

## **United Kingdom Statement to IFAD Governing Council 2020**

Chair, Distinguished Governors, Mr. President, Colleagues,

The United Kingdom is proud of its record on international development; fighting global poverty and climate change. We are committed to contributing 0.7% of gross national income to official development assistance and achieving net zero carbon by 2050. We are committed to the UN and, while our support to the system remains steadfast, we are also committed to its improvement and the implementation of the UN Development System reform agreed by all Member States.

Conflict, climate change, and natural disasters have combined to generate unprecedented levels of need. SDG2 is off-track and the number of people going hungry today is continuing to rise. The world needs IFAD to step up and play a more proactive role in the international architecture for agriculture and food security. The world's poorest people in the most remote rural areas need IFAD to increase its impact and to work even better together with partners to deliver greater and better results for those most at risk of being left behind.

Following the United Kingdom's exit from the EU – but not from Europe, the UK will continue to be increasingly globally engaged. Looking outwards and caring for those in need are important values for the UK. The multilateral system is vital to the UK and global interests and we will continue to play our part. And because the UK is such a committed champion of the multilateral system, we will continue to seek better performance. The UK will encourage greater collaboration and coordination between our partners to deliver more impact for the people that we serve. Across all multilaterals, the UK will continue working in partnership with others for greater system-wide effectiveness in addressing the growing challenges faced by the world today.

IFAD's clear focus on results, gender equality and building resilience to climate change will be priorities for the UK in the forthcoming IFAD 12 replenishment consultations. We look forward to IFAD building on its Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme (ASAP) and setting ambitious targets for climate work. The world cannot wait. We are committed to working with all other members to strengthen IFAD's capacity to deliver better and more results to support rural people to overcome poverty, and access markets and job opportunities in the poorest countries. These are the people we serve.

I conclude this statement by assuring the Governing Council that the UK will continue to be one of IFAD's strongest reform supporters. We will use payment by results to provide further incentives to deliver. We will support President Hounbo to achieve the organisational excellence needed to deliver his ambitious vision to which we all aspire. With the decade of action ticking, there is urgency in this call for action. We have seen that business as usual is not enough. We look forward to working with all members towards a successful IFAD12 Replenishment and contributing to getting SDG2 back on track to meet our shared goal for 2030.

Thank-you very much