

Statement by the representative of the Republic of the Sudan

1. I am honoured to address this important session of the IFAD Governing Council. I am grateful to IFAD for its efforts to support the rural population and its plans to enable inclusive and sustainable rural transformation as part of its contribution to the achievement of the Agenda 2030 priorities.
2. I am also particularly pleased to express my appreciation for IFAD's significant collaboration with the Sudan and its contributions to poverty reduction and Sudanese efforts to develop innovative mechanisms and channels for investing in rural sectors. Collaboration between the Sudan and IFAD has benefited more than half a million rural households, including smallholder farmers and herders, and has created jobs for rural women and young people.
3. The signing of the Headquarters Agreement between Sudan and the Fund in July 2018 marked an important step towards supporting and strengthening cooperation between the two sides.
4. I am also pleased to reiterate to the Fund's President, contributors and staff that the Sudan is keen to fully meet all its commitments to the Fund and to move towards further cooperation and coordination between the Sudan and IFAD.
5. The agricultural sector in the Sudan, as in many African countries, remains a dependable leader of economic and social development. More than 70 per cent of the population depends on agriculture for their livelihoods. In view of the great challenges, and in the hope of strengthening cooperation with all constituents of the international community, the Sudanese Government has committed itself to formulating its national plans and programmes in harmony with regional and international development and growth strategies, including the Sustainable Development Goals and the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program adopted by the African Union Summit in Maputo in 2003. The Government is also devoting increasing attention to promoting microfinancing requiring only minimal guarantees for all segments of society, especially in rural areas.
6. In addition to cooperation with IFAD, Sudan has benefited from partnerships with other banking and financial institutions for implementing programmes and projects designed to build the capacities of youth and women and enhance their role in the country's economic sector. However, more efforts are needed to address women and young people, particularly in view of the steady growth of the population in the African and Middle East regions.
7. It is also of the utmost necessity to diversify the assistance provided to women and young people and to be more innovative in this regard. Fortunately, the Council's present session will address the themes of rural innovation and entrepreneurship, with interactive sessions addressing gender discrimination, the enabling of social entrepreneurship for inclusive rural transformation and the empowerment of smallholders to benefit from new technologies. Additional efforts will be needed to provide more resources nationally, regionally, and internationally as well as to harness the rural population's own resources to achieve sustainable growth and well-being and to combat the adverse effects of climate change on food security projects and on the fight against poverty and hunger.
8. In conclusion, allow me to take this opportunity – in accordance with the principle of cooperation and coordination among the United Nations agencies in Rome, and as Chairman of the thirtieth session of the African Regional Conference of FAO – to appeal to fellow African ministers of agriculture to continue their much appreciated

efforts to implement the recommendations of the Regional Conference and the commitments made in Khartoum this year in the hope of achieving tangible progress, which will be reviewed and evaluated at the next conference to be held in Zimbabwe in the coming year.