

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

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

As we begin the Eleventh Replenishment period for the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the U.S. Government is confident that IFAD is well-positioned to succeed in its unique mission to improve the lives of smallholder farmers and facilitate rural transformation. We applaud President Houngbo for his leadership, and we recognize IFAD's management and outstanding staff, who are crucial to the success of the institution. We also welcome the strong work of the Independent Office of Evaluation (IOE), and view IOE's analysis as essential to continuing to improve IFAD's projects and programs.

Food security remains a development priority for the U.S. Government. In 2018, President Trump signed the reauthorization of the Global Food Security Act, through which the United States is helping governments in partner countries to create better policies and systems for food security and supporting their Journeys to Self-Reliance. The United States continues to value IFAD and its work, and we share with IFAD the objectives of advancing economic growth and reducing poverty and malnutrition in the poorest areas of developing countries.

Over the last year, through the “Operational Excellence” initiative, IFAD has made strong progress putting in place reforms we hope will make IFAD more efficient in carrying out its mission and enhance its impact on the ground. Efforts to strengthen and refine IFAD's model further must continue in 2019. IFAD must take steps to update IFAD's Debt Sustainability Framework, bolster its financial-management capacity, and develop a new private-sector strategy. Throughout these and other initiatives, we encourage IFAD to keep the relevant governing bodies closely involved, and to continue to consult proactively with members. We also appreciate that IFAD is striving to expand its collaboration with the other Rome-based United Nations agencies, by leveraging synergies between the RBAs, where appropriate, consistent with the comparative advantages of each institution.

In the year ahead, we look forward to continuing our strong partnership with IFAD, and working together to enhance IFAD's contribution to alleviating rural poverty.