

Statement by the representative of the Arab Republic of Egypt

I would like to thank the President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development for his kind invitation to the Arab Republic of Egypt to participate in the proceedings of the 43rd session of IFAD's Governing Council. The main theme of the session, "Investing in Sustainable Food Systems to End Hunger by 2030", is intended to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goal 2 to "end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture".

On behalf of the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt, I would also like to salute all the countries participating in this session and take this opportunity to commend the role played by IFAD in eradicating poverty in rural areas, supporting smallholders worldwide and providing a better life for rural families.

Agriculture is one of the main pillars of the Egyptian economy. My country's "Sustainable Agricultural Development Strategy towards 2030" promotes the agricultural sector and the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and recommendations of the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit concerning inclusive investment and ending poverty by 2030. This requires new investments in agriculture. These investments should target inclusive development efforts that reach poor and marginalized groups and should be used optimally to achieve sustainable development and maximum agricultural growth rates. We must also work to achieve self-sufficiency, increase agricultural exports, and improve the agricultural investment climate in Egypt.

Egypt's Agricultural Development Strategy towards 2030 is clearly in line with IFAD's strategy to support and strengthen rural agricultural development and related activities.

In conclusion, I would like to emphasize that the Arab Republic of Egypt will continue to contribute to the implementation of inclusive investment programmes in rural agricultural areas to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and will promote policies that provide for greater efforts to raise the standard of living of the population in these areas.