

**42nd Session of the Governing Council, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
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General Statement by Canada (Video recording)

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Development, and Governor of Canada to IFAD**

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

C'est un grand plaisir pour moi de prendre la parole au nom du gouvernement du Canada à l'occasion de cette quarante-deuxième session du Conseil des gouverneurs du Fonds international de développement agricole qui a pour thème "L'Innovation rurale et l'entrepreneuriat".

Depuis ses débuts en 1977 le FIDA se consacre inlassablement à l'investissement dans les zones rurales et à l'exploitation du potentiel des petits agriculteurs y compris particulièrement les femmes agricultrices pour contribuer au développement durable.

Or, comme nous savons tous, à l'heure actuelle le monde fait face à une recrudescence de la faim due principalement aux conflits et aux changements climatiques.

We also know, as was aptly pointed out by President Houngbo during the IFAD11 Replenishment consultations, that the global ambition to eradicate extreme poverty as outlined in Agenda 2030 will not succeed with a business as usual approach.

The focus of our deliberations over the coming two days is particularly significant. Helping smallholders acquire the resources, skills and technology they need to improve productivity, connect to modern value chains, escape from subsistence agriculture and become commercially viable is essential if we hope to realize SDGs 1 and 2.

Canada is proud of its longstanding partnership with IFAD and welcomes its prioritization of innovation, an issue that was very much at the heart of our G7 Presidency last year.

Smallholders are facing the demands, risks and opportunities of a world that is rapidly changing.

Innovation will be key to finding the sustainable solutions to increase productivity, improve nutrition, build resilience, empower the poor, and support rural development.

It will be key to achieving gender transformative impacts - and indeed unlocking the potential of women and adolescent girls themselves as innovators will be essential.

Innovation will be key to engaging youth. Young people today are not looking to inherit the farming systems of their parents. Rather they are looking for a productive path out of poverty, and achieving a rewarding livelihood. With the right skills and access to resources, they can be pioneers in reforming and indeed modernising food systems and adapting to the global challenge of climate change.

Innovation will be key to solving the bottleneck created by inadequate access to finance.

And it will be key to scaling up successful approaches, as well as realizing the enormous potential of the UN Development system.

On all these fronts, IFAD has much about which to be proud. It is a testament to the leadership of President Houngras that IFAD is continuing to step up its impact in the world's neediest communities: by intensifying efforts vis-à-vis climate change, nutrition, gender and youth employment, by diversifying its financial base and the tools at its disposal, by sharing its lessons learned more widely, and by engaging constructively in UN reform efforts.

Canada looks forward to further strengthening its partnership with IFAD in the coming years and moving closer to our shared goal of a zero-hunger world.

Thank you. Merci.