

IFAD GOVERNING COUNCIL: 42<sup>nd</sup> SESSION  
NEW ZEALAND STATEMENT - DRAFT

New Zealand congratulates President Houngbo for his leadership and commitment in helping ensure IFAD's position as the lead international agency working to reduce poverty and food insecurity in rural areas through programmes in agriculture and rural development.

New Zealand strongly supports the goals of IFAD11 and is pleased to contribute NZD\$4.5 million as a core contribution to the replenishment.

We continue to support the implementation of IFAD's Strategic Framework for 2016 to 2025. It positions IFAD to make a significant contribution towards meeting the relevant goals under Agenda 2030. While the primary emphasis of IFAD's work, appropriately, will remain agriculture, we welcome the continued place that fisheries and aquaculture have in IFAD's work.

Strengthening the environmental sustainability and climate resilience of programmes is fundamental to Agenda 2030. These thematic focus areas are particularly important to New Zealand and we are pleased they feature prominently at the forefront of IFAD's work.

New Zealand endorses the overarching engagement principles that underpin IFAD's policy and programme interventions. This includes the importance of innovation, learning from experience and scaling up, gender equality, empowering rural communities and institutions, and targeting the poorer, more disadvantaged, parts of rural society including indigenous peoples. Each of these is essential to achieving Agenda 2030 and IFAD's objectives.

New Zealand welcomes the steady improvements in IFAD's results in recent years. We commend the continued improvements in programme and project quality.

Looking ahead, we urge IFAD to maintain efforts to increase the sustainability, including financial, of its programmes and projects and the impact of its policy and other non-lending activities. The role of partner governments will be crucial

in helping to achieve this. We also encourage continued attention to enhance the quality of monitoring and evaluation, and to IFAD's performance in natural resources and environmental work.

Organisational improvement is an on-going goal which we support we reiterate full support for IFAD's zero tolerance policy towards sexual harassment, sexual exploitation and abuse, and discrimination.

New Zealand strongly endorses IFAD's contribution towards the needs of Small Island Developing States (SIDs). IFAD's work in the Pacific region and in other SIDs represents a significant part of IFAD's value-add for New Zealand. New Zealand welcomes IFAD's increased financial commitment to SIDS in this replenishment, particularly as SIDs face unique development vulnerabilities and needs due to their small size and remoteness, their narrow resource and export base, and a relatively high exposure to external shocks, natural disasters and climate change. It will be important that the application of differentiated country approaches takes into account the particular circumstances of IFAD's SIDs members.

New Zealand will continue to stand by, and support, IFAD in its mission to reduce poverty and food insecurity in rural areas in all of its developing country member states.