

**Statement of the Syrian Arab Republic for  
The 45<sup>th</sup> session of the Governing Council of  
the International Fund for Agricultural Development  
(IFAD)**

**Mr. Gilbert F. Hounbo - President of the International Fund for  
Agricultural Development (IFAD)**

**Honorable Ministers, Governors of the Fund**

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

I am pleased and honored to represent the Syrian Arab Republic in the meetings of the Governing council of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) in the forty-fifth session. These meetings, which are an important platform that contribute to activating efforts and setting plans and priorities related to food and agriculture in light of urgent challenges, especially the Covid 19 epidemic and climate changes, and an opportunity for representatives of member states to discuss issues related to the development of the agricultural sector, foremost of which are the priorities of rural development in order to improve food security and provide food.

At the beginning allow me to express my sincere thanks to Mr. Gilbert F. Hounbo - President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) for his kind invitation to us to participate in these meetings. This indicates the confidence in the efforts made by the Syrian government and its constant endeavor with all its capabilities to follow up work in a way that contributes to the development of the agricultural sector and improving the livelihoods of rural families. These efforts integrate with the approach of the International Fund for Agricultural Development in its developmental path.

Thanks are extended to all the fund's employees for the great and sincere efforts they are making to advance the work of the fund and achieve its goals in achieving sustainable development.

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

Over the past three decades, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) has made great efforts to achieve development goals in the economic and social fields, and has worked hard with determination to prove the sincerity of the methodology it adopts and the effectiveness of its work to implement development programs dedicated to combating poverty and hunger.

The fruitful cooperation between the Syrian Arab Republic and IFAD extended for more than forty years, during which we achieved great successes by implementing many development projects, which are considered a role model. The last of which was the Integrated Livestock Development Project, during which many activities were implemented that were important in mitigating the suffering of poor rural families, improving their living level and help them settle in their villages.

Our environment is witnessing major climatic changes and a succession of drought seasons that have increased severity during the recent years and led to a shortage of water resources and a decline in grain yield. Finding solutions to these problems lies primarily in cooperation and coordination with the international organizations and working hard to make the most of the available resources in order to secure and provide our food security and work to address the impact of climate changes on the agricultural sector, both plant and animal.

In conclusion, we look forward to more constructive and fruitful cooperation with the IFAD Fund and to follow up the joint process of implementing new projects that contribute to improving the livelihoods of rural families returning to their villages, helping them to settle down and following up on the productive process.

We all hope that our work will be crowned with success and that it will have a great impact in mitigating the effects of crises on the peoples of the whole world.

**Assalam Alaikum Wa Rahmato Allah**