

Statement by H.E. Dr. Suminto, Governor of IFAD for Indonesia at
the forty-three Session of the Governing Council in Rome, 11-12
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**Chairman of the Governing Council, President Gilbert Fussoun Hougbo,
Excellencies - Fellow Governors, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is a privilege for me to address this distinguished body and to express my appreciation to President of IFAD and his team for all the work they have done and for the excellent arrangement of this forty-three session of the Governing Council.

I am delighted to note an increasing role and more significant contribution that IFAD has made in Indonesia. This institution has demonstrated a good model of international collaboration through its integrated approach.

I commend IFAD's continuous support to Indonesia in pursuing the country's development agenda, particularly in the area of agriculture and fisheries that promote welfare advancement of the people and reduce inequalities.

In this regard, I have observed IFAD's approach to pursue investment in the rural sector as key to bridging rural-urban gaps. This IFAD's inclusive approach to the implementation of projects in Indonesia has contributed to improve the expectations of both the Government and the people in the country for a more promising outcome in the future

We share our view with the Governing Council in adopting this year theme of ***“Investing in sustainable food system to end hunger by 2030,”*** . We hope that through the spirit of achieving SDG's, development agenda in Indonesia and in other developing countries can be more effective in fostering highly productive and high-impact projects and programs throughout the country and across the globe.

To further excel in this ambitious goal, allow me to share my views on three important steps to take . *Firstly*, the inclusive investment for rural people should lead to a more sustainable development as this has to bring universal and inclusive benefits and support to the SDG's agenda. IFAD's role has been increasingly crucial in coping with the surge of global population and maintaining a stable agricultural production in the midst of global climate change.

Sustainable development is still facing major challenges in getting financial support, and therefore IFAD's support should promote the creation of sustainable business environment in the future. Critically important in this area, is to empower rural people

to pursue their economic initiatives alongside their natural resource conservation. This is to help people to utilize their resources economically while promoting the importance of the resource sustainability.

Secondly, IFAD needs to further strengthen its collaboration with other related financial institutions. Strengthening the capacity of smallholder farmers and small scale fishermens, to enable them to expand their production, access to agricultural extension, markets and financial services—is quite a tough mission. It requires IFAD financial assistance to have a highly strategic approach to programs and institutions, so that they are capable of empowering these particular segments of community.

The point here, is a need for more integrated and thematic development approaches, to enable member countries to develop more systematically and achieve much greater impacts in the future. Sectoral development concept has somehow missed some critical elements : filling the gaps between the need of the people and the capacity of implementing institutions, and between the ability to pursue more sophisticated technology and financial capacity of the Governments.

Accordingly, I believe that IFAD, MDBs and other development agencies and financial institutions can work together to create best practices, provide excellent facilities, and pursue better knowledge and expertise in agricultural and fisheries sectors. At the same time, they should also work together to leverage resources by serving as a catalyst in encouraging and mobilizing the participation of new potential donors, while enhancing the contribution of the existing ones.

Lastly , I strongly believe that the initiative as reflected in this year's theme of the Governing Council session will be able to create tangible and important deliverables to support the ongoing work in addressing the agricultural and fisheries challenges.

We need to work together and strengthen the capacity of our rural communities.

Hopefully through a more innovative and integrated approach pursued by IFAD in partnership with member countries, our goal to develop the capacity of the rural people, notably smallholder farmers will become a reality.

Concluding my remarks I would like to thank IFAD again for reaffirming our commitment to constantly strengthen co-operations to meet the expectations from all member countries in promoting and accelerating the development of our agriculture and fishing industries.

Thank you.