

**STATEMENT DELIVERED BY HON. JAPHET NGAILONGA HASUNGA
(MP), MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE AT THE FORTY SECOND IFAD
GOVERNING COUNCIL, ROME, ITALY FROM 14TH – 15TH
FEBRUARY, 2019**

- **Chairperson,**
- **President of the IFAD Governing Council,**
- **Distinguished Governors,**
- **Permanent Representatives of the Member States,**
- **Officials of the IFAD,**
- **Honourable Guests,**
- **Members of Diplomatic Co – op,**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen.**

It is my pleasure and honour to deliver this statement at this 42nd dignified Session of IFAD Governing Council on behalf of the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania and on my own behalf.

Chairperson, I would like to extend our gratitude to IFAD for assisting my Country and other pro-poor countries towards addressing the challenges of poverty and rural development through pro-poor development strategies and programmes.

Chairperson, Tanzania has achieved some of the today's milestones set out in the National Strategies for Growth and Reduction of Poverty (MKUKUTA and MKUZA), the Agriculture Development Strategy (ASDS) and the Agriculture Sector Development Programme (ASDP) with the contribution of IFAD. We will continue to cherish IFAD initiative through the laid-down portfolio. I am grateful that IFAD has been in a forefront

in supporting agriculture and rural poor in Tanzania. Since 1978, IFAD has financed 14 projects and programmes with a loan portfolio of about USD 768.4 million. The implementation of these projects has paved a way to realize positive impact on poverty reduction and food security.

Chairperson, Tanzania is still dependent on agriculture for its development as about 75% of the poor are still in rural areas and depend on agriculture for their livelihood. The challenges of agriculture continue to be threatened as when coupled with increase in food prices, climate change and technology related aspects. It is envisaged that with climate change, agricultural production and access to food in the poor countries like Tanzania, will be severely affected by climate variability and episodes of heavy rainfall and droughts. Under such circumstances it will be difficult for poor countries like Tanzania to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This calls for multi-sectoral and inclusive financing by engaging full stakeholders, including development partners.

Chairperson, in order to address afore-mentioned challenges, sustainable management of natural resources like land, water catchment areas, forestry and other natural resources would facilitate in mitigating such negative effects of climate change. Tanzania has large water bodies including ocean, lakes, rivers and streams is determined to promote irrigation opportunities. However, availability of sufficient resources to put the full scale utilization of the 2.4 million hectares of high potential irrigable land remains a challenge.

Chairperson, Tanzania is currently spearheading development of the Agriculture Sector Development Programme phase II (ASDP II), focusing on four components (**Sustainable Water and Land Use Management; Enhanced Agricultural Productivity; Rural Commercialization and Value Addition and Strengthening Sector Enablers**) which address crops, livestock and fisheries along value chains. IFAD is among the DPs committed to continue supporting the agriculture sector of Tanzania through the ASDP II whose implementation is envisaged to commence in 2018/19.

Chairperson, it is my sincere hope that IFAD will not close ties with poor countries to ensure that sustainable responses and adaptation to such challenges are well addressed. As always has been, the IFAD approach of engaging smallholders in the mitigation process is our moto and we invite IFAD to continue supporting mitigation initiatives not only for Tanzania but also to other worldwide poor countries.

Chairperson, I wish to conclude my statement with my expectations that IFAD will continue to join hands with other international/multilateral agencies to develop and support the capacity of poor countries like Tanzania to realize results oriented development for anchoring the poverty reduction in order to meet the CAADP – Malabo Declaration and SDGs milestones.

I thank you very much for your kind attention.