

Statement by the representative for Côte d'Ivoire

It is a great honour for me to address the forty-third session of the Governing Council of IFAD.

As the Minister of Agriculture of Côte d'Ivoire, this is the first time that I have taken part in the work of this important decision-making body of IFAD.

I would first like to convey the gratitude of His Excellency Alassane Ouattara, President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, to the President of IFAD for the Fund's ongoing support for the most vulnerable groups in the population in our country. When Côte d'Ivoire was going through difficult times, IFAD was one of the few institutions in the United Nations system that continued to provide support for people in distress. As the saying goes: A friend in need is a friend indeed. I can therefore assure you all that IFAD is one of Côte d'Ivoire's valued friends.

The theme of the forty-third session Investing in sustainable food systems to end hunger by 2030 is one of great importance at the current juncture and one that underscores how the work and experience of IFAD in supporting sustainable, inclusive, nutritional and effective food systems make it a pivotal actor in the drive to achieve the second Sustainable Development Goal (SDG 2).

IFAD is thus a key player in the drive to combat rural poverty.

I would not like to close my remarks without once again thanking IFAD for its development support, and I have the honour to tell you that Côte d'Ivoire is pleased to announce its contribution of US\$200 000 for the Twelfth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources.

Thank you.