

## **UK Statement to IFAD Governing Council 2018**

Distinguished Governors, Mr President, colleagues,

The United Kingdom is proud of its record on international development and fighting global poverty. Indeed, the UK is a proud and proactive member of the United Nations. And it is because the UK is a committed supporter of the UN that we are working so hard to improve it.

More than two years after agreeing the SDGs, we require more from the UN Development system than ever before. Conflict, extremism, climate change, urbanisation, natural disasters, and poverty have combined to generate unprecedented levels of need.

We need better outcomes. The system needs to step up to meet this challenge. The world's poorest people, and our taxpayers, deserve nothing less.

The UN Secretary-General's reports on system reform create a strong foundation for building a UN for the 21st Century. A UN that must be transparent, efficient and able to justify to the people it serves, including the taxpayers of the world, what it does, where it does it, and what outcomes it achieves on their behalf. He has the UK's support in driving this reform.

Key themes come out of his reports:

Efficiency - the UN must embrace efficiency. This isn't about doing less, it's about doing more, reaching more people with the resources we already have.

Accountability - the UN needs to be more accountable. The United Kingdom supports the commitment for greater transparency on where funding comes from, how it is spent, and the results it achieves.

And, crucially, we support the Secretary-General's recommendations of focus on improved performance on the ground.

No one can doubt the urgency of reform. A UN that embraces reform can better realise its enormous potential. Our work is to serve, and serve those whose futures are dependent upon the actions we undertake today.

These themes shine through IFAD's replenishment report that IFAD's Governing Council is endorsing at this session, and the UK would like to congratulate IFAD President Hounbo, the IFAD team, and all members of the replenishment consultation for embracing these reforms so comprehensively.

Delivering them will transform IFAD. It will become more outward-looking. It will engage more meaningfully at country level, ensuring projects are well-managed and lessons shared - globally. It will diversify its financial base and support countries as they develop and transition. It will increase transparency for greater accountability. It will consider how best to support persons with disability and ensure that no one is left

behind. The UK looks forward to working with IFAD's other members to support IFAD to achieve this transformation and move us closer to our shared goal of a world with zero hunger.

Thank-you