

Consultation on the Twelfth Replenishment
of IFAD's Resources
Second Session

Final reflections by IFAD's President
Mr Gilbert F. Houngbo

17 June 2020

Distinguished delegates,

First, let me thank you for the spirit of cooperation and the very rich discussion of these past two days.

We still have some specific issues to resolve, but I am convinced we have what is needed to move forward.

Reaching a consensus is critical to the success of this Replenishment, and to IFAD's ability to meet the needs of the rural people we serve -- and double our impact by 2030 -- despite these difficult and turbulent times.

We have made significant progress on the critical transition/graduation agenda, and I am convinced we now have what is needed to reach consensus by July.

We appreciate the broad support that has been expressed for the 4 pillars of transition/graduation. But we also recognize that Members need more clarity on specific elements.

Let me reassure you that we have heard you clearly that 100 per cent of IFAD's core resources should be allocated to the LICs and LMICs. We will honour this -- while also ensuring the allocation of at least 11 per cent of IFAD's total resources to UMICs.

The borrowing patterns and trends under IFAD11 give a clear indication that such commitment is within reach. I am therefore confident that with strong Replenishment contributions -- supported by the credit rating, the integrated borrowing framework and the adequate pricing of borrowed resources by the end of the year -- we can square the circle.

As we work towards a final agreement, Management remains fully committed to facilitate discussions across lists, and to provide additional support and information to Members, both in capitals and here in Rome.

We appreciate your support on deepening and expanding IFAD's impact through mainstreaming themes, as expressed in today's discussion.

As we fine-tune our approach to mainstreaming, we will take into account how to strengthen the linkages with IFAD's overall programme of work under IFAD12. We will also consider how mainstreaming can contribute to the post-COVID recovery and to support the long-term resilience of rural communities. We will make sure to further update you when we meet in July.

We also acknowledge the importance of working in partnership at all levels - global, regional and national, as well as local. IFAD has always counted on the support and ownership of Member States. And close collaboration with development partners -- including other UN agencies, the private sector, NGOS, agricultural research centres, and poor rural people and their organizations -- has always been part of IFAD's modus operandi.

Decentralization is bringing us closer to partners and should allow for greater collaboration, and also improvements in measuring and reporting results.

Today's discussion on the COVID-19 impacts and stress tests was an opportunity to reiterate our shared commitment to IFAD's financial sustainability and viability. For the Fund to be able to support countries when they are most in need, increased Member States' contributions -- supported by the ongoing reform of IFAD's financial architecture -- is fundamental.

Ladies and gentlemen,

We are grateful for the continued commitment of our Members, and for your recognition of IFAD's unique position in the international architecture – working with the poorest populations in the poorest places to deliver on SDG1 and 2 through inclusive and sustainable rural and agricultural development.

Yesterday, the honourable delegate for the Netherlands called on us to “cherish the beauty of the universality principle of the United Nations” and Mexico reminded us that “we are united in our diversity”. These are sentiments I believe we all share, and one that very well describe our journey towards IFAD12.

In the face of COVID-19, in the face of global recession, in the face of social injustice, and in the face of environmental degradation, we must **remain unshakably determined to continue the fight for the rural poor** – particularly for women, youth, and indigenous peoples.

Through your engagement with this replenishment process, and with your guidance, I am confident IFAD will be able to up its game and deliver even more on behalf of the rural women and men we serve.

Thank you.