

## Statement by the representative of the Dominican Republic

First, let me congratulate you for the excellent opening session of this forty-second Governing Council of our Institution, an event that unquestionably distinguishes your administration and demonstrates the enormous efforts that you have successfully been making to strengthen IFAD's institutional mechanisms while continuing to develop efficient and effective capacities to work with countries to address rural poverty, food security and environmental sustainability.

This morning, we have had the opportunity to hear important world leaders reaffirm the vital commitment to closing the existing structural, social and cultural gaps in our countries to achieve greater inclusion, equity and resilience. Their statements represent an impassioned call to all present to continue working together and strengthening our resolve to **"Eradicating poverty and hunger in rural areas of developing countries"**, as stated so well in IFAD's mission.

As we all heard in the statement of Dominican President, His Excellency Danilo Medina Sánchez, my country has opted for the development of a new inclusive and resilient rural economy, a policy measure propelled by an intersectoral effort spearheaded by the President himself through the "Surprise Visits Programme", which consists of direct action in the country, focused on the social, economic and cultural empowerment of the rural poor.

This new rural economy is grounded in associativity, education, production chains, access to credit, affordable and accessible technological innovation, intergenerational integration, the inclusion of women and youth, environmental sustainability and resilience, as well as an emphasis on values such as integrity, transparency, solidarity and social harmony.

This effort has unquestionably required a firm political commitment and the absolute conviction that our rural population has tremendous wisdom and immeasurable potential that can be unleashed when it is offered the chance to acquire new knowledge and access to soft and hard technologies that will enable people to develop the skills necessary to turn their ideas into concrete business projects that generate wealth, innovation and sustainable development.

As you can see, in developing the policy measure for promoting this new rural economy, we have had the support of IFAD, an institution that in addition to financial support, has provided technical assistance in the conceptual and operational development of inclusive and participatory rural intervention methodologies, as well as their systematization, so that the experience can be scaled up.

The future is promising, because in the course of this process, we have shown in concert with rural economic organizations, the private sector and IFAD that we must invest in the rural poor and can obtain life-changing results for individuals, families and communities.

Middle-income and developing countries are innovating to close the existing gaps. I am calling for us in this dedicated Institution to consider how to tackle rural poverty in creative ways to leverage financing and technical support so that we can continue promoting sustainable rural change to benefit a growing universe of rural poor people who are still lagging behind in all our developing countries.

In a world in which economic growth has not necessarily meant equity and inclusion, we, the international development cooperation agencies, must develop new models of cooperation, in partnership with the countries, that promote partnerships tailored to the needs of each of our nations, many of which, in the current circumstances, display serious internal inequalities that we cannot ignore. I leave this proposal in the hands of this honourable Governing Council.

Let me conclude my participation, Mr President, by reiterating the congratulations of the Dominican Republic and myself for the tremendous work that you are directing for continuous transformation, change and effective and efficient use of the financial and human resources of this Institution with the aim of creating a fairer, more fulfilling and empowered rural world:

**An Enterprising and Innovative Rural World.**