

Statement by the representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

I would like to both thank and congratulate the President and staff of IFAD for having organized this forty-third session of the Fund's Governing Council around the central theme of "Investing in sustainable food systems to end hunger by 2030".

Recalling that the agenda of the seventy-fourth session of the General Assembly of the United Nations highlighted the commencement of the High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development, we also look forward to the debate on this crucial issue during this session of the Governing Council.

As noted recently by our Minister for Foreign Affairs, in view of the economic and social challenges that are impacting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the mobilization of resources is of crucial importance in the drive to eradicate inequality, hunger and poverty in all their forms and dimensions.

Given this situation, the developed world must devote greater efforts to making the necessary changes in the global economic system and to providing financing for development in order to ensure that those changes will be fair and equitable. This is why it is so necessary to bring about change and to take genuine, concrete and determined steps to fulfil the commitments assumed under the Monterrey Consensus, the Doha Declaration, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development and SDG 17. In order to do so, the developed countries must fully honour their commitments relating to official development assistance, including the commitment made by numerous developed countries to provide official development assistance equivalent to 0.7 per cent of their gross national income to developing countries and to provide between 0.15 and 0.20 per cent of their gross national income in the form of official development assistance for the least developed countries.

Our country shares the belief that the provision of debt relief should not negatively affect the operation of social programmes designed to help our people move forward. This is a belief that should be embraced by the international community, and especially the developed countries, in order to assist countries which, as a result of various factors, such as falling international prices for their principal exports or contagion from financial crises, have accumulated huge debts that they are not in a position to pay; greater facilities are therefore warranted to enable them to meet those commitments.

We staunchly support South-South and Triangular Cooperation as a means of achieving a more harmonious and balanced form of development. PETROCARIBE is a clear example of how Venezuela has worked in solidarity and on a basis of complementarity with the peoples of the Caribbean to facilitate access to energy resources by means of a new favourable, equitable and just scheme of trade with the countries of the Caribbean.

In closing, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela wishes to underscore, once again, its determined and vehement rejection of the promulgation and implementation of unilateral coercive economic, financial and commercial measures that violate the peoples' right to self-determination and the sovereignty of the countries at which they are directed. These kinds of measures, such as those imposed on my country, are incompatible with the Charter of the United Nations, run counter to the rules of international law and thereby impede the full attainment of economic and social development, particularly in the case of the countries of the South.

Thank you.