

**43<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Governing Council, International Fund for Agricultural Development  
(IFAD)**

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**General Statement by Canada**

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**Submitted by: Christopher MacLennan, Associate Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs,  
and Governor of Canada to IFAD**

Mr. President, Mr. Chairman, Governors, and Distinguished Guests,

C'est un grand plaisir pour moi de présenter au nom du gouvernement du Canada cet énoncé général à l'occasion de cette quarante-troisième session du Conseil des gouverneurs du Fonds international de développement agricole qui a pour thème - Investir dans des systèmes alimentaires durables pour éliminer la faim à l'horizon de 2030.

Depuis ses débuts en 1977, le FIDA se consacre inlassablement à l'investissement dans les zones rurales et à l'exploitation du potentiel des petits agriculteurs pour contribuer au développement durable.

Le travail accompli et les résultats obtenus par le FIDA sont de plus en plus reconnus. D'aucuns s'entendent pour dire que son mandat clair est soutenu par un cadre stratégique bien articulé, aligné sur l'Agenda 2030.

A l'heure où le monde fait toujours face à une recrudescence de la faim due aux conflits et aux changements climatiques, le FIDA se doit de continuer d'innover alors que la demande et les attentes des pays en développement ne cessent de s'accroître à tous les niveaux.

As emphasized by President Houngbo and others, the status quo is not an option if IFAD hopes to increase its ambition and rise to the challenge of the 2030 Agenda. We fully subscribe to this view.

That is why Canada is supportive of the growing consensus that transformational measures are needed to ensure that the Fund is well positioned to deliver on its core mandate over the next ten years to help the poorest and most vulnerable, in particular rural women.

In 2019, IFAD and Member States demonstrated strong leadership by taking bold steps in this regard. Canada notes with particular satisfaction IFAD's progress in sharpening its business model through enhanced and expanded programming, supported by a new sustainable financial strategy.

The approval of a new private sector window and the proposed creation of a new grant-based funding mechanism are for Canada critical examples of these positive efforts. Moreover, we see the proposed new Debt Sustainability Framework as a crucial reform that will bring greater

certainty to the management of IFAD's funding as it seeks to double its programme of work in the coming years.

In 2020, we look forward to continued reforms that will help IFAD further demonstrate its comparative advantage of working in the remotest areas with the most vulnerable people who risk being left behind in the face of growing food insecurity.

We know that climate change is a collective problem that requires a collective solution. As a strong supporter of climate-smart agriculture, Canada is proud of its partnership with IFAD in helping address the growing impacts of climate change on agricultural development, in particular smallholder farmers.

As a result, we are particularly proud to have recently partnered with IFAD in support of climate-smart agriculture programming. Canada's loan of CDN\$150M will create opportunities for small-scale producers, particularly women, to strengthen their resilience to climate change and to adopt technologies and practices that will help mitigate the carbon footprint of agriculture.

As climate finance continues to be one of the few areas where Official Development Assistance is expected to grow worldwide in the coming years, we see IFAD as well placed for climate action to benefit the poorest and most vulnerable.

Like all of us, smallholders are facing the demands, risks and opportunities of a world that is rapidly changing.

Helping smallholders acquire the resources, skills and technology they need to improve productivity, connect to modern value chains, escape from subsistence agriculture and become commercially viable is essential if we hope to realize SDG 1.

Innovation will thus be key to finding the right solutions to greater productivity, improved nutrition, greater resilience, social empowerment and community development.

It will be key to gender transformative impacts - and indeed unlocking the potential of women and adolescent girls themselves as innovators will be essential.

And innovation will be key to engaging youth. Young people today are not looking to inherit the farming systems of their parents. Rather they are looking for a productive path out of poverty. With the right skills and access to resources, they can be pioneers in reforming and indeed modernising food systems and adapting to the global challenge of climate change.

IFAD must continue to reach the poorest communities across the range of developing countries, and have a sustainable impact by intensifying efforts vis-à-vis climate change, nutrition, gender and youth employment, by diversifying its financial base and the tools at its disposal, by sharing its lessons learned more widely, and by engaging constructively in UN reform efforts.

As Canada gets ready to take part in the First Consultation meeting of IFAD's Twelfth Replenishment process this week, we look forward to further strengthening our partnership with

IFAD and moving closer to our shared goal of eradicating poverty in a world where no one is left behind.

Thank you. Merci.