

43rd Session IFAD Governing Council
Country Statement- Pakistan

**Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Pakistan is deeply appreciative of IFAD's role in global development discourse and working in demanding and challenging environments around the world.

As a founding member of IFAD, and as a significant contributor, Pakistan's association with IFAD has been extensive and productive over the years. We are appreciative of the numerous programs undertaken in Pakistan which have significantly contributed towards reduction of poverty in our rural areas.

The present COSOP (2016-2021) which focuses on social mobilization, poverty reduction and, promotion of value chain in agriculture and livestock and dealing with challenges of climate change is contributing positively towards improving conditions in Gilgit Baltistan, Balochistan, AJK and Punjab.

Excellencies,

Pakistan is deeply committed to achieving Sustainable Development goals by 2030. We are focusing on reduction of poverty and towards achieving zero hunger.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In Pakistan, Agriculture contributes approximately 18% to GDP and employs nearly 40% of the labor force. Nearly half of our population is associated with it for their livelihood. Our landholdings have been fragmenting over the past few generations and land ownership remains highly concentrated; with an estimated 2 % of households controlling 30 % of total cultivable land and the remaining 98 % with 70 % of the land. In addition, we have a significant number of landless farmers.

Need for rural innovation, developing entrepreneurial skills of marginalized and small farmers, enhancing agricultural productivity and social uplift of rural households are major challenges.

Pakistan is the 7th most vulnerable country to the effects of climate change. Our glaciers are melting faster, we have inclement weather, high temperatures, water stress and a prone to natural disasters.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The government is focused on overcoming the challenges of poverty, social uplift, youth empowerment, income disparity, stunting growth, household food security, better living conditions and eradicating malnutrition.

We want to achieve accelerated agricultural growth by transforming our rural economy into a modern one based on innovations and best practices.

We have undertaken social uplift programs like Ehsaas and Kamyab Jawan for investing in people, youth entrepreneurs with the aim to reduce social inequality and improve the living conditions of our masses.

We have taken a number of initiatives on Climate change including clean and green Pakistan programs, ecosystem restoration initiative, 10 billion tree Tsunami to deal with threats posed by climatic issues including natural disasters.

Distinguished Delegates,

Unfortunately, we all live in an imperfect world with conflicts, migration, poverty, water scarcity, food shortages and issues of climate change. These impact food security, health and the living conditions of the people. It is essential to tackle these issues for a better future.

Pakistan regards IFAD as a trusted and reliable partners. We will continue to support and work with IFAD in attaining its objectives and especially in providing an enabling environment for Rural transformation, Poverty reduction and stemming the harmful effects of climate change.

Excellencies,

The theme of this year “Investing in Sustainable Food Systems to end hunger by 2030” is the need of the hour. We all need to work hand in hand to meet the challenges which confront our planet today to make it a safer and a better place for our future generations.

Thank you.