

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

Opening Statement by
President Alvaro Lario

Paris
France
14 December 2023

Excellencies,

Distinguished representatives,

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

I would like to start by thanking Angola and France for hosting this session. We appreciate the presences of His Excellency, Minister of Finance of France and Her Excellency Minister of Fisheries and Maritime Resources of Angola. We are grateful for the strong support your governments have given to IFAD throughout this year, and over many years.

Ladies and gentlemen,

We meet at a particular time in history when the scale of global crisis and human suffering is enormous. The decisions our governments and institutions make today will have a significant impact on the lives and well-being of millions of rural people and their communities for years to come.

We are here today because we share a common ambition. Because all of us believe that every person should have access to nutritious, safe, healthy and affordable food.

We are here today because we want rural women, men and youth to be in charge of their own lives and futures, and to thrive. Because we want to foster agricultural growth that is inclusive, resilient, and environmentally sustainable.

And because we are all committed to creating a world without poverty and hunger, and where no one is left behind.

IFAD13 represents a historic and exceptional opportunity.

First, it is an opportunity for each of us to turn our ambition into a reality.

It has been clearly demonstrated that financing is necessary for rural transformation that is sustainable, inclusive and resilient.

Most of you have heard and are responding to this call. Many Member States have already stepped up with record pledges and are leading the way for IFAD13 to be the largest replenishment ever.

We should all be proud of having come together today to take collective action at this critical moment in time and of making tangible progress despite our constraints in an ever more fragmented world.

Second, IFAD13 is an opportunity to unleash the power of assembling development finance for sustainable, inclusive and resilient food systems.

IFAD's capacity to assemble development finance allows to turn every dollar of core contribution from Member States into six dollars of investments on the ground.

This multiplier effect has always been a core strength of IFAD. We believe that eliminating rural poverty and hunger can only be achieved through joint efforts. So we work with governments, bilateral and multilateral institutions, development banks and other IFIs, the private sector, and United Nations agencies. For each one of IFAD's investments, we also partner with rural communities and their organizations, including producers' associations and Indigenous communities.

This way of working is unique in the United Nations system and drives the strong impact and sustainability of IFAD-supported projects.

At the same time, thanks to IFAD's financial model, we now have a bigger toolbox of financial instruments to channel Member States' contributions – including core additional climate contributions and concessional partner loans. We have expanded our range of private sector partners and are mobilizing more international climate finance from the

Green Climate Fund, the Global Environment Facility, the Adaptation Fund and other sources of climate funding.

All of this together will enable us to reach at least 100 million rural women and men in IFAD13. We will do this through an ambitious but realistic US\$10 billion programme of work, provided we achieve US\$2 billion in new replenishment funding.

Last but not least, I strongly believe that IFAD13 represents an opportunity to show the world that to reach higher, we need to be together.

When IFAD was created in the 1970s, it was a unique partnership between members of OPEC, other developing countries, and members of the OECD.

Global food shortages were causing widespread famine and malnutrition. In that context, the international community came together in a collective multilateral response to meet a critical need.

Today, once again, the world finds itself in a cycle of recurring crises, with a pressing need for even more finance directed to the poorest and most vulnerable areas, to address hunger and poverty.

IFAD13 represents an opportunity for our Member States to, once more, be at the cutting edge of a united, impactful, multilateral response. Just as you did more than 40 years ago.

Ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of IFAD, and also personally, I want to express my appreciation to all of you for the constructive dialogue throughout this IFAD13 process.

I know that finding common ground is not always easy. But our differences are also our strengths. They force us to listen more, to have broader and more inclusive perspectives and, thus, to reach better solutions.

There is an African proverb that says – if you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.

I want to personally thank all of you for making the effort to be together with us in Paris – in person and virtually – so that we can go far and reach higher.

I invite all of you to seize these opportunities so that together, we can reach our common ambition of a prosperous, resilient, inclusive and sustainable future where no one is left behind.

Thank you very much.