

REPUBLIC OF KENYA



**KENYA STATEMENT TO THE 43RD SESSION OF THE
IFAD GOVERNING COUNCIL**

**11TH - 12TH FEBRUARY 2020
ROME, ITALY**

DELIVERED BY DEPUTY MINISTER

Ms. ANN NYAGA

KENYA STATEMENT DURING IFAD GOVERNING COUNCIL, 11-12 FEBRUARY 2020

**Chairperson,
Governors,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen**

Thank you chairperson for giving me the floor. On behalf of my delegation, I bring you greetings from the people of Kenya. Indeed we thank you all for your condolences, messages of encouragement and comfort as we celebrate the life of our second President H.E. Daniel Toroitich Arap Moi who passed away on 4th February 2020 at the age of 96. Indeed, the late President played a pivotal role in shaping the development agenda of our country and will be greatly missed by the people of Kenya.

Chairperson

Kenya acknowledges with appreciation the IFAD mandate to support rural poor populations to improve food security and nutrition, raise their incomes and strengthen their resilience. Indeed the Kenya IFAD portfolio programmes and rural poor projects since 1979 have improved rural poor people's access to financial services, markets, technology, land and natural resources. We have seen the positive impact on rural poverty and food security in many parts of the country as a result of IFAD support.

The Kenya Government is committed to the cordial working relations and immense partnership with IFAD and has continued to increase her contributions to IFAD's resources across the replenishment periods. For some time, Kenya contributed **USD \$100,000** but scaled up during the 10th Replenishment / IFAD10 cycle (2016-2018), to **USD \$500,000** and further to **USD \$1,000,000** under the 11th Replenishment/IFAD11 (2019-2021). We believe that Kenya's contributions will continue to enhance joint activities that have transformed rural livelihoods in the country.

Chairperson

In the medium term plan, Kenya is focusing on the implementation of the Big Four Agenda involving priority areas namely 100% Food and Nutrition Security for all Kenyans, Universal Health, Affordable Housing and increasing Manufacturing. Three of these priority pillars highly depend on the performance of the Agriculture sector. It is in view of this, that the government recently launched the Agriculture Sector Transformation and Growth Strategy (ASTGS) 2019-2029 for immediate implementation to position the sector to deliver the desired goals. We call on the partners to join hands with Kenya Government to invest in the implementation of the strategy and the proposed interventions in order to revitalize, grow and develop the sector.

Chairperson,

The growth of the agriculture sector cannot be realized without the involvement of the youth who constitute a substantial proportion of population in the developing countries. It is in view of this that Kenya Government led by H.E. President Uhuru Kenyatta who is also the Global Champion for the youth Agenda is spearheading implementing several youth programs.

Indeed we are pleased to note that the recently approved IFAD Kenya Country Strategic Opportunities Programme (COSOP) 2020-2025 is aligned with the Government's Agricultural Sector Transformation and Growth Strategy and the Big Four Agenda. We also note the goal of the COSOP to strengthen selected value chains and ensure that rural poor people participate in and benefit from them, using climate-resilient, inclusive and pro-poor approaches will enhance Kenya's productive potential for future generations. In support of global youth program, we appreciate the convening of a working group of the youth council within the Rome Based agencies with support of the Government of the Netherlands. Kenya wishes to declare her interest in the inclusion of her youth in the Youth Council.

Kenya appreciate that the council will provide leadership, practical proposals, and policy directions to support countries in revamping youth programs. The youth have been provided many fora to air their concerns and propose what need to be addressed to enable them fully participate in the sector. The priority areas that come handy to support youth include access to technology and information, access to credit and capital resources, access to markets, and mechanised farming. We believe that IFAD can play a pivotal role in supporting these areas in order to provide the needed favourable environment for youth engagements in the agricultural sector.

Chairperson,

Climate change and erratic weather continue to pose the biggest challenge to agriculture across the world. For example Kenya has been experiencing heavy rains resulting in widespread flooding, and recently, a severe desert locusts' invasion affecting over 14 counties. This continues to erode the gains in realising food and nutrition security, and overall development of the agriculture sector. The management of the locust invasion has been challenging due to insecurity in some parts of the country and also in the region, over and above limited capacity in terms of trained personnel and necessary equipments.

Kenya welcomes partnership with different development partners and organizations in order to bring the locust invasion under urgent control. Furthermore, we call for concerted efforts from the Global community to mobilize resources and invest in agriculture towards attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG 2 on ending hunger.

In conclusion Chairperson,

The Kenya Government recognizes the crucial link between Women, Peace and Security and has endeavored to leverage gender perspective in seeking lasting solutions to peace and security contributing towards attainment of Sustainable Development Goals. We should all join hands to avoid threats to peace and security. It is with this in mind, **Chairperson** that the Kenya Government seeks your support as members of the United Nations in her candidature for the Non-Permanent seat of the UN Security Council 2021-2022, during the elections which are slated for June 2020.

Thank you Chairperson