

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

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

As we conclude 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 prepared to deepen its impact and help countries address the significant food security impacts of the COVID-19 crisis. We applaud President Hounbou for his strong leadership, particularly in light of the impacts of the global pandemic and express our appreciation for the tireless efforts of IFAD management and staff in carrying out the work of this important institution. We would also like to recognize the valuable 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.

The U.S. Government remains committed to food security as a fundamental aspect of alleviating poverty and recognizes the devastating impact the global pandemic has had on food insecurity and poverty. As a founding member and leading historical contributor, the United States maintains a strong partnership with IFAD and recognizes that IFAD has a unique mandate in going the last mile to ensure that rural economies are inclusive, productive, resilient, and sustainable. The enactment of the Global Food Security Act of 2016 and the Global Food Security Reauthorization Act of 2018 further demonstrate the U.S. Government's continued commitment to addressing hunger, malnutrition, and poverty around the world.

Over the last year, IFAD has made progress on its reform agenda while navigating an ambitious path forward for IFAD-12 (2022-2024). IFAD has introduced a range of new policies to strengthen its commitment to building technical capacity and financial discipline. IFAD is also making targeted investments in its people, processes, and technology to ensure that it can continue to deliver high-quality development results and value for money through a decentralized structure. Additionally, over the last year, IFAD made noteworthy commitments as part of the replenishment negotiation process, including to allocate all of its core donor resources to low-income and lower-middle income countries and present a robust graduation policy for approval prior to the beginning of IFAD-12. These commitments demonstrate that IFAD prioritizes assistance for the poorest countries least able to self-finance. In 2021, IFAD must strive to consolidate recent financial reforms, enhance results management and reporting, and strengthen its private sector partnerships. We also encourage IFAD to continue to coordinate with other actors in the international food security financing architecture, including the other international financial institutions and the other Rome-based agencies, to demonstrate its comparative advantage and deepen its impact on the ground.

The United States looks forward to working with IFAD management, stakeholders, and other members to strengthen the institution over the coming year to ensure that it can continue to deliver on its core mission of reducing poverty and food insecurity through inclusive and sustainable rural transformation in the world's poorest countries.