



Consultation on the Thirteenth Replenishment
of IFAD's Resources
First Session

Opening Statement by
President Alvaro Lario

IFAD headquarters,
Rome
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Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Colleagues,

Welcome to the first session of the Consultation on the Thirteenth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources.

Climate change and food insecurity are the defining issues of our time. And they have exposed systemic problems within our food systems.

Today, food systems are not providing affordable and healthy diets for all, due to their fragility and other limitations. They also fail to offer decent livelihoods for farmers and food systems workers.

And they pose a significant threat to the global climate and environmental agenda. Small farms provide one third of our food; and up to 80 per cent in parts of Africa and Asia. Yet they receive only 1.7 per cent of global climate finance.

To be sure, we must address immediate needs – like the devastating hunger caused by years of drought in the Horn of Africa and growing inequality across the globe. The world must respond collectively to such emergencies.

But we must also invest together in long-term solutions to break the cycle of crisis after crisis.

Now is the time to invest in a sustainable future. Because if not now, then when?

IFAD exists to help address the challenges of today to build a prosperous future.

Our investments in rural people give hope and real options beyond subsistence, migration, or just despair.

We, at IFAD, work with and for poor rural people. Local communities are involved in projects right from the design stage. This means rural women and men can direct the development of their own communities and of their own lives.

Ladies and gentlemen,

With 2030 now in sight, and progress on hunger going backwards, IFAD must maximize its impact during IFAD13 to deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals.

We believe we can do this best by focusing on our strengths and our areas of comparative advantage. This includes investing in climate-resilient agriculture, and ensuring that value chains are strong and fair to small-scale producers. This is how IFAD contributes to sustainable, resilient and inclusive food systems, and to rural livelihoods.

In support of this, during IFAD13 we propose the following three priorities.

First, to boost biodiversity and climate financing for small-scale producers. We will do this through IFAD's programme of loans and grants, including the proposed additional climate contributions. And by mobilizing broader climate resources that would further expand our programme of work.

Second, we will step up our work with the private sector to strengthen value chains and make them more fair; create jobs especially for young rural people; and increase investment in rural areas – this is where we can really multiply the impact of our investments.

And third, we will work to build resilience, addressing the drivers and impacts of fragility in rural areas.

We know that poverty is rural. And by 2030, 86 per cent of extreme poverty is expected to be in fragile situations. IFAD has an important role to play here, working closely with partners.

Of course, we also remain fully committed to moving forward on IFAD's mainstreaming themes. Our approach will always be people-centred – empowering women and youth,

enhancing their resilience, championing social and economic inclusion, investing in nutrition, and targeting the most vulnerable.

In recent years IFAD has undertaken significant reforms to make us more financially sustainable, and bring us closer to the governments and people we work with. IFAD is recognized as one of the highest performing multilateral institutions.

But we still have work to do, and we are committed to constantly learning and improving. Decentralization is an example of an ongoing reform where we see opportunities to adjust, based on experience and an upcoming evaluation.

Ladies and gentlemen,

This is an IFAD replenishment. But it isn't just about IFAD. It is about working together to address some of the world's most fundamental challenges.

Extraordinary times call for an extraordinary global effort. IFAD13 is an opportunity to accelerate action on food security and food systems transformation.

I have never been more convinced about the importance of IFAD's role in building a safer and more sustainable future.

Working together, our task ahead is to secure the highest possible level of financing for IFAD13 to maximize development impact by 2030.

I look forward to hearing your feedback and proposals over the next two days.

Thank you.