

**Ethiopian written statements to be delivered on IFAD's 45<sup>th</sup> Session**  
**Governing Council Meeting**  
**“Leveraging innovations and finance for climate-resilient and inclusive recovery”**  
**By: H.E Mr. Oumer Hussein Oba, Minister Ministry of Agriculture**

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- Your excellency, the chair person
- Excellencies
- Distinguished Guests
- All protocols observed
- Ladies and Gentlemen

Ethiopia is an agrarian country with about 85% of its population depending on rain-fed agriculture and pastoralism in one way or another for its livelihood. Likewise, the country's aspiration for the overall economic growth largely relies on the performance of the agricultural sector; for 33% of the GDP, 80% of employment, about 70% of the merchandise export earnings, 70% of inputs for agro-processing industries in the country are generated from agriculture.

Therefore, though we have been challenged by decades of weather variability and climate change, transformation of the agricultural sector in Ethiopia is a mandatory to ensure the overall economic growth and to achieve food and nutrition security for the growing national population. Accordingly, we, in collaboration with bilateral and multilateral organizations like IFAD, are consistently working towards fostering green and climate-resilient agricultural growth. In this regard, I wish to share some of the major initiatives and endeavors that we are making in Ethiopia.

The first one is the National Green Legacy initiated to support carbon emission by the current Prime Minister of Ethiopia for planting 20 Billion various species of trees within four years (2019-2022). Thus, up to now, we have managed to plant almost 80% of the targeted number of trees and confirmed that 96% of the planted trees are surviving. The other programs supporting the carbon emission commitment include CALM-Program (land administration and Natural Resource Management) that has been implemented in almost 50% of the country's rural area. Secondly, we have identified challenges of Ethiopian food system through an extensive research and systematic consultative national process. We have recognized that production and productivity are inhibited by limited access to appropriate inputs including fertilizers, seeds and other agricultural technologies. Prices of nutrient dense foods have increased significantly over time making nutrition dense and healthier diets unaffordable for the majority. Population growth and agricultural intensification has led to soil erosion, land degradation and deforestation. All these challenges must be addressed whilst curbing rapidly growing agricultural greenhouse gas emissions and building enhanced resilience to both ongoing climate change and extreme weather events.

Consequently, we have developed Ethiopian food systems transformation roadmap with a vision to enhance agricultural production and productivity to ensure food and nutrition security, healthy and equitable incomes and prosperity for all citizens. To achieve these objectives, 22 game changing solutions, categorized into six clusters, are identified. These clusters are 1) Ensure availability and accessibility of safe and nutrient dense foods; 2) Sustainable and equitable consumption of healthy, safe, nutrient dense and healthy diets throughout the life cycle; 3) Integrated policy and system to promote agricultural transformation; 4) Enhanced digital technologies and innovation throughout the food system; 5) Access to markets, market information, infrastructure and specialization, and 6) Managing and mainstreaming risk and protecting the poor.

Third, to create more inclusive value chains, we mainly focus on empowering the various section of the society, with particular emphasis on youth and women, to enable them to benefit from economic development through skills training and ensuring equitable participation in agri-business value chains.

Fourth, we recognize the roles of agricultural digitization in bringing to farmers new innovations that allows them to work with improved efficiency. Ethiopia has most recently adopted a digital strategy aims to leverage digitally enabled pathways for Inclusive National Prosperity. In Agriculture, along with what partners and we have been already implementing for supporting agri-extension advisory services such as tele-based short text and agro-digital data exchange platform with development agents and agricultural offices, we are embarked on preparing Digital Agricultural Extension Advisory System Strategic Road Map to which all our development partners are expected to contributed in infrastructure development, experience sharing and capacity building.

Fifth, the role of Ethiopian government in the rapid economic growth of the last fifteen-years was significant. However, weak implementation capacity manifested in institutional, structural, technology generation and adaptation, limited private sector engagement and disproportionate public and private investment challenged the sustainability of the achievements. As quality and sustainable economic growth can only be achieved through private sector participation, great hope is put up on the private sector, particularly domestic investors increased involvement in the wider spectrum of national economic activities. Thus, the government of Ethiopia commits itself to leveraging genuine partnership and cooperation between the public and private sectors with the objective of addressing challenges of the private sector in the process of their engagement in national development.

Sixth, currently the country developed The Ten-Year Development Plan of Ethiopia- the Pathway to Prosperity (2021- 2030) along with this plan we revised the Agriculture & Rural Development Policy of the country to address the critical bottlenecks of the sector.to realize the transformation of agriculture sector.

As a last point, I would like to underline the technical, financial and technological supports and contributions rendered to us by our development partners along all our endeavors. At this juncture, I would like to acknowledge and express my sincere gratitude to IFAD` for financing the Lowlands Livelihood Resilience Project that is meant to benefits about two point five (2.5) million of vulnerable Ethiopian pastoralist and agro-pastoralist population to increase their resilience to climate shocks. We also recognize the impact of Rural Financial Intermediation Project benefiting more than 10 million rural population in creating access to finance as the driver of poverty alleviation. The support of IFAD in promoting irrigation in the country has been going on in the country since 1985 benefiting hundreds of smallholder farmers.

I would like to thank IFAD for the new IFAD 12 allocation for the country. With the financial and technical support of IFAD, we are designing new project in participatory approach which is helping to understand the real need of our community. Of course, given the size of the country, population, and multifaceted challenges we are facing, IFAD12 allocation is a bit small and would like to request IFAD to support us in mobilizing more resources. We believe that the new IFAD Country Strategic Opportunities Programme (COSOP) will build on experiences and consider the new developments in the country to support government's effort in reducing rural poverty.

Having said these, I would like to mention that we are still facing multiple challenges such as the persistent drought; climate change effects that have resulted in increased heat, flood, crop diseases;

and COVID-19 pandemic; capacity limitation in technology adaptation and dissemination; limited access to agricultural inputs, rural financial services, and access to irrigation water; persistent outbreak of invasive crop pests and diseases, and weak output market linkages.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The Government of Ethiopia is calling upon all actors and partners to unite and form coalitions around these clusters of challenges to support our efforts to realize the Ethiopian Food System vision. These coalitions will facilitate policy and program coordination as well as mobilizing participation, expertise innovation, and resources.

Finally, we are fully committed to implementing the agenda 2030 vision to enhance agricultural production and productivity, ensure food security, health and equitable incomes and prosperity for all Ethiopians. We will require a call to action for all our development partners in general; Rome based UN agencies in particular, for close coordination and cooperation in resources mobilization and technical supports.

**Thank you very much !**