

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

Opening Statement by  
President Alvaro Lario

IFAD headquarters,  
Rome  
2 November 2023

Distinguished representatives,

It is a pleasure to have the opportunity meet with all of you again.

I am sure that all of us are committed to doing everything we can to deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals, including our commitment to end extreme poverty and hunger by 2030.

In a world battered by crisis after crisis, the persistence of hunger, poverty and human suffering stands out. We all can agree that this is unacceptable.

Today, more than 700 million people will go to bed hungry. An estimated 691 million people are living in extreme poverty.

Clearly, it is time to shift from words to actions. From aspirations and pledges to effective implementation.

IFAD has a track record of 45 years of solid and sustainable measurable results that have improved the lives of millions of rural women and men in fragile, remote and marginal contexts.

Through IFAD, 177 Member States have an opportunity to deliver on their Agenda 2030 as food systems cut across almost all SDGs.

IFAD strongly supports Member States in their plans to transform rural economies and food systems, to support communities to adapt to climate change, and to put in place integrated programmes to reduce rural poverty and food insecurity.

This is why IFAD13 is an opportunity – an effective and efficient investment platform for Member States to provide a strong and coordinated global response to the current hunger and food crisis. IFAD investments are driven by the rural communities themselves, through locally owned country programmes that strengthen their capacity and enhance their own development.

Ladies and gentlemen,

We have accomplished a lot in our IFAD13 Consultation so far. I am grateful to you for all working together to reach such a high level of consensus at this stage of the process. It is a strong signal of how seriously we take our collective responsibility to change the trajectory of poverty and hunger in the world.

IFAD's work prioritizes the poorest and most vulnerable countries, regions, communities and households – and at the same time ensures that lower- and upper-middle-income countries benefit from increased resources.

Thanks to its capacity to assemble development finance, IFAD generates six dollars of investment on the ground for every dollar of core contribution received from Member States. This multiplier effect is unique in the UN system and supports IFAD's universality.

Indeed, IFAD's financial nature and structure is a comparative advantage that ensures that all countries are able to benefit, directly and indirectly, from the different replenishment financing instruments – whether core contributions, additional climate contributions or concessional partner loans.

Based on discussions and the feedback you provided on the draft report, I am confident that over the next two days we will be able to confirm the main priorities for IFAD13.

Delegates,

A strong replenishment benefits all borrowing countries. But for IFAD to maximize its overall development impact, it requires all Member States to scale up their contributions.

The impact of your contributions goes well beyond the impact on food security and on increased income. It has also huge benefits in terms of improved livelihoods, social

inclusion and political stability, especially in fragile environments and among vulnerable rural communities.

Achieving US\$2 billion in new replenishment funding will allow for a US\$10 billion programme of work: a programme of work through which at least 100 million rural people will be able to improve their livelihoods, their food security and their resilience. The majority of these 100 million rural women and men are among the 700 million food- insecure people, the most vulnerable and the most neglected.

Yes. US\$2 billion is an ambitious figure. Still, we truly believe the current time requires us – all of us – to be ambitious. The scale of the crisis and suffering does not allow for business as usual.

Dear colleagues,

Delivering real impact and building resilience takes time, and time is running out. IFAD13 starts in 2025 – five years before 2030. This means that IFAD13 is the last replenishment cycle and the last chance for Member States to invest in projects to contribute to achieve the SDGs, specially SDG2.

With your commitment and support, IFAD13 can drive coordinated global action to end poverty and hunger, as well as tackle the impacts of climate change.

We still have the possibility – and the opportunity – to turn our shared commitment to build a more stable, prosperous and food-secure world into reality. We can do it, but the clock is ticking.

Thank you very much.