

The forty-fourth session of the IFAD Governing Council Meeting General Statement by IFAD's Governor of Japan

Mr. Chairperson,
Mr. President,
Distinguished Delegates,

Today's Governing Council is important not only to take crucial decisions, such as the appointment of the next President and the approval of Report of the Consultation on the Twelfth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources (IFAD12), but also to create a momentum for the success of our work during this year. Yet, the Council also needs to discuss outstanding financial matters such as market borrowing and a graduation policy, based on IFAD's good credit rating, the best in the UN system. Japan is ready for such discussions and will support the leadership by the newly-elect President and IFAD management.

Over the past year, through the IFAD12 Consultations, the Council Members discussed priorities that IFAD should address, and Japan welcomes the ambitious targets that have been set. Japan looks forward to working with IFAD to create mechanisms for achieving the targets. In this regard, it was timely that Japan pledged US\$ 57.3 million last December to promote our partnership with IFAD despite its serious financial constraints due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mr. Chairperson,

The UN Food Systems Summit (FSS) to be held in September is a good opportunity for IFAD and other sister Rome-based Agencies to showcase their roles to the world. The food systems ought to be transformed to achieve the SDGs. Japan hopes that IFAD leverages its knowledge and experiences to facilitate discussions among a wider range of stakeholders, in particular, in finding solutions for realizing equitable livelihoods such as through women's and youth empowerment in rural and remote areas. In this view, Japan has already initiated the domestic dialogues with a coordinated Dialogue Convenor for making contributions to this FSS process.

In this relation, I would like to draw your attention to Japan's initiative to host the Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit 2021 (N4G) in December this year. In order to enhance global discussions about nutrition and to promote future efforts to solve nutrition challenge, the sequence from the FSS to N4G will have utmost importance. Japan looks forward to IFAD's further initiatives through these opportunities scheduled this year.

Mr. Chairperson,

Japan welcomes IFAD's decision to open IFAD Liaison Office under the strong initiative of the President. This new office is expected to promote engagement with IFAD's various stakeholders such as the government, the political members, the private sector, academia, civil society, to name a few, and it will make food security and nutrition agenda more visible in Japan. Hence, we look forward to further strengthening the partnership with IFAD not only in Rome but also in Japan.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

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