I say this with complete conviction because I have the good fortune also to be the leader of a country and of a political party whose core values are built on distributed, equitable investment across our nation. In my own country, the cost of a short bus ride on public transport in the urban corridor is the same cost as a cross country bus ride from one rural village to another, the same 3.50 Barbados dollars or, to convert it, US\$1.75. When you come to our country – yes, this is an open invitation for all of you to come – you will see it for yourself. You will see that as a people we fundamentally believe that there should be no penalty to being born into a rural family. We believe that all should be done to bring services to people, and whether it is access to power, to water, to schools, to transportation, to health centres, to recreation areas, we believe that there should be no reduction in access or quality of life services just because you live in a rural area.

When you do come to Barbados and venture to see our beautiful rural areas, you will see similar to rural people all over the world, rural Barbadians grow, care and cook what they eat. Rural people do not need cutesy branding like slow food or technical terminology like food security. That is their life. That is what they have known all their lives, growing, caring and cooking their food. That is all they have lived. So colleagues, despite whatever physical distance and differences that separate our rural regions from cities, to quote the American novelist and environmental activist, Wendell Berry, the Earth is what we all have in common. That is to say that people in rural villages and communities cannot escape the multiple crises facing our planet today. Indeed, it is the rural people of the planet who are feeling the full impact of crises for which they have no responsibility, and for which they have little protection. The war, the pandemic, the climate crisis, the energy costs, the coral reef depletion, the blockages of ships coming out of harbours and going into harbours, disrupting supply chains; inflation; the recession. They have all resulted in fisherfolk with less fuel to fish, pastoralists with less feed and water to tend animals, and farmers with less seeds and fertilizers to grow food. When you combine all these factors, you get the reality of a world that is experiencing an unprecedented food crisis.

A truly staggering statistic from the United Nations reports that more people are hungry today than were hungry in 2015, when the Sustainable Development Goals were first

introduced. I want to repeat myself, more people are hungry today than in 2015, when the Sustainable Development Goals, to which all of us have committed, were first introduced. The question is then, how on earth can we possibly address the complex challenges we have with climate, with biodiversity, with rising sea levels, with antimicrobial resistance, and with the infodemic, when we cannot even figure out how to equitably distribute food and resources so that everyone on this, our planet, can eat. Yes, my friends, the world needs change. The world needs reform. The world needs the global financial system to be fit for purpose for all and to provide solutions that will address vulnerable countries' immediate fiscal concerns while also increasing their resilience to shocks.

The world needs a system that addresses the perennial issue of poor countries' ability to access resources at speed and scale required to address the climate crisis, relieve financial stress, enable economic development and increase citizen safety. But the world also needs to address the condition of poor people and 70 per cent of the poor people live in middle-income countries. And if we deny middle-income countries access to concessional funds, especially knowing their vulnerability to the climate crisis, to the pandemics and to so many other things, then we have not met the objective of stopping poor people from being poor. The reality, my friends, is that agricultural growth is two to four times more successful than other sectors at decreasing poverty, at stopping people from literally being poor. To avoid recurring food crises and to end hunger and end poverty, countries must have the fiscal space to invest in agriculture and the food systems at speed and scale, as well as to ensure long-term rural development. Countries must have access to the technology. Countries must have access to the public education as to how to grow their food without using the traditional pesticides that may well boost their resistance to antimicrobials and their ability, therefore, to fight infection when they most need to be protected.

Every region, of course, has its own peculiarities and challenges. In our region, the Caribbean, which largely comprises of small island development states, we are challenged with a high dependence on food imports, as domestic food production is severely constrained not just by fragile natural environments or small land masses or limited supplies of water, but terms of trade policy that make it uncompetitive for our farmers to continue to farm all year round. This large dependence on imported food, most of which is highly processed and pasteurized, has resulted in a more insidious but no less challenging problem for all of us: nutrition and noncommunicable disease crisis. This is why we do not just speak only of food security, but we speak of food and nutrition security. My friends, we support the global action programme on food security and nutrition in small island developing states. This calls for an increase in domestic farming, the empowerment of smallholder farmers and small-scale food producers with a focus on women and young people as a centrepiece for the development of sustainable, resilient nutrition sensitive value chains.

In Barbados, we have significantly increased the investment and focus on the agricultural industry and on nutrition and food security. At the micro level, we have sought to scale up the support and knowledge of domestic and small farmers. We continue to do so, particularly with practices we hope that will allow them to move away from those that are harmful to boosting their capacity to fight off the superbugs. At a macro level, fully cognizant of the challenges of our small land mass, we have leveraged our strong ties with our Caribbean neighbours in Guyana and are working on the establishment of a Barbados Guyana Food terminal as a public private partnership. Guyana has an abundant supply of land and water. Barbados is a regional hub for air and maritime travel. We will therefore build in Barbados a multipurpose facility that will house 45 containers called storage and packaging and processing plants, and a large water reservoir. Fresh produce that we import will not only enhance our country's food and nutrition security, not only be added to our farmers' output, but it will also ensure that we can process and export food that will make a significant reduction to the earning of foreign exchange and to keeping the price of food down within the domestic markets.

Extraordinary circumstances necessitate extraordinary interventions. That is why I am so pleased to be speaking to you, my friends, today. Understanding that it is the launch of IFAD's thirteenth replenishment, this is a moment for the world's governments and financial agencies to recognize that we need to invest right now in securing food and nutrition for citizens across the planet, especially poor people. To invest in smallholder agriculture. To invest in diversified local production and food systems transformation. To invest in ending the world's hunger and nutrition crisis. In the words of Bob Marley, who you know I love to quote, in *Them Belly Full*, with the hungry, a hungry mob is an angry mob. If the world can find money for endless wars and money to send robots to Mars and money to solve male baldness, then surely, my friends, we can find a will and money to adapt, mitigate and stop the climate crisis. The will and money to be able to ensure that food insecurity is something for the history books. Surely we can find, therefore, the will and money to prioritize helping our farmers so that they can help us stop this food insecurity, that they can build a reasonable living for their families and that they ultimately in the investment and sustainable food and agriculture will help us close the circle so that we nourish the people of our planet, not only our home, and we do so with speed.

Statement of H.E. Antonio Tajani, Vice-President of the Council of Ministers and Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Italian Republic delivered on his behalf by The Honourable Edmondo Cirielli, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

It is an honour for Italy to host this important meeting of the Governing Council of IFAD.

I would like to extend special thanks to the Chair of the Governing Council, the President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

Food security is a priority and a fundamental part of Italian foreign policy.

Italy is an active supporter of IFAD; not only is it host country to IFAD's headquarters – but, even more importantly, it has a strategic commitment to IFAD's mandate. Indeed, Italy was among the top five contributors to IFAD's last replenishment exercise in 2021. This also speaks to our strong support at the policy level.

It is clear that IFAD's mandate is unique among international organizations and financial institutions because it is an organization entrusted with working for smallholders and rural communities, which we believe form the backbone of agriculture and global sustainable development. Italy greatly appreciates the work being done by IFAD's President, Alvaro Lario, particularly the recent innovations introduced at IFAD which we believe will be instrumental in raising more resources and, in particular, increasing effectiveness. For us, the growing involvement and synergy with the private sector and exploration of new financing modalities are major innovations and aligned with global development cooperation goals; it is important that inclusive development forms an integral part of development cooperation so as to mobilize private sector resources in complementarity with those of Member States.

As such, Italy considers meetings such as this to be of high importance, and we are extremely interested in the deliberations of the Governing Council, which constitutes the driving force of the organization.

The Council is especially important this year, given that in 2023 IFAD must once again replenish its resources. The Thirteenth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources comes at a critical and unprecedented moment in terms of agriculture, food security and a series of global events that have been seriously exacerbated by the Russian war of aggression in Ukraine.

For this reason, we are glad that the membership application from this country, Ukraine, has been presented to the Governing Council. Italy supports with conviction the inclusion of this country within IFAD's Membership.

Let me reiterate our gratitude for IFAD's collaboration in the Mediterranean Ministerial Dialogue on the Food Security Crisis. This is an initiative launched by Italy following the crisis in Ukraine and we are glad to see that the planning phase is advancing, bearing in mind the need for concrete and effective action in its implementation.

Now more than ever before, we must work together towards the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 2 of the 2030 Agenda: zero hunger. This goal is systemic in nature in so far as it influences practically all the other goals: without access to nutritious food, people are incapable of carrying out an activity and have no prospect of a better life.

Italy is actively promoting systematic coordination among the Rome-based food agencies. This synergy is fundamental to the formulation of concrete strategies to bring about agrifood system transformation, which today is needed more than ever before.

To this end, Rome will host the Food Systems Stocktaking Moment in July. We count on the support of all the Rome-based agencies for this event as it will focus on gains made to date and – above all – will serve to galvanize strong action around on the issue of food security.

Thank you.

Remarks by Mr David Beasley, Executive Director of the World Food Programme

Ladies and gentlemen, the forty-sixth session of IFAD's governing council is taking place as our world faces the worst hunger and humanitarian crisis since World War Two. In 2022 we were already facing a perfect storm caused by an upsurge in conflict, COVID economic ripple effects, and climate change. And then, just when you think it can't get any worse, the war in Ukraine happens, the breadbasket of the world, the longest bread lines in the world. So the impact is devastating.

Since the start of this conflict, food, fuel and fertilizer prices have skyrocketed, plunging millions and millions of more people into hunger. Today 349 million people are marching towards starvation. It's hard to believe that only 4 or 5 years ago it was 80 million then 135 million, because of conflict and climate. Then COVID drives it to 276 million, and then Ukraine. And now we're talking about 350 million people devastated.

And within that, 49 million people in 49 countries are knocking on famine's door. They risk being tipped over the edge without immediate and substantial humanitarian support. And that's why at WFP we are fully committed to working in close partnership with our sister Rome-based agencies IFAD and FAO to get help where it's needed most.

But we also need to invest to strengthen global food systems. So hungry communities can build resilience against future threats to their food security. IFAD has a critical role to play in this regard. As the world's investment fund for food and agriculture, IFAD can pilot and scale up solutions to unlock the potential of small-scale agriculture, building functioning markets to support sustainable growth and create new opportunities for investments and employment in rural areas.

By working together WFP and IFAD can accelerate progress toward a world free from hunger. WFP's operational footprint in over 120 countries can provide a platform for IFAD to access governments and other partners around the world, while IFAD's investment expertise is invaluable to WFP as we aim to scale up solutions to hunger that truly, truly work.

Our two organizations are partnering on the regional programme for the Sahel, for example, called SD3C. This programme combines 110 million dollars of IFAD funding with WFP's technical assistance to build resilience and food security among vulnerable communities. But we could still do so much more together. As Rome-based agencies go all out to address the global hunger crisis, our success will be measured by the number of lives we are able to save and change.

Our failure will be counted in the number of hungry children we failed to reach in time. We will only be able to overcome this unprecedented crisis if we collaborate more closely than ever. At WFP, we are ready to play our full part, and I know our colleagues at IFAD and FAO are too, so we're counting on the IFAD Governing Council and all the permanent representatives in Rome to work with us on this critically important endeavour. Together we must invest to end hunger. Thank you, and I hope you have a productive meeting.

Statement by Mr Alvaro Lario, President of IFAD

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

Before we start I would like to take a moment to express my deep condolences to the people of the Syrian Arab Republic and Türkiye for the terrible loss and suffering in the wake of last week's earthquakes.

As we begin our Governing Council discussions, let me ask you to take a moment to consider this year's theme.

How many people need to suffer from acute malnutrition before we accelerate action on food security?

Is it 900 million? 950? One billion?

Today, more than 800 million people do not have sufficient nutritious food to live productive and active lives.

That is equal to the entire populations of the United States, Nigeria, Bangladesh, and Italy combined.

The Horn of Africa is experiencing the longest and most severe drought on record. High prices for food, fuel and fertilizer are making the situation worse.

I am proud to stand here today with the President of Somalia and to recognize that through the generous contributions of several IFAD Member States, Somalia will be able to access IFAD's resources once more. This comes at a critical time when Somalia is facing increasing challenges to food security.

Millions more people are facing catastrophic levels of hunger. In Afghanistan 20 million people are going hungry, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo more than 26 million people are expected to become hungry by the middle of 2023, while in South Sudan more than half the population is already hungry. In Yemen, 2.2 million children are acutely malnourished.

Every person facing hunger is a reason why we need to step up action for food security, now.

This is why the theme of this Governing Council is Accelerating Action for Food Security. And it is why we are urgently working with FAO and other partners to deliver on the commitments of the Food Systems Summit. Action cannot come too soon; and it is a tragedy if for many it comes too late. We must do our utmost to avert these crises.

Throughout the world, climate change, conflict and inflation are putting pressure on farming and food security.

Governments are 800 million people away from meeting their second Sustainable Goal commitment of achieving Zero Hunger by 2030.

The vast majority of the world's hungriest people live in the rural areas of developing countries and depend on agriculture for their lives and livelihoods.

IFAD is dedicated to ensuring the populations we serve, who produce so much of our food, get the support they need to take the lead in building their livelihoods and resilience. They are not passive victims but a powerful force for change.

Today's food crisis is not the result of any single conflict, pandemic, or even climate change. It is more often than not a combination of these various challenges compounded by long-standing weaknesses and under-investment in the overall structure of food systems.

And it is a result of glaring inequalities that have left too many small-scale farmers and other rural people cut off from economic opportunity and living in extreme poverty.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The world is in permanent crisis. And it will continue to be as long as we respond to each emergency in isolation, without complementary investments in holistic, longer-term solutions.

It costs less to fix a problem than it does to respond to an emergency. And the more we delay, the higher the costs.

Today, our food systems are not providing food security and nutrition for all, or decent livelihoods for farmers and other workers who provide food for the world. At the same time food systems produce around one-third of all greenhouse gases; up to 80 per cent of biodiversity loss; and they use 70 of our planet's freshwater.

But we can transform food systems so that they deliver decent livelihoods, and help address food insecurity and poverty in both the short and the long-term.

Small-scale producers and rural entrepreneurs should be at the centre of our investments for a lot of reasons. In fact, one-third of our food comes from small farms even though they occupy less than one-tenth of all farmland.

Small farms are efficient, they have a lighter carbon and environmental footprint, and preserve biodiversity instead of depleting it.

In short, they are a good investment, however you look at it. GDP generated by agriculture is 2 to 3 times more effective in reducing poverty than growth in any other sector.

But beyond the numbers are the people. The 3 billion people who rely on small-scale farming for their food and livelihoods.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and the Ukraine war have highlighted the importance of shorter value chains, with local producers and food processors serving local markets.

Think how much more rural people could contribute to global food security, peace and stability if they had the resources to improve their farms and businesses and to prosper, not just survive. If they had access to finance to invest in sustainable production, technology, and climate smart-approaches, and with better market access, post-harvest storage and other support.

Productive and profitable small farms also work with small and medium-sized businesses that process, store and market food. This creates jobs in the midstream of food systems and a future in rural areas, especially for youth.

Ladies and gentlemen,

With more than 8 billion people on our planet and climate change affecting weather cycles and planting seasons around the globe, we need to increase investment at a speed and scale never seen before.

In a very real sense, IFAD is the international community's most direct conduit for channelling investment into sustainable food systems for development.

Since 1977, IFAD has turned every dollar of core contributions from Member States into six dollars of investment on the ground, through mobilization of cofinancing.

IFAD has been entrusted with leading the financing agenda for food systems transformation on behalf of the UN. We are also leading the coalition of Public Development Banks to step up green and inclusive investments in agriculture. And we

are co-leading the coalition on decent work, to ensure farmers and all food systems workers have living income and enough nutritious food.

As an **assembler of finance**, IFAD is well positioned to forge strategic partnerships and leverage resources by mobilizing domestic and international co-financing.

IFAD has also been able to leverage private sector resources through the Private Sector Financing Programme, and to mobilize donors to support rural SMEs. For climate financing, IFAD has been able to catalyze resources through ASAP+ to support small-scale producers in responding to the impact of climate change.

In a world that is racked by crisis and conflict, we have to be very concerned about increasing fragility. IFAD has demonstrated its capacity to strengthen local institutions when working in fragile contexts, while at the same time addressing some of the long-term factors that underpin local conflict.

This is an area where we are committed to scaling up our capacity and working with our Member States to do more for people living in fragile contexts.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The food crisis we face today is too large for any single institution or state to solve on its own. Global challenges require a global response.

IFAD is the international community's platform for scaling up the transformation of food systems. We bring together a membership that is 177 Member States, and still growing. And that's because IFAD has an established track record, and trust built over 4 decades with governments, NGOs, development agencies, the private sector, and poor rural people themselves.

In the years ahead, we want to do even more together. We want to reach even more people, to have even greater impact, and to give hope and opportunity to those who today face unprecedented challenges.

We can do this. Our upcoming IFAD13 replenishment is our opportunity to scale-up investments and impact.

We can help put the world back on track towards reaching our shared commitment to end poverty and hunger. We can help achieve the SDGs. But we can only do it with your support.

Thank you.

Synthesis of the sixth Global Meeting of the Indigenous Peoples' Forum delivered by Ms Margaret Tunda Lepore, Member of the Steering Committee of the Indigenous Peoples' Forum at IFAD

The Sixth Global Meeting was held in Rome on 9, 10 and 13 February 2023. The meeting was the culmination of a wide global process of deliberation through regional and subregional consultation meetings in Africa, Asia, the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean. The extensive dialogue around the theme of the Forum generated key recommendations summarized herein.

Preamble

We, Indigenous Peoples, are among those who are particularly affected by the impacts of climate change. These: lead to disruptions to agriculture and other livelihood activities and ecosystems; increase threats to the integrity and security of indigenous lands, territories and resources; and exacerbate food insecurity. These effects further result in: the adoption of unsustainable livelihood strategies, including migration; increased tensions and conflicts; and an increased burden on women, children, youth, persons with disabilities, and the elderly.

Likewise, we are concerned about some undesirable and unjust climate actions in large renewable energy projects involving energy transitional minerals through mining that are being imposed in our territories without our consent and in violation of our rights.

Indigenous climate leadership faces challenges, including: lack of recognition and understanding of, and respect for, our governance and decision-making institutions as well as our rights, in particular free, prior and informed consent; discriminatory laws and practices; forced displacement and encroachments on indigenous lands and territories; failure to make space for indigenous planning; and exclusion from climate change debates, decision-making and financing.

Despite the daunting challenges that we face, we continue to demonstrate resilience and active leadership in different ways and processes and at all levels.

Indigenous Peoples' community-led adaptation actions are based on traditional technologies, knowledge and capacities and the incorporation of innovations. These include: adjusting agriculture calendars; adopting more resilient varieties of seeds and livestock; diversifying agriculture and livelihood strategies; and conserving water and soil.

Additional actions include mitigation measures such as: reforestation; land use and territorial planning; life plans anchored in our visions of well-being; sustainable agriculture practices; defense of our lands against encroachments; and community-managed renewable energy plans.

We reinforce these actions by strengthening traditional organizational systems and institutions, by building partnerships and solidarity with national and international organizations and other communities, and by conducting advocacy.

Indigenous Peoples' climate leadership is anchored in our ways of knowing and being, characterized by a deep, intimate and reciprocal relationship with the land, our community living, our resilient and creative spirit, and our intercultural and long-term outlook. Our climate leadership is also intimately tied to the integrity, security and health of our lands and territories and custodianship, robust indigenous social institutions that sustain communities, the vitality of our knowledge systems and spiritual dimension, and a supportive social, economic and political ecology.

Indigenous climate action highlights the important role of women as knowledge bearers and transmitters, and as anchors and guardians of community life and well-being. Equally, the indigenous experience points to the important role of young people as leaders.

IFAD has been an important partner to Indigenous Peoples, demonstrating tangible efforts to make space for our participation and incorporating and responding to our perspectives in its plans and policies.

Based on the frank and open deliberations we have had over the last few months during the consultation process and at this global meeting, we recommend the following:

Recommendations to IFAD

IFAD Policy on Engagement with Indigenous Peoples

1. Allocate adequate financial and human resources to fully implement the updated IFAD Policy on Engagement with Indigenous Peoples. This includes: the recruitment of dedicated staff at all levels, including a lead technical specialist; the translation and publication of the Policy in indigenous languages; awareness-raising and capacity- building of Indigenous Peoples, governments and IFAD staff; and the development of monitoring tools.
2. Develop guidelines and protocols for the meaningful participation of the members of the Steering Committee of the Indigenous Peoples' Forum at IFAD as observers at the Executive Board of IFAD.

The Indigenous Peoples' Forum process and dialogue

3. Enhance communication, dialogue and information-sharing with Indigenous Peoples, including the participants in the Indigenous Peoples' Forum, especially at the regional and national levels. This includes through: the organization of quarterly meetings; the establishment of country coordination groups; and the identification of focal points at the level of both IFAD country teams and Indigenous Peoples' organizations.
4. Ensure that recommendations from the Forum are integrated in the regional action plans to be agreed upon with IFAD's regional divisions.

IFAD country programmes

5. Ensure the meaningful and independent participation of Indigenous Peoples in the design, implementation and monitoring and evaluation of IFAD's strategies, projects and programmes at all levels in order to: (i) align them to our needs, priorities and aspirations, taking into account gender, intergenerational specificities, and persons with disabilities; (ii) integrate our values, land tenure, governance and knowledge systems, taking into account our territorial planning and visioning cycles; and (iii) ensure that interventions do not disrupt our systems but rather strengthen and build on them.
6. Provide the necessary information, resources and capacity-building to enable Indigenous Peoples to effectively engage in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of strategies, projects and programmes; and ensure the involvement and hiring of Indigenous consultants in these processes.
7. IFAD country teams to actively engage and collaborate with other UN agencies to strengthen complementarity and enhance synergies in supporting the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and the updated IFAD Policy on Engagement with Indigenous Peoples.

Indigenous Peoples' climate leadership

8. Enhance IFAD's leadership role in its engagement with Indigenous Peoples to:
 - a. Promote the respect for and protection of Indigenous Peoples' rights and well-being by governments, including through free, prior and informed consent, especially in countries where no protocols exist, and provide effective grievance mechanisms;

- b. Foster meaningful dialogue and cooperation between Indigenous Peoples' organizations and traditional institutions and governments and ensure that the latter are aware of the updated IFAD Policy on Engagement with Indigenous Peoples and of IFAD interventions on the ground;
 - c. Mobilize support, including direct finance, by other international agencies for Indigenous Peoples' climate leadership; and
 - d. Facilitate and support the meaningful participation of Indigenous Peoples' in climate and biodiversity actions at all levels.
9. Invest in building the capacities of Indigenous Peoples, including to access climate finance that is culturally appropriate, including in relation to disaster risk and response mechanisms, and to design and manage projects and programmes. As concrete measures: (i) develop an internship and fellowship programme for Indigenous leaders and professionals at IFAD, prioritizing women and youth; and (ii) facilitate inter-learning exchanges among the partners of the Indigenous Peoples Assistance Facility (IPAF) in relation to climate leadership.
10. Increase direct support to the initiatives of Indigenous Peoples, with a focus on women, girls, persons with disabilities and youth, in climate leadership and resilience, including through the IPAF.

Recommendations to governments

11. Develop legislation, policies and programmes that protect and advance the rights of Indigenous Peoples and promote their effective implementation in coordination with our peoples, communities and organizations, by ensuring our free prior and informed consent, alignment with the UNDRIP, and the implementation of the updated IFAD Policy on Engagement with Indigenous Peoples. Recognize and protect the land rights and the integrity of indigenous "territories of life" and promote the implementation of self-determined development with the necessary technical, financial and institutional resources.
12. Support Indigenous Peoples' climate leadership through programmes, policies, adequate resources and financing mechanisms that strengthen our self-determined development, with special attention to women, youth and persons with disabilities.
13. Ensure the full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples, including women, youth and persons with disabilities, in discussions, decision-making and planning processes, including those related to climate and conservation actions, at all levels.

Commitments as Indigenous Peoples

As Indigenous Peoples, we commit to:

14. Continue to protect and enhance the health and integrity of our lands, territories and resources through sustainable natural resources management practices.
15. Revitalize and continue to develop and transmit Indigenous Peoples' values, knowledge and practices, including our forms of government and decision-making, as key institutions in the stewardship of our lands, territories and resources, and in our climate leadership.
16. Continue to advocate for Indigenous Peoples' rights and well-being, and meaningful and diverse participation in IFAD decision-making processes related to climate change and biodiversity conservation at all levels.
17. Continue to build collaboration and solidarity between Indigenous Peoples in support of our climate leadership, including through the documentation and sharing of our knowledge and experience.
18. Build the capacities of indigenous women and youth and strengthen their participation in decision-making processes and organizations, recognizing the immense value of their contribution to climate leadership.

19. Strengthen the engagement and improve communication with IFAD at all levels, including by translating the IFAD Policy on Engagement with Indigenous Peoples in indigenous languages and establishing accessible formats.
20. Support the Thirteenth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources. We, as the Indigenous Peoples' delegates to this Sixth Global Meeting of the Indigenous Peoples' Forum at IFAD, express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to IFAD management and staff for organizing this important meeting to strengthen the partnership between IFAD and Indigenous Peoples.

Concluding remarks by Mr Alvaro Lario, President of IFAD

Dear Mr Chairperson,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Governors,
Ladies and gentlemen,

In closing IFAD's forty-sixth Governing Council, let us take stock of this highly productive session and the rich thematic discussions we have had over the past two days. The Governing Council approved an extra Member, Ukraine, bringing us ever closer to universal membership.

We all agree that every person facing hunger is a reason why we need to step up action for food security, rural resilience and the transformation of food systems. Even more so now, as the impacts of the food, fuel and fertilizer crisis on the world's most vulnerable populations are still unfolding.

Ladies and gentlemen,

We are still more than 800 million people away from meeting the second Sustainable Development Goal of achieving Zero Hunger by 2030, but during this year's session of the Governing Council, we heard powerful messages and had meaningful exchanges on holistic, longer-term solutions to accelerate action.

H.E. Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, President of the Federal Republic of Somalia, has reminded us that the current food insecurity challenge is not insurmountable. "We can overcome it together."

His Excellency's optimism confirms that IFAD's approach to invest in areas in situations of fragility is much needed.

We can break the vicious cycle of conflict and hunger, provide alternatives and invest in sustainable solutions and resilience building.

Under-Secretary-General Cristina Duarte, Special Adviser on Africa to the United Nations Secretary-General, put the approach needed in very simple terms in our deep-dive on Africa's food insecurity: "We have to shift from managing poverty to managing development."

We have heard from our partners how addressing questions of water, energy and fertilizers, by bolstering local solutions, tailor-made infrastructure and local production, is essential to foster such development in a sustainable manner.

IFAD is well aware through its work that vulnerable populations are often the most resourceful in addressing challenges of food security. We rely on their unique knowledge, their expertise and their solutions to bring about change.

Representatives from the Indigenous Peoples have reminded us of the importance of translating global policies into local action and tapping into indigenous knowledge for project design, implementation and evaluation.

Rural young people told us how they share information and best practices in their communities. Their efforts expand IFAD's work to build a sustainable, food-secure future, free of hunger and poverty.

Today's challenges, however, are far too large for any single institution to solve. Therefore, we rely on scaled up support from our Member States, and we will continue to leverage innovative finance mechanisms and our cooperation with the private sector to potentiate our investments.

Ladies and gentlemen,

H.E. Mia Amor Mottley, Prime Minister of Barbados, has shared an utterly pragmatic statement with us: "If we want to achieve the best for humanity, then we have to invest in rural people."

With your support, IFAD is ready to do so.

Our upcoming IFAD13 replenishment is our opportunity to scale-up investments and impact that can help put the world back on track towards our shared commitment to end poverty and hunger.

I would like to express my appreciation to our Governors for showing unwavering support to IFAD and to our Thirteenth Replenishment. We are thankful for your insights and suggestions to enable IFAD to act as an assembler of finance to scale up the transformation of food systems.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Let me conclude by thanking IFAD's workforce for their incredible commitment to this institution and its mandate, as well as the interpreters and the organizational crew for their hard work in making this session, our first in-person Governing Council in two years, successful.

As we bid him farewell at the last Governing Council as IFAD Vice-President, I would like to thank Dominik Ziller in particular.

Many of us first met Dominik when he was a Director General for International Development Cooperation and Policy at the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development and German Governor for IFAD. Already in this function, he was an advocate for stronger support to rural people, and a stronger IFAD.

I would like to sincerely thank Dominik for the critical contributions he has made to IFAD's reform agenda, especially our transformation to a solid international financial institution.

Dominik has championed improvements to how we ensure the quality of our programmes and projects, how we assess and manage risks, and how we do workforce planning in a more agile and forward-looking way.

He is known for being a great leader, a straight shooter who champions efficiency, and a fierce advocate of gender equality and work-life balance.

I know that you – Governors, Executive Board members, representatives to IFAD – hold Dominik in high esteem and trust his straightforward approach. His contributions have helped put us on the right direction so we can deliver on our joint promise to accelerate action for food security, now.

Thank you.

**Closing statement by His Excellency Alex Alonso Contreras Miranda,
Chairperson of the forty-sixth session of the Governing Council of IFAD**

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

We have now come to the end of the forty-sixth session of the Governing Council of IFAD. After two years of restrictions imposed by the coronavirus pandemic, it was indeed an honour and a pleasure to be able to conduct this session in person. This facilitated not only fruitful plenary discussions, but also dynamic face to face interaction amongst Governors and delegates that has been missed very much.

Allow me, distinguished governors, ladies and gentlemen, to take this opportunity to express my deep appreciation to all of you. Thank you for actively participating in the deliberations, sharing your knowledge and ideas, and reinforcing the innovative and catalytic role that IFAD plays in accelerating action for food security.

Over the past two days, we have considered a number of business items that are at the very core of IFAD's operations, such as, approving the Fund's budget and establishing the Consultation on the Thirteenth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources. We also had the opportunity to approve the application for non-original membership from Ukraine.

The theme of the session – Accelerating action for food security – underpinned the statements that were delivered by the distinguished guests who honoured this Council by sharing their messages of determination, resilience and most importantly, the need to collectively work together to deliver on the 2030 Agenda.

We were honoured by our special guest, His Excellency, Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, President of the Federal Republic of Somalia, who delivered a powerful keynote address highlighting the need for us to join hands, pool resources, and refocus our collective efforts on accelerating action for food security. His Excellency underscored the need to re-inject hope and opportunity in agriculture, as well as the importance of supporting smallholder farmers, pastoralists, and agro-pastoralists in reviving their lands and turning them into thriving businesses. This message was reiterated by our youth advocates, Indigenous Peoples' representatives, participants to the interactive sessions, and all the governors through their statements and interventions. The fact that we are speaking as "One" is exactly what we need in times like these. We need to join forces not individually but collectively, not by duplicating one another's efforts but by capitalizing on our respective strengths and comparative advantages. We must remember the proverb: "the whole is greater than the sum of its parts." We are stronger when we are working together. L'union fait la force.

Her Excellency, Mia Amor Mottley, Prime Minister of Barbados reiterated the need for us to continue working with governments to support smallholder agriculture and rural transformation. Her Excellency noted that it is imperative that we urgently invest in ending the world's hunger and nutrition crisis as more people are hungry today than in 2015 when the Sustainable Development Goals were first introduced. The need for sound investments has underpinned many of our discussions here today and is at the core of IFAD's mandate.

The Honourable Edmondo Cirielli delivered a statement on behalf of His Excellency Antonio Tajani, Vice-President of the Council of Ministers and Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Italian Republic. I would like to thank our host government, Italy, for your steadfast support to IFAD and for underlining the need for us to cooperate, now more than ever, to reach Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2, Zero Hunger.

Moreover, Mr David Beasley, the Executive Director of the World Food Programme provided a powerful video statement underscoring how food insecurity is being exacerbated by multiple crises and the urgent need for us to act now, act together and

invest in strengthening global food systems. Thank you Mr Beasley for recognizing IFAD's unique ability to pilot and scale up solutions that unlock the potential of small-scale agriculture, build functioning markets and support sustainable growth in rural areas.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Mr QU Dongyu for his generous hospitality and for graciously hosting us in this historic building. Mr QU, thank you for emphasizing the essential role of partnership and for helping reinvigorate the spirit of collaboration among the Rome-based agencies. Mr QU's plea to increase investments in agri-food systems and rural development, harness the potential of technology, and ensure that farmers are at the core of our work has been reiterated throughout the past two days.

The statement of the President of IFAD, Alvaro Lario, highlighted IFAD's central role as an assembler of financing, channelling investments into sustainable food systems for development. IFAD's impact on the ground with vulnerable populations and its focus on improving livelihoods, food security and nutrition in rural areas was reiterated. This is the message that we must bring home to our governments, particularly in this important IFAD13 replenishment year. IFAD is ready to scale-up its investments and impact, but needs our support.

We also had the pleasure of engaging in a thought-provoking discussion with Under-Secretary-General Cristina Duarte, Special Adviser on Africa to the United Nations Secretary-General. Allow me to thank you for providing valuable food for thought on successes, lessons learned, challenges and opportunities.

Distinguished governors,

It was a pleasure and an honour for me to chair this session of IFAD's Governing Council. Allow me to express my personal gratitude to each of you, and to my colleagues on the Bureau, for your support. I would also like to extend our sincere gratitude to President Lario for his passion, his commitment and his unwavering leadership. A very special thanks to all the staff of IFAD, the Secretariat team, messengers, interpreters, technicians and all those working behind the scenes. Let us give them a big round of applause.

This session may be drawing to a close, but our work is not done.

Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

We have just seven years left before 2030. We know that the majority of the world's poorest and hungriest people live in rural areas and depend on agriculture and related activities for their livelihoods. We have all heard how IFAD's work goes the extra mile to reach the farthest villages and people, and how IFAD's projects and programmes have a direct impact on achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Let us all be champions of IFAD and continue to advocate for the Fund as a fundamental stakeholder in eradicating poverty and hunger.

On this note, I hereby declare the forty-sixth session of the Governing Council 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-sixth session](#)

Annex III **Links to digital content of the forty-sixth session of the Governing Council**

Video recordings of [Day One](#) and [Day Two](#)

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

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

Annex VI [Country composition of the Consultation on the Thirteenth Replenishment of IFAD's resources](#)



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