

**United States Statement to  
IFAD's Forty-first Session of the Governing Council**

Mr. President, Mr. Chairman, Governors, and Distinguished Guests –

We applaud President Hounbou for his leadership of IFAD over the past year, and we endorse President Hounbou's vision to make IFAD more efficient and effective in alleviating rural poverty, hunger, and malnutrition. While IFAD has much about which to be proud, it is a testament to President Hounbou's commitment that he is pushing IFAD's management and staff to continually assess how the institution can be more impactful in the neediest rural communities in the world.

We thank IFAD's management and staff for their dedication to IFAD's important mission. IFAD has done well deploying its expertise and experience in designing and implementing impactful interventions that benefit poor smallholder farmers in remote rural areas. We also appreciate the work of the Independent Office of Evaluation, which uses its analysis and methodological integrity to inform IFAD's programming and benefit the institution's management and membership.

We urge IFAD to continually assess ways that it can bolster its value for money, and take note of the steps that the institution is taking in this regard. In 2018, IFAD will move forward with the ambitious "Operational Excellence" initiative, through which we hope IFAD will upgrade its operations and ability to deliver a program of work that achieves greater impact on the ground. IFAD is also increasing its strategic collaboration with the other Rome-based agencies, leveraging synergies between the RBAs where appropriate and consistent with the comparative advantages of each institution.

Food security remains a development priority for the U.S. Government and we value the work that IFAD does. In the spirit of cooperation and shared development goals, the United States will continue to collaborate closely with IFAD in pursuit of our shared objectives to advance inclusive growth and reduce poverty in the neediest areas of developing countries.

We look forward to further strengthening our partnership with IFAD in the coming year.