

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

Mr. Chairperson,  
Mr. President,  
Distinguished Delegates,

The last two years were particularly challenging due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which has caused a large-scale human security crisis. Japan commends IFAD's quick response to the crisis.

This year is the first year of the Twelfth Replenishment period and it is very important towards achieving the SDGs by 2030. Today's Governing Council will take crucial decisions, such as the consideration of IFAD's budget for 2022. Japan supports the allocation of core contribution having a focus on low income countries and lower-middle income countries.

Japan also welcomes the timely opening of an IFAD Liaison Office in Japan and reassures its commitment to strengthening cooperation with IFAD.

Mr. Chairperson,

Last year, the UN Food Systems Summit was held in September, and it was a good opportunity for IFAD and other sister Rome-based Agencies to showcase their roles to the world. Following that, in December, Japan hosted the Tokyo Nutrition for Growth Summit 2021 (N4G). We would like to express our sincere gratitude to President Mr. Hounbo for the excellent statement and the announcement of commitments. The summit also fostered an international momentum with a wide range of stakeholders. As a result, more than 390 commitments from 181 stakeholders were submitted, which demonstrates a high level of interest, willingness and desperate need for improving nutrition at a crucial time. Furthermore, more than US\$27 billion was pledged in total to address the global malnutrition and hunger crisis.

Those summits are just stepping stones to achieving the SDGs and we need to continue on our path to the Goals. Japan will continue to follow-up of those summits and encourages IFAD, Member States and relevant stakeholders to do the same.

At the COP26 last October/November the international community reaffirmed the urgency to tackle climate change. We are now aware that unless we take actions now, climate change will make huge impacts on agriculture and food security. We are also aware that agriculture will not only be impacted by climate change, but it can have effect on the course of the climate change since it can remove carbon through soil carbon sequestration and has a potential for greenhouse gas emission reductions. Therefore, with this aim, Japan last May, launched the "Measures for achievement of Decarbonization and Resilience with Innovation (MeaDRI)" strategy for a sustainable food system. This strategy aims at achieving zero CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from fossil fuel combustion in agriculture, forestry, and fisheries sectors among others, looking at 2050 in scope. Guided by this strategy, Japan will continue enhancing productivity potentials and ensuring sustainability in agriculture, forestry, fisheries and food sectors.

This coming April, Japan will host "The 4th Asia-Pacific Water Summit". Water and sanitation are indispensable for achieving the SDGs. We hope this summit will offer a valuable opportunity to accelerate the efforts to achieve the SDGs through sharing experiences and innovative practices with the Asia-Pacific region. We are looking forward to the participation of the President in the Summit, who is also the chair of UN-Water.

Mr. Chairperson

We look forward to a fruitful discussion at the 45th Governing Council for achieving the SDGs. Japan reaffirms its commitment to strengthening cooperation with IFAD, also through the IFAD Liaison Office in Japan.

(End)