

The forty-third session of the IFAD Governing Council Meeting  
General Statement by IFAD's Governor of Japan

Mr. Chairman, Mr. President,  
Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. It is my honor to be present here today to participate in the forty-third session of the IFAD Governing Council. Japan recognizes that there are many important issues to discuss this year in terms of resource mobilization and governance such as the IFAD2.0 implementation (e.g. Scale up of Programme of Loans and Grants, Private Sector Window, Impact Fund for Food Security) as well as the twelfth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources.
2. There is only ten years left till the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals, Japan invites IFAD to actively discuss comprehensive actions to achieve SDGs in parallel with discussions about the replenishment scale and the IFAD business direction. IFAD can take advantage of its core mandate to help increase the income of small-scale farmers in rural areas, in order to support not only goal 2 (zero hunger) but also other linked goals such as goal 1 (no poverty), goal 5 (gender equality), goal 6 (access to water) and goal 13 (climate change).
3. In 2020, Japan will host a series of events such as : the Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics in July and August, the 4th Asia-Pacific Water Summit in October and the Tokyo Nutrition Summit 2020 in December. At the Water Summit, we expect to hear discussions on water issues in the Asia-Pacific region from various perspectives and contribute in seeking solutions. At the Nutrition Summit participants will discuss the challenges we are facing worldwide and key actions we should take. We will also encourage all the stakeholders, in particular, each of the countries to present their political and financial commitments. Japan will seize these opportunities to raise awareness of the international community and participate in the actions for the achievement of important global goals such as poverty eradication, food security, nutrition improvement, and sustainable water use.
4. Japan believes that the recently announced UN Food System Summit, scheduled in 2021, will be a good venue for the United Nations Rome-based agencies (RBA), to showcase their full role to the world. Japan urges IFAD to encourage a wider range of stakeholders, including member countries, to make effective and achievable commitments. Japan also looks forward to cooperate with IFAD to maximize the synergy between the Food System Summit and the Tokyo Nutrition Summit and advocating a stronger and more effective message to the world.
5. As part of international cooperation for better food security world-wide, Japan supports (1) the promotion of food value chain development in developing countries through measures such as provision of guidance on agricultural production techniques and improvement of agricultural business environment, (2) the promotion of sustainable agriculture and nutrition improvement mainly in African region by developing suitable cultivation methods for crops which meet market demands and by revitalizing family farming, and (3) the promotion of mitigation measures to address global issues such as climate change by the effective use of water resources in preparation for floods and droughts.
6. Finally, I would like to highlight our partnership with IFAD for promoting agricultural and rural development. Japan has launched three initiatives, "Coalition for African Rice Development (CARD)" and "Smallholder Horticulture Empowerment & Promotion (SHEP)" and the "Initiative for Food and Nutrition Security in Africa (IFNA)" in the past TICAD (the Tokyo International Conference for African Development). They are important initiatives for development of Africa in terms of ensuring food security, raising farmers' income and

production through food value chain development, and improving nutrition, and were further expanded at TICAD7. In addition, the Public-Private Business Dialogue between Japan and Africa was held in TICAD7, in which the private sector participated as a formal partner for the first time and actions were proposed for increasing income of small-scale African farmers through digitization of agriculture and introduction of advanced agricultural technologies.

7. We look forward to a fruitful discussion at the 43rd Governing Council for achieving Agenda 2030.

Thank you very much.

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