

## **Statement by the representative of the State of Qatar**

We are pleased to join you in this important international event, the meetings of the forty-second session of the Governing Council of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). The broad participation of IFAD Member States clearly demonstrates our will and joint efforts to achieve our common goals of eradicating poverty, hunger and undernutrition and helping the poor and least developed and lower-income countries. The time has come for us to realize the aspirations and hopes of poor peoples that have long suffered from poverty and food insecurity.

The world has seen fundamental changes in recent decades. Nations have grown more interdependent amid globalization and the intermeshing of the issues facing the international community. We are thus in need of a new comprehensive vision that enables us all to meet the challenges more effectively. The new vision must balance security needs with development needs, which are closely linked with each other given that international peace and security depend on global food security. Collective security can thus not be achieved as long as poverty threatens increasing numbers of people in different regions of the world. The waves of forced migration from the poor, least developed and lower-income countries will continue to pose challenges, which requires us to increase our cooperation and to continue to assign top priority to fighting poverty and undernutrition.

The Governing Council is IFAD's highest authority. Its members include all IFAD Member States. We should all recall that the Fund was established in 1977 primarily to reduce poverty and boost employment in rural areas, support rural populations suffering from extreme poverty and undernourishment and establish projects conducive to eliminating hunger and malnutrition and improving the quality of life and incomes in developing regions.

IFAD has been instrumental in many developments and achievements over the decades, such as the implementation of projects to maintain extensive agricultural road networks, transform vast areas of arid lands into agricultural land, train rural populations in advanced agricultural methods, support and develop agricultural enterprises, and market and export agricultural products.

IFAD's focus on rural development has become essential for addressing the unprecedented magnitude of migration, regional conflicts and climate change, as a result of which 815 million people around the world are suffering from poverty, hunger and undernourishment and have no choice but to migrate. It is thus necessary to address the roots of the problem and guarantee every human being's right to food.

Over the course of years, the State of Qatar has partnered successfully and productively with IFAD in humanitarian initiatives, contributions and development projects implemented by the Fund in many of the poor, least developed and lower-income states.

The State of Qatar is working intensively and continuously with the Fund to help it achieve its noble goals of eradicating hunger and sustainably managing natural resources.

The State of Qatar contributes to the mobilization of the Fund's financial resources and makes technical contributions to the Fund's work, plans and activities in the field. It is a member of the Executive Board of the Fund and is constantly pursuing and monitoring the Fund's general policies and managing and evaluating its resources and development projects.

Qatar has faced an unjust boycott since 5 June 2017. The boycott was initiated based on pretexts and claims revealed by events, facts and history to be false. The boycotting countries have persisted in their allegations and spurious arguments. They are continuing their campaigns against Qatar without seeking a plan to extricate themselves from the

situation in which they have become embroiled. They offer nothing new and know full well that their campaign against Qatar has nothing to do with the accusations which they have leveled against Qatar.

The boycotting countries have used all their resources, instrumentalities and agencies to harm Qatar and attempt to impose their mandate over Qatar and its sovereignty. International public opinion has become well aware of this, as reflected in the fact that Qatar cooperates with the major powers and other friendly countries and enjoys excellent relations with them that are better now than before the unjust boycott.

The boycotting countries have again failed to appreciate the will of the Qatari people, who have united behind their wise political leadership to confront the crisis created by the boycotting countries. Those countries continue to spread falsehoods, fabrications and deception in an attempt to affect our economy, currency and growth and to unsuccessfully impede our development plans in different areas. The crisis created by the unjust boycott has driven us to uncover the deep reserves of strength and ability of Qatari society, the source and object of our priorities.

The actions of the boycotting countries in the region seriously threaten food security by jeopardizing agricultural development, livestock resources and trade in agricultural food items and goods among the countries of the region, with unknown consequences.

The boycotting countries have committed illegal actions, violated values and customs, and jeopardized interests. They continue to eschew a solution based on mutual respect. We call on IFAD, which Qatar helped establish in 1977, to incorporate, in its current programmes and policies, the dangers posed to global food security by the unjust, arbitrary boycott of Qatar and by the many adverse effects of the boycott.

Many issues are considered and decided in the Governing Council's sessions. But we should also be aware that IFAD works in a changing global environment that requires greater insight and broad generous support for the replenishment of the Fund's financial resources in order to achieve the goals for which IFAD was established.

In conclusion, I hope that our meetings will lead to appropriate decisions that will help reduce poverty, hunger and undernourishment for millions of people in our world.