

Remarks of Amb. Martha Bárcena Coqui, Governor of Mexico to IFAD, on the occasion of the 41st. session of the Governor's Council

13-14 February, 2018. Rome.

IFAD, in light of the commitments of Agenda 2030 is more indispensable than ever. The collaboration with Mexico remains strong with the three projects in progress, one of them recently approved, supporting social and productive inclusion, one of the longest-term project approved.

This shows that even in upper middle-income countries, where areas of poverty and marginalization remains, we need the expertise and support of the United Nations, and IFAD in particular.

The universality of IFAD cannot be put in doubt. That is the mandate of Agenda 2030, of leaving no one behind. The expertise and knowledge of IFAD are used in a wide diversity of countries, where IFAD has a central role to transform rural development.

We emphasize and support the four priority areas identified for the eleventh replenishment, which are: climate, gender, nutrition and youth.

On gender, IFAD must promote particularly the resilience of rural women.

In Latin America, women represent 43% of agricultural workforce and the indigenous peoples are 20% of the poorest and its women the most vulnerable.

Many of them live in remote areas, precisely in the areas where IFAD works.

We must continue supporting projects towards them. They are the most vulnerable of the vulnerable. To invest in women, especially in indigenous women, means an investment to achieve healthy and peaceful countries.

Likewise, we must expand the thematic areas of IFAD and include biological diversity, remittances, strengthen the response to the risks associated with drought and climate change and to support regional projects for small island developing states in the Caribbean as well as in Central America, supporting resilience to climate change.

We recognize the constructive and collaborative spirit during the negotiations for the eleventh replenishment of resources.

In this new stage we must explore new financial models in order to enhance the range of resources.

Let's study not only the known options, like making use of market borrowing, but others methods of mixed financing, social impact and development bonds, and even co-financing with other entities like the Green Climate Fund.

In this task, the collaboration with the other Rome-based Agencies and of the United Nations in general is fundamental.

Mexico reiterates its support to the leadership of President Hounbou in strengthening IFAD, while maintaining its financial sustainability.

Together, let's make IFAD the institution of choice for rural development.

I thank you.