

**United States Statement to
IFAD's Forty-Third Session of the Governing Council**

Mr. President, Mr. Chairman, Governors, and Distinguished Guests –

As we begin the Consultation on the Twelfth Replenishment of the International Fund for Agricultural Development's (IFAD) Resources, the U.S. Government is confident that IFAD is well-placed to succeed in its mission of reducing poverty and food insecurity in rural areas through inclusive and sustainable rural transformation. We applaud President Hounbo for his leadership, and express our deep appreciation for the efforts of IFAD management and staff in carrying out the work of this institution. We also would like to recognize the contributions of the Independent Office of Evaluation, which continually strives to deliver high-value products and services to promote institutional learning and improved programming at IFAD.

Food security remains a development priority for the U.S. Government. While the Global Food Security Reauthorization Act of 2018 mainly focuses on bilateral development programs, it illustrates the U.S. Government's continued commitment to reducing hunger, malnutrition, and poverty around the world. The United States continues to value IFAD and its work, and recognizes that IFAD's performance in the area of rural poverty impact has been consistently strong. IFAD's work with smallholder farmers and marginalized and vulnerable rural populations such as women, youth, and indigenous helps combat global hunger, and its work with rural micro and small enterprises strengthens rural economies.

Over the last year, IFAD has made progress on its major reform agenda. IFAD has continued its efforts to decentralize, which should help to improve its coordination and policy engagement with governments, domestic civil society organizations and donors. IFAD has also made notable improvements to its Debt Sustainability Framework, which will help to strengthen its financial position into the future. The United States encourages IFAD to push through additional needed reforms, including allocating more core resources to low-income and lower-middle income countries, and developing an effective graduation policy that reflects countries' changing economic realities. IFAD should engage with its stakeholders often as it continues on its path to reform. In 2020, IFAD must strive to promote institutional accountability through high-quality reporting on results and development outcomes, gender and financial inclusion, opportunities for rural youth, and work in fragile states. We encourage IFAD to look closely at how to adapt its workforce to meet future demands, taking into account the budgetary and human resources implications, in a transparent and rigorous manner. We also encourage IFAD to continue to look for ways to coordinate and develop synergies, including with the other Rome-based food agencies and other international financial institutions, as a means of not only improving its efficiency, but as a vehicle for delivering high-quality developmental outcomes.

The United States looks forward to working with IFAD management and staff to continue strengthening the institution in the coming year so that it is prepared to take on the challenges ahead.