Excellency,

As the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) approaches the final consultation session for the Eleventh Replenishment of its resources, we would like to take this opportunity to encourage you to join us in working to ensure a successful outcome of these consultations on 14 and 15 December 2017.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has renewed our collective sense of urgency to end extreme poverty and hunger. While many countries have made progress, we are not there yet: an estimated 836 million people still live in extreme poverty, and the number of people experiencing food insecurity increased for the first time in a decade and now amounts to 815 million. Although this is a decline compared to 2009, the recent State of Food Insecurity in the World report shows that for the first time in a decade the number of people living in food insecurity has increased. From 2015 to 2016, the number of people with chronic hunger increased with 38 million. We must step up our joint efforts.

We all agree that IFAD has a unique and critical contribution to make in ending rural poverty and hunger (SDG 1 and 2). Leaving no one behind is central to IFAD's mandate. IFAD has proven its effectiveness in targeting poor and food-insecure people in rural areas, and empowering them to increase their productive capacity, including in difficult contexts caused by inequalities, famine, climate change and conflict.

During the IFAD11 Consultations, member states also agreed on an important programme of business model enhancements which aim at ensuring excellence in IFAD's operations, with a strong focus on value for money, and a commitment to transparency, accountability and results.

Recognising the multiple demands each of our countries face in contributing scarce financial resources, we appeal to you and your Government to ensure a successful replenishment for IFAD.
Providing IFAD with an increase in its core resources will strengthen the Fund’s leveraging capacity to enable the scaling up of investments in smallholder agriculture, thereby preserving and creating employment opportunities for poor rural people and improving their livelihoods and strengthen their resilience in vulnerable situations.

We therefore invite you to join us in renewing our collective support to IFAD, to ensure it can continue to scale up its results and impact on rural poverty and hunger.

H.E. Dr. Eyasu Abreha  
Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

H.E. Sigrid Kaag  
Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

H.E. Ulrika Modéer  
State Secretary to the Minister for International Development Cooperation of Sweden

H.E. SHI Yaobin  
Vice Minister of Finance, Ministry of Finance of the People's Republic of China