

## **Statement by the representative of the Togolese Republic**

On behalf of the Togolese delegation, I would like to applaud the increasingly close collaboration among the Rome-based United Nations agencies, one of whose achievements is today's session at the headquarters of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

In the course of implementing its programme to revive and strengthen the national economy, last August the Togolese Government adopted a national development plan (PND) for the period 2018-2022. This plan, in which the agriculture sector plays a key role, seeks, among other things, to create a favourable environment for the emergence of a private sector to substantially and sustainably boost the national economy.

I am thus taking advantage of this forum to commend IFAD for its assistance in implementing this plan.

In point of fact, IFAD is involved in several projects in Togo aimed at improving living conditions in rural areas essentially for smallholder farmers and vulnerable actors such as youth and women. These projects also contribute to the promotion of rural entrepreneurship through their technical and financial support mechanisms.

We particularly appreciate the activities to improve the National Rural Entrepreneurship Project (PNPER), which has encountered difficulties since it was first launched. My delegation is especially pleased about the recent negotiations that culminated in the 7 February 2019 signing of a financing agreement for the Shared-risk Agricultural Financing Incentive Mechanism Support Project (ProMIFA) in the amount of more than US\$34 million, US\$7.5 million of it from IFAD<sup>10</sup>.

Togo commends IFAD for its strong policy approach in the design of this project and its approved investments, whose design and financing cycle were completed in record time. This is proof of the Fund's engagement in support of initiatives for developing the agriculture sector by stressing rural entrepreneurship

Togo calls for the pursuit of collaboration with IFAD to consolidate the gains that could derive from the implementation of the various projects under way. Thus, other financing to meet a greater target in terms of job creation and support for business development, especially in rural areas and for the benefit of vulnerable populations, is keenly desired.