

Consultation on the Twelfth Replenishment  
of IFAD's Resources  
Fourth Session – part 2

Opening Statement by  
President Gilbert F. Houngbo

IFAD headquarters  
Rome  
16 February 2021

Distinguished delegates,

Welcome to this second and last meeting of the fourth session of the Consultation on the Twelfth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources.

We have important business to do today – to pledge – so I shall keep my opening remarks short.

I want to sincerely thank you all for your efforts. This has been an enormously important replenishment consultation. Regardless of the financial targets and the ultimate level of pledges, your engagement in the process has already resulted in significant decisions that will have a major impact on the Fund's activities in the years to come. These decisions mean that IFAD is positioned to realistically aim at doubling its impact by 2030.

With this replenishment, we are putting the revised financial architecture into effect, from the DSF reform to the Integrated Borrowing Framework. In doing so, while we have reduced significantly the portion of the allocated resources going to our regular grants, we have agreed to set aside a US\$50 million reserve for special situations, such as the countries that fall into high debt distress, or to better assist countries affected by conflict or major crisis.

This is a major achievement. It allows us a more diversified resource base. And, importantly, it allows IFAD to continue prioritizing the needs of the poorest countries, while also respecting the Fund's commitment to the principle of universality.

With your guidance, we have also firmed up our mainstreaming priorities of climate, nutrition, gender and youth. And we have added in some of the most critical issues of our times, for example, biodiversity.

More than that, we have recommitted IFAD to its traditional focus on social inclusion and empowering the most vulnerable, including prioritizing indigenous peoples, and extending our commitment to persons with disabilities. We have also increased our ambition to get the most from innovation and technology.

I firmly believe that the IFAD12 business model – including being more decentralized, and with a broader toolkit that includes ASAP+ and the Private Sector Financing Programme – will enable IFAD to be more relevant and effective on the ground, and to be the best partner it can be.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I know that many of you have come here today ready to pledge.

I urge you to do everything you can to show your strongest support for the rural women and men IFAD serves, and pledge at the top of your range.

Your pledge not only allows IFAD and its Member States to deliver on the 2030 Agenda, it also sends a strong message to the world that even in the midst of a pandemic, the international community is not turning its back on the women and men of the rural communities we serve.

The 2030 Agenda recognized that our problems are global, and so are the solutions. COVID has proved this true. Let me finish by reminding all of us that an investment in the resilience of the world's poorest, hungriest and most vulnerable is an investment in the resilience of all of us.

Thank you.