

45th SESSION OF THE IFAD GOVERNING COUNCIL (STATEMENT OF ANGOLA)

The Government of Angola would like to congratulate the President and Vice-Presidents for their election, and wishes all the participants in this Governing Council session, together with the Management and staff of IFAD, a healthy and successful New Year.

Angola considers the theme chosen for this session, "**Leveraging innovation and finance for a climate-resilient and inclusive recovery**", relevant for all countries and particularly for developing countries, given the numerous constraints climate change generates and the importance of agreeing on the commitments taken since the Paris Agreement, the United Nations Food Systems Summit, the Sustainable Development Goals and 2030 Agenda, and the financial and technical resources to make the investments we need in order to minimize the impacts of climate change and build resilience.

Digitalization and new technologies, on the other hand, can help solve some of the issues we face in connection with agricultural production, food security and nutrition.

Greater collaboration and solidarity among countries will be crucial to facilitate access to such innovations and knowledge, along with inclusiveness, in order to transform agricultural systems and achieve the 2030 Agenda. We must work together to recover the economic ground lost to Covid-19 and ensure social stability, peace and equal opportunity while addressing climate and financial risks. All of these challenges transcend the borders of countries and continents.

In Angola we intend to **implement an integrated strategy for resilient food systems, increased productivity and social action**, through dialogue between institutions, enterprises and agricultural communities, and in particular family farms, which contribute most of the food supply to markets and create the most employment. We will prioritize young people and women, who account for most of the unemployed but also offer the greatest potential for growth and higher productivity.

The objective is to give farmers a greater understanding of the impact of climate change and the best ways to build resilience – by supplying improved local seed, promoting proper use of fertilizers and better managing water resources. Ministries; extension workers; research centres supporting the transformation of agroecology with innovation, science and technology; civil society and United

Nations entities are all involved in this endeavour, using farmer field schools for rural extension as a way to disseminate best practices in rural areas.

In fisheries, for greater sustainability, measures are being implemented to manage and restore marine resources and to promote aquaculture and artisanal fisheries in coastal areas. In addition, programmes have been undertaken to improve the livelihoods of vulnerable communities, targeting increased production, better nutrition and social protection.

Angola is facing a severe drought and plagues such as locusts, especially in the southern provinces, and the Government is taking steps to support the population with needed infrastructure and investments, as well as resettlement and emergency programmes. We are building small-scale retention dams and canals to better use and manage water, and drilling wells to exploit groundwater. The Project for the Rehabilitation of Angola's Hydro-meteorological Network is under way. We need investments, partnerships, and technical and financial resources.

Carbon emissions in Angola's rural areas are still not significant, but with local community education of farmers and families, especially through the farmer field schools and taking advantage of agroecology - which will transform waste management - we will be able to replicate several experiences, integrate them and, with social action and initiatives such as school meals, encourage local production and inclusiveness of local and decentralized programmes. We are confident that we will be able to mitigate adverse impact and improve the management and use of natural resources, as well as the livelihoods of rural communities, and reduce the effects of climate on biodiversity.

Regarding the production of healthy and safe food, several ministries are working together on legislation on standards and regulations for food conservation, distribution and quality control of both locally produced and imported food products, as well as improving the effectiveness of laboratories and strengthening inspection services.

We need technical capacity, exchange of experiences and collaboration, and improvements in the wholesale and retail distribution network, especially with regard to informal markets.

A number of measures are being undertaken: new markets compliant with sanitary standards, rural road repair to take agricultural products to markets, and warehouses for strategic food stocks to ensure a regular national supply of quality products to consumers and avoid price volatility. Training courses have also been held for quality inspectors, vendors have been made aware of quality requirements, and the informal economy is being restructured.

Regarding the **use of innovations and technologies to shape a truly digital world in agriculture**, we are still at the early stages, with the exception of some initiatives by agroindustry – but we are aware that improving information and communication technologies is essential for agricultural transformation and development.

The Government is open to bilateral collaboration and multilateral cooperation in this area.

We recognize the importance of ensuring the **application of social safety nets and leveraging partnerships with the private sector to maximize its impact**. As in other countries, our rural communities are the poorest and face the greatest difficulties. The Angolan Government has defined economic diversification as its main objective, in order to reduce the country's high dependence on the oil sector. To that end, agriculture and fisheries are considered priorities. A number of incentives have been identified, such as access to credit, lowering import tariffs on agricultural inputs and raising the minimum agricultural wage.

Growth in the production of cereals, pulses, fruit trees, cattle and poultry is a priority, as only 40 per cent of consumption needs are met by national production. A first manufacturing line of tractors, multicultivators and fertilizer mixers was installed recently under a private initiative. We consider mechanization to be one of the most important programmes for organizing cooperatives, increasing inclusiveness, promoting entrepreneurship, innovation and greater opportunities for the private sector, as the driver of economic development. In Angola, small, medium and large companies coexist in the countryside with family farming. They are expected to generate synergies to facilitate the transfer of knowledge and access to markets.

To strengthen the private sector, a Programme to Support Production, Export Diversification and Import Substitution (PRODESI) is now under way and has enabled the creation of new agricultural and agro-industrial companies, generated new jobs and contributed to food security.

There is also an Integrated Plan for the Acceleration of Family Farming and Fisheries, funded by the Government and the private sector, based on institutional capacity-building and technical assistance, for the promotion of agriculture, forestry and fisheries.

The Angolan Government is making every effort towards economic and financial stability and has introduced macroeconomic reforms aiming, among others, at monetary stability, adjustment of the exchange market and improvement of the

business environment, simultaneously encouraging the social integration of initiatives and goals to accelerate development. Climate-resilient food systems, market organization, facilitating growth drivers and social action prioritizing vulnerable groups: these are all ongoing commitments of the Angolan Government.

Although Covid-19 has had a serious impact on our plans and prospects, we continue to implement measures to manage the crisis such that recovery will soon be tangible and sustainable.

We would like to take the opportunity to congratulate IFAD for the efforts it has undertaken to attract resources from alternative sources to better assist the countries, and we welcome the allocation to Africa of 55 per cent of IFAD's programme of loans and grants.

We would like, finally, to highlight the positive results of IFAD's activity in Angola and express our interest in seeing the volume of assistance increased this year, particularly in the areas of resilience to climate change, the transformation of agrifood systems and social action, so that we can become healthier, more sustainable, more equitable and more competitive, through the national agenda we are pursuing.