
Closing statement by President Alvaro Lario

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

In a few minutes our Chairman will close this forty-eighth session of IFAD's Governing Council.

I would like to thank His Excellency Christophe Schiltz from Luxembourg for an excellent job. And a warm welcome to our two new Vice Chairs: His Excellency Abubakar Kyari of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, and Her Excellency Tatiana Rosito of the Federative Republic of Brazil.

My thanks to all of my colleagues, all of the staff, who have worked hard behind the scenes to help this Governing Council run smoothly. A round of applause for all the staff who made it happen.

I have been pleased over the last two days by the deep support voiced by Member States for working together and the shared commitment to building a more equitable world by creating rural jobs and opportunities, raising income in the rural areas where poverty is located.

I have no doubt, as I expressed during my opening speech, that rural transformation is the antidote of so many of the challenges the world faces today.

But only when it addresses structural issues like inequality, and when it is in done through partnerships that have rural people themselves at their centre.

Because at the core of IFAD's mandate is the principle that development is not something that we do for people; we only contribute to the conditions that allow communities to drive development for themselves.

We are stronger together – especially when we include poor rural populations in initiatives that concern them. IFAD is unique, because the beneficiaries of our projects fully engage, investing their time and resources to ensure their success.

We are particularly proud of our work with Indigenous Peoples. For 40 years, we have learned at their side, and I am delighted at their presence among us this week.

We are also stronger together when we gather nations to share knowledge and experiences. I am proud of IFAD's growing engagement in support of South-South and Triangular Cooperation – and to welcome our partners from the G20 Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty this week. We are stronger when we collaborate with those who are closer to us, and for IFAD, that means our sister United Nations agencies headquartered in Rome and the multilateral public banking institutions.

I was happy to see the country teams from Peru and the Pacific Islands win the RBA Award of Excellence for their joint work, which reflects the robust and effective collaboration between IFAD, FAO and WFP.

And we are stronger when we – those of us gathered here – continue working together to build a more resilient, secure and stable future. This includes rethinking financing models and solutions, as we have in the Governors' Round Table, to make this vision a reality.

As we prepare to part ways for another year, I want to reaffirm IFAD's commitment to the agility, adaptability and responsiveness needed to address the needs of poor rural communities in many of your countries.

And we ask the same of all of you here. Strong government ownership of projects in the participating countries is crucial – our work is at its most impactful when it aligns to national priorities in service of our common goals.

The ongoing financial support of 100 countries as donors is also critical – the increasing needs call for even greater investment to increase incomes, food security and resilience of rural communities.

Let me express my thanks to the 100 Member States that have now announced their support to IFAD13, and particularly those who announced or highlighted their contributions today such as Ecuador, Guinea, Peru, Saudi Arabia, South Sudan, Sweden and Uzbekistan.

Your pledges enable us to get closer to our common goal of improving the lives of more than 100 million people during the next three years.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

All of us here today are working to eradicate hunger and poverty. Your support enables IFAD to have the tools and the financial means to do so.

Let me thank you, all our Governors and supporters, for another successful Council. To those who have travelled from their capitals, I wish you a safe journey home.

Thank you very much.