

Statement by the representative for the French Republic

This year will be marked by an important event for the Fund: the preparation of the Twelfth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources. These replenishments always provide an opportunity for an in-depth examination of the advances that have been made and an exploration of the broad directions in which the Fund will be working in the future.

IFAD is a partner of pivotal importance for France because the institution's multilateral framework and unique mandate enable it to be the first to reach countries that are in the greatest need. The more than 50 per cent increase in France's contributions between IFAD10 and IFAD11 and its provision of a EUR 50 million loan in 2019, in addition to its grant contribution, attest to our commitment to combating rural poverty and hunger.

IFAD has developed and implemented major reforms during this past year that are heightening the Fund's effectiveness and efficiency and making its financial architecture more robust thanks, in particular, to the provision of upstream financing for the replenishment cycles of the Debt Sustainability Framework. We hope to see this spirit of change endure while IFAD continues to focus on supporting rural people in the poorest and most fragile countries.

The credit rating process should also make it possible for IFAD to receive more sovereign loans and will be conducive to good financial practices.

IFAD must also show itself to be up to the task of meeting the challenges of sustainable development by promoting inclusive, sustainable rural development and agriculture by means of the dissemination, in particular, of agroecological practices. We also look forward to seeing cross-cutting issues such as climate-related action, gender equality and youth employment becoming more fully integrated into the work of IFAD.

In addition, the effort undertaken within IFAD to combat all forms of harassment and abuse of power is of the utmost importance in our eyes and should be maintained over the long term.

France applauds IFAD's engagement at the global level and its heightened cooperation with the other Rome-based United Nations agencies, which became even closer in 2019. The launch of the joint action plan for the Sahel and the prospect of the World Food Systems Summit that is to be held by the United Nations in 2021 should be taken as an opportunity to pursue these lines of work and further enhance the visibility of IFAD's efforts at the multilateral level.

I wish you all every success during this forty-third session of the Governing Council of IFAD, during which our deliberations must reaffirm, now more than ever, our determination to bring a just and effective multilateral effort to bear in putting an end to hunger in the world.