

## **Statement by the representative for the Republic of Guinea**

It is an honour and enormous pleasure for me to participate in this Governing Council as Representative of the Republic of Guinea.

On behalf of the Government of Guinea and myself, I would like to join the other delegations in wishing this session great success in its work and above all, a good and happy 2020 to all participants.

Let me take this opportunity to congratulate the Chairperson elected to lead this session, wishing him good luck and assurances of my delegation's full support.

I would like to congratulate the outgoing Chairperson, Ambassador Hans Hoogeveen of the Netherlands, for the excellent work during his term of office

Here, I would also like to express the Government of Guinea's thanks to IFAD for its incredible support for the rural sector in general and its implementation of the different programmes in my country. IFAD is one of Guinea's main socio-economic development partners in assistance to small-scale farms for the eradication of hunger and malnutrition and the promotion of sustainable agriculture.

This 43<sup>rd</sup> Session of the IFAD Governing Council held in Rome this year is a formal occasion to highlight the main achievements in the support that this institution provides to the developing countries. However, above all, it is an occasion to explore the outlook for mobilizing financial resources and increasing investment in our countries.

The theme of this session – Investing in sustainable food systems to end hunger by 2030 – is aimed at encouraging reflection among the Member States so that they can collectively tackle the challenge of Zero Hunger by 2030.

The Republic of Guinea has enormous agricultural, fishery, and forestry potential, but nonetheless, the country still wrestles with food insecurity, which affects some 17.5 per cent of the population.

To turn this situation around, the Government of Guinea has been working since 2010 to sustainably fight hunger and all forms of malnutrition, making it a national priority.

My country believes that promoting investment in food systems and fighting hunger and poverty are intimately linked. Guinea has therefore adopted a number of agricultural development policies and strategies that stress the promotion of public and private investment in food production and processing systems, tailoring it to national, regional and international development agendas, most particularly the 2030 Agenda.

Under the agricultural transformation dynamic, the strategic intervention model has been centred on the identification and creation of eight agricultural development hubs through development of the crop, livestock, and fisheries sectors and their value chains for better market access.

The Government has consequently allocated major financing to assist smallholders and mobilized public and private investment to support the rural sector, investing in climate-smart activities and emphasizing research, innovation, transportation, technology, and aid to rural populations in order to ensure sustainable natural resource management and ecosystem and environmental preservation.

In Guinea, current support to small family farms must be consolidated. It must better assist farmers by contributing to their production, constructing important value chains characterized by rapid and sustainable growth in agricultural and commercial areas. IFAD has accomplished this in Guinea through the production of potatoes, vegetables, and other crops.

With regard to policy engagement, the President of Guinea, Professor Alpha Condé, is working to meet the challenge of developing in situ processing of farm products while preserving their natural qualities. This is clearly illustrated by the creation of modern rice processing plants and fonio, cashew, and potato processing units. This processing will

guarantee a longer shelf life and reduce spoilage in products destined for the domestic and international market. The installation of cold-storage rooms for preserving farm products is part of the same sustainable agro-food processing policy.

IFAD's support through its multiple projects has resulted in significant progress in the development of structured agricultural value chains in our country. The quality of agricultural services has greatly improved.

The current projects connected with the National Programme to Support Agricultural Value Chain Actors (PNAFA), the Family Farming, Resilience and Markets Project in Upper and Middle Guinea (AgriFARM), the Agricultural Development Support Project for Guinea (PADAG), and earlier projects have had a positive impact on agricultural investment and helped to significantly boost national rural development capacity.

They are aimed at improving intervention strategies, taking into account agricultural risks, climate change and the many economic opportunities in the rural sector with the full buy-in of actors in the different value chains.

The close connection between agricultural production and trade in farm products and their industrial processing at the local level will create a sustainable economic fabric. The value chains that will be developed will help resolve the thorny issue of the employability of rural youth and women.

Today, our different types of agriculture are advancing more effectively and efficiently toward attainment of the SDGs through support to sustainable, inclusive, and efficient agricultural systems.

All of these efforts must take climate change into account to heighten the resilience of populations with respect to agricultural production. We must ensure the structural transformation of our agriculture, providing better processing infrastructure on a family or collective industrial scale, offering many useful quality services and the sustainability of agriculture in our countries. The investments we make must enable us to meet this objective.

Thus, efforts to mobilize government, partner and private-sector resources must be intensified to increase development financing. The private sector can and should be heavily involved in the financing of the agriculture sector.

In any event, rural agricultural industrialization makes it possible to sedentarize rural areas in terms of employment and the creation of value added and to foster emergence of the agro-food sector to meet the goal of Zero Hunger in 2030.

Thank you.