

IFAD Governing Council (13-14 February 2018)
Written statement on behalf of Germany
By Governor Dominik Ziller

To achieve a world without hunger, young people in rural areas need to be both encouraged and empowered to play a critical role. Germany believes that this is especially true for Africa where 440 million young people will be entering the labor force between now and 2030, mostly in rural areas. Likewise, we are convinced that ensuring better opportunities for the young is key to reducing forced migration.

To build strong partnerships for taking action in this regard, Germany has made rural youth employment and food insecurity an important topic of its G20 presidency in 2017. Germany championed the initiative “Supporting the Next Generation in Rural Development, Agriculture and Food Security in Developing Countries” which is expected to contribute to create 1.1 million new jobs by 2022 as well as to provide innovative skills development programs for at least 5 million young people over the next five years.

I would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to President Hounbo, management and staff for joining our efforts in making this G20-initiative a success. In particular, the Study on “Rural Youth Employment and Innovations” which was jointly provided by IFAD and the World Bank has been an extremely valuable input for galvanizing support and action within the G20 working group. As a follow-up, Germany is pleased to provide support for IFAD’s Rural Development Report 2019 which will offer further guidance and expertise on key areas for boosting rural youth employment.

We gladly note that the G20 has highlighted the key mandate of IFAD to invest in rural people, smallholder farmers and rural micro and small enterprises as well as underlined the high return of IFAD’s investments to meet rural people’s needs, especially with regard to rural youth. Germany fully supports and shares this view. We welcome that rural youth employment has been recognized as a new focus by the Replenishment Report for IFAD 11. Without realistic and attractive perspectives for young people in rural areas, migration towards urban areas and across boundaries will increase and sustainable rural development is not achievable. We are looking forward to further continuing and extending our close partnership with IFAD regarding this topic.

Germany is and will remain strongly committed to IFAD and IFADs programs which go in line with our policy priorities in general and in particular with our Marshall Plan with Africa. We highly welcome IFADs strong commitment for taking a prominent role towards achieving Agenda 2030 and we believe that successful rural development, building on a concept of empowering smallholders, empowering women and girls, also as entrepreneurs is key to achieving resilient development, poverty eradication and food security. Therefore, IFAD’s mandate is crucial for the achievement of the SDG.

What’s particularly important to us is IFADs considerable commitment to addressing climate change and strengthening resilience. Poverty and food insecurity cannot be wiped out if climate change remains unaddressed. We therefore acknowledge IFADs strong commitment and achievements regarding climate adaptation and encourage IFAD to further implement its climate mainstreaming agenda with great determination.

Germany greatly welcomes the content of the replenishment report for IFAD 11 which is not only ambitious in every sense but also lays out a concise and strictly results oriented business

model to ensure that IFAD can achieve more and sustainable impact on rural poverty and hunger even in fragile contexts.

As announced at COP23 in Bonn, Germany has made a pledge of 20 Million Euro to further support IFADs climate related activities by an unrestricted complementary contribution to IFAD 11. I would also like to recall our strategic partnership with IFAD launched in 2016 which was linked to co-funding of several projects. Last but not least, I want to recall our commitment as a partner in the context of the Sovereign Borrowing Framework to underline this close relationship. The option of an additional sovereign loan to IFAD is currently explored by KfW Development Bank.

The agenda of this year's Governing Council well reflects the tremendous work IFAD has undertaken last year with a view to improving the lives of the poorest in rural areas.

Due to an exceptionally difficult process of forming a government after general elections in October last year, Germany has not yet been in a position to make a pledge for its core contribution to IFAD 11. However, a timely and strong core contribution is envisaged as soon as a new government has assumed office.

I would like to sincerely thank President Hounbo, Management and Staff for pushing reforms to make IFAD bigger, better and smarter. Germany stands ready to actively engage with IFAD towards achieving this goal.