

The forty-second session of the IFAD Governing Council Meeting  
General Statement by IFAD's Governor of Japan

Mr. Chairman, Mr. President,  
Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. It is my honor to be present here today to participate in the forty-second session of the IFAD Governing Council. This year, for the first time, a summit-level SDGs follow-up meeting is being held in the United Nations, and the G20 summit and the Seventh Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD 7) will be held in Japan. In addition, preparation for the Tokyo Olympics and Paralympic Games in 2020, the Osaka World Expo in 2025 are also underway. IFAD has been working vigorously to achieve the SDGs including goal 1 (no poverty), goal 2 (zero hunger), goal 5 (gender equality), goal 6 (access to water), goal 13 (climate change). Japan stresses the importance of its continued collaboration with IFAD to achieve these goals.

Japan puts particular emphasis on three pillars for promoting agricultural and rural development in partnership with IFAD, namely:

- ① to support increasing agricultural production and improving productivity,
- ② to establish the Food Value Chain (FVC) through the public-private partnerships,
- ③ to build a sustainable society through efforts to improve food security and nutrition.

Japan recognizes that this year is an important opportunity to promote IFAD's efforts towards proper financial management on international agricultural and rural development through the improvement of resource mobilization such as DSF (Debt Sustainability Framework) and market borrowing and the arrangement of the Consultation on the twelfth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources in 2020.

2. Of the above three viewpoints, first pillar regards the support to increasing agricultural production and improving productivity in developing countries. As the world population is growing rapidly, increase in food production is becoming a global issue in terms of food security.

Japan has always supported efforts on the Coalition for African Rice Development (CARD) initiative, established under the TICAD IV framework in 2008.

On the occasion of TICAD V in 2013, Japan also expressed its intention to continue its support for CARD. During the 7th CARD General Meeting held last year, which was also the final year for CARD, saw the commitment to further doubling the rice production forming under the framework of CARD Phase 2 with the participation of 23 CARD members, in addition to this the results spreading over the past 10 years were shared. Phase 2 will be launched at TICAD 7 that will be held in Yokohama this August. Japan is looking forward to IFAD's promotion of the African rice cooperation with other institutions.

3. Second, establishment of the FVC through the public-private partnerships. We recognize that it is important to see the whole of the FVC and to promote improving value-addition, looking at the market, in order to connect outcomes of development projects in the fields of agriculture, forestry and fisheries enabling the increase in the farmers' income. This will lead to generating a chain of value addition centering on food through connecting all phases from production, processing, distribution to consumption enhancing value addition in each phase. From this perspective, Japan sets out "quality growth" and poverty eradication through such growth as one of its priority issues in its Development Cooperation Charter, which is the foundation of Japan's Official Development Assistance policy. Japan will effectively continue to contribute to develop agriculture, forestry and fisheries including the development of food value chains.

Japan also supports the efforts of "Smallholder Horticulture Empowerment & Promotion (SHEP)", an approach to support the small-scale horticultural farmer, which was developed by the Kenya Agriculture Ministry together with JICA in 2006. Japan hopes that IFAD shall continue to use this approach and market-conscious development of agriculture.

4. Third, building a sustainable and resilient society through efforts to improve food security and nutrition. TICAD VI was held in Kenya, for the first time in Africa, in 2016. IFAD is one of the ten members of the steering committee of the Initiative for Food and Nutrition Security in Africa (IFNA), established under the TICAD VI framework in 2016. Last October, IFAD and JICA signed a Memorandum of Cooperation to promote further cooperation with SHEP, IFNA and CARD. TICAD 7 will be held in Yokohama this August, and on this occasion, Japan would like to ask

IFAD, an important partner on addressing malnutrition, to continue seeking the opportunity for implementing projects in line with these initiatives,

5. Lastly, this is the year to decide on the policy of improvement of resource mobilization and arrange Consultations on the twelfth Replenishment of IFAD's Resource. During the eleventh replenishment, in view of the priority pillars mentioned above, Japan pledged its maximum contribution in Japanese currency except for the time of the establishment of IFAD (1977) and the first replenishment (1987). It is extremely important in terms of accountability towards the Japanese taxpayers to actively align the budget execution with initiatives Japan has ever led.

Japan will continue to actively contribute to the achievement of important international targets in the international development field such as ending poverty, ensuring food security, and nutrition for which IFAD is active.

Thank you very much.

(End)