

First of all, I would like to greet the President of IFAD, Mr. Hounbo, the various authorities of the institution, and the delegations present at the forty-fifth (45) session of the Governor's Council.

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, which is still in force, poses an unprecedented scenario of social vulnerability throughout the world. The latest global measurements indicate that the number of hungry people is on the rise.

We really need to work in a multilateral manner on an inclusive and sustainable recovery, which is also climate-resilient, to respond to the triple emergency we face, which is economic, social and environmental.

As many of you know, Argentina has a productive matrix turned to agro-food production, which makes it particularly vulnerable to climate change. In this regard, the innovative agricultural practices carried out by Argentine producers are remarkable, contributing to the sustainability of productive systems, to the development of regional economies and to the commitment to contribute to global food security.

In our country, about 77% of farming and livestock facilities are family-run agriculture, which is a sector particularly vulnerable to climate change. That is why it is so necessary to provide them with accessible financial support, with particular emphasis on rural women and young people, to reduce and mitigate environmental risks, achieve food security and improve the livelihoods of rural populations.

Given the objectives set, it is essential to have the support of development and multilateral cooperation agencies such as IFAD, in order to access the financing necessary for fair, inclusive, sovereign and aligned development of the SDG and the fight against climate change.

IFAD should continue to support Middle-Income and Upper Middle-Income Countries, which are also suffering from the scourge of food insecurity and which are at the same time key to the Fund's financial sustainability. In this regard, we consider it necessary to consolidate the BRAM, and avoid weighting standard variables such as credit rating and GDP per capita in the distribution of financing.

The view that middle-income countries make up a uniform set of nations has been outdated. Today, the majority of the world's poor live in middle-income countries, whose deep social inequalities must not be ignored when thinking about the structure of international development financing.

The Argentine Republic recognizes in IFAD a key partner for sustainable agricultural development and the eradication of rural poverty. Over the years, our country has demonstrated an enormous commitment to IFAD, participating in the various capitalizations and paying its contributions in due time, despite the many financial difficulties we have experienced as a country.

In conclusion, we hope that at this Governor's Council we can agree on the basic guidelines for strengthening IFAD's role as a catalyst for the economic development of the most vulnerable rural populations.

Thank you very much.