

Statement by the representative of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria

Mr President,
Distinguished Governors,
Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,
Dear colleagues,

I am delighted to be here today in this distinguished assembly, as we finally resume our in-presence meetings and rediscover the pleasures of seeing one another in person for direct, interactive and, I trust, fruitful dialogue.

Despite the positive note on which I began my brief statement, regrettably I must point out that for the third consecutive year we are witnessing the starkest food situations – caused, first of all, by the COVID-19 pandemic whose repercussions continue to be felt throughout the world, especially in rural areas among the most vulnerable, but also by the many conflicts and often human-induced natural hazards leading to climate change and the resulting natural catastrophes.

Yes, climate change is indeed threatening livelihoods the world over. The risks are particularly high in emerging countries, which have the fewest tools available to manage them. Women and families farming in rural areas are disproportionately affected.

In this less than optimistic picture there is however a ray of hope, thanks to the dedicated women and men who are giving their all to save our planet from sinking into despair.

We are fortunate, we Governors, permanent representatives and delegates, to find ourselves here in the eternal city – not only because of its beauty and the weight of its history, but also because it enables us to witness and participate in the efforts of the United Nations agencies based here, to try to change the lives of the most vulnerable.

Participating in these meetings is a way of doing our part to build a better future.

The International Fund for Agricultural Development, with its very specific and well targeted mission, has chosen yet another highly relevant theme for this session, which I would describe as a session of reunion and, I trust, one of action.

Indeed, it is imperative that we accelerate our action for food security. We must deploy extraordinary efforts in this regard: food security, on both a global and national scale, means the security of each and every one of us.

For my own country, which by the way is a founding member of and donor to IFAD, agriculture has been intrinsically linked to its history for thousands of years. Agriculture is anchored in the shared collective of our society. Given the bond between the land and Algerian society, we find ourselves – in the same way as the rest of the world – affected by international turbulence.

Combating poverty – which undeniably entails combating malnutrition and hunger to ensure national food security – is among the standards guiding Algeria through the many programmes now addressing the problems of rural farming areas. These include risks such as fire, declining rainfall and local climate migration, to name a few. These programmes represent an unequivocal commitment by the Algerian Government under the leadership of Abdelmadjid Tebboune, President of the Republic, who has taken note of all of these problems affecting, directly or indirectly, agricultural systems, rural people and therefore the food and water security of our country.

In this context, and on behalf of Algeria, I would like to convey to you, Mr President, my best wishes for the success of this session, and to reiterate my country's resolve to continue to contribute to our shared objective of achieving food security everywhere in the world.