

Written Statement at the 43rd Session of the IFAD Governing Council

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The world is now faced with sluggish global economic growth, acute fragility towards climate change, conflicts and pandemics, and severe food security and poverty situations. Mankind is confronted with long-term challenges of poverty and unbalanced development, especially the daunting challenge of achieving the United Nations(UN) 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), as one of the three specialized food and agricultural institutions of the UN, should better deliver its mandate and help member countries eliminate hunger and poverty. In this connection, I wish to share the following three suggestions:

First, IFAD should stick to its mandate and comparative advantages and strive to be bigger and stronger. In a time when there is a dire need of development resources and the long-standing problem of relative poverty around the world, it is imperative that IFAD strive to build from strength to strength and offer more favorable resources for developing countries. During this year's IFAD 12 replenishment negotiations, IFAD member countries should give active support, especially, developed countries should fulfill their international development responsibilities and increase contributions. Meanwhile, IFAD should, while ensuring financial sustainability, actively explore diversified funding channels, like market borrowing, to shore up its financial strength. Moreover, IFAD

should continue leveraging resources by strengthening cooperation with the private sector and conducting co-financing with bilateral and multilateral institutions.

Second, IFAD should insist on its global vision and strengthen cooperation with all member countries. Developing countries, whether low-income or middle-income, are confronted with challenges in ensuring food security and achieving poverty elimination. As one of the arms of the UN, IFAD should stay true to its global vision and leave no one behind by offering tailored support for members of various development stages. For low-income countries that have multiple problems and a lack of resources and capability, we suggest that IFAD further enhance support for these members. While for the many middle-income countries that are widely troubled by unbalanced development and vast poor population, there is also the urgent need of assistance in poverty elimination. There is no zero-sum relationship between IFAD's support of low-income countries and its engagement with middle-income ones, rather, the two fronts can surely supplement each other. Middle-income countries offer a key source of development experience and contribute a lot development financing. IFAD should abide by its principle of achieving development through poverty elimination and continue strengthening cooperation with middle-income countries, including upper-middle income ones.

Third, IFAD should stick to multilateralism and promote various kinds of cooperation, including the South-South cooperation. Currently, multilateralism and the multilateral system is encountering a

headwind. Against this backdrop, IFAD should stick to multilateralism, give full play to its advantages and its role as a bridge. Based on the premise of maintaining North-South cooperation as the main channel, IFAD should build multilateral platforms for member countries to conduct South-South cooperation and regional cooperation, so as to jointly achieve food security. North-South cooperation and South-South cooperation should draw on the strengths of each other and supplement each other. South-South cooperation enjoys the unique advantage of offering experience that is in line with realities of developing countries. We encourage IFAD to deploy more staff and capital to promote South-South cooperation, and welcome participation in and support for South-South cooperation of other countries via various ways. The South-South and Triangular Cooperation that was established in IFAD in 2018 with USD 10 million grant from China has by now approved 15 projects. It is our hope that IFAD will continue to manage this fund professionally and efficiently to improve the overall agricultural development level of developing countries.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

During the past four decades of reform and opening-up, China, as the largest developing country in the world, has lifted over 750 million people out of poverty, made sure that the nearly 1.4 billion Chinese people can always put food on their tables, and will secure the triumph of poverty elimination by 2020. At present and for a certain period, China will continue to resolve unbalanced and insufficient development, achieve rural revitalization, and consolidate poverty elimination by

offering support for people who drop back to poverty and newly occurred poverty, so as to make new contributions to the UN 2030 SDGs. As a developing country, China stands ready continue strengthening the mutually beneficial cooperation with the IFAD!

Thank you!