

Statement by the representative of the Republic of Angola

Mr Chairperson of the Governing Council,
Distinguished Governors,
Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen

Allow me, on behalf of my Government, to congratulate IFAD's Management for having organized this in-presence meeting of great importance to our countries and regions. We would like also to congratulate the President of IFAD for his continued openness to dialogue and for his admirable efforts in resource mobilization to expand the portfolio of projects financed and supported by the organization, at a time when we are all recovering from the COVID crisis and attempting to strengthen our economies and our capacity to implement successful programmes.

Angola, with a new programme prepared by the recently elected Government and approved two weeks ago by the National Assembly, continues to adopt development policies to uphold the vital role of macroeconomic stability. This programme strengthens institutions by making them more effective and transparent, underpins structural transformation and leverages the potential offered by the primary and secondary sectors along value chains.

This extensive integrated programme, decentralized to municipalities under the Integrated Plan for Intervention in Municipalities (PIIM), together with the Programme to Support Production, Export Diversification and Import Substitution (PRODESI) in rural areas and involving all the actors, proposes to ensure continued development of the production sector. The programme is meant to bring about economic diversification by increasing investment and designing instruments to promote economic growth and transformation so that they become increasingly coherent with food and nutritional security.

I must express my thanks for the support provided by IFAD as a partner for small-scale farmers and fishers. The Republic of Angola and I have a positive impression of the leadership of His Excellency Alvaro Lario, President of IFAD, and of IFAD's Management, including the regional Division Director, as well as the new representatives and programme director. We hope to be able to create mechanisms and dynamics to maintain the sustainability of the projects in our pipeline and improve coordination with national programmes.

The Government of the Republic of Angola, under the direction of His Excellency João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço, remains determined to reform the State to better adapt to new challenges, diversify the economy, promote and strengthen non-petroleum exports and territorial governance, substitute imports, combat extreme hunger and poverty, create inclusive employment, especially for young people, and ensure food and nutritional security.

Angola accords attention and priority to family farming and rural areas through specific programmes in support of family farmers and small-scale producers.

Under the National Plan for Grain Production (Planagrao), Angola continues to give priority to the production of grains. In 2022, maize production exceeded expectations by 16 per cent. However, we continue to import wheat, rice and soy in volumes exceeding domestic production, running a deficit of 80 per cent.

We continue to pursue a policy of encouraging production by lowering the interest rate, which is still at 7 per cent, and with maturities of 15 years, including a five-year grace period.

We also have a livestock production plan, Planapecuaria, covering the period to 2027 for meat production, that will enable us to increase livestock production by 10 to 15 per cent. In addition, we are encouraging small-scale investment with tax and customs

incentives to stimulate production.

With respect to farming families, the Government is promoting production by providing infrastructure through public investment programmes.

Women and young people are present in this branch of activity and represent a majority in agroindustry as a whole.

The Government of Angola does not overlook the importance of developing crop and livestock farming and large-scale fisheries. Accordingly, it continues to direct financial and human resources towards these sectors, seeking out favourable financing options from international partners, financial institutions, and domestic and foreign investors.

Mr Chairperson,

Angolan projects funded by IFAD have had an impact on the lives of thousands of our people, providing them with innovation, diversification, capacity-building and economic and social relief.

Close collaboration and monitoring by IFAD and FAO are key factors in the success of our projects.

Coordination by regional offices and decentralization make a significant contribution to improving the effectiveness and scope of projects.

Angola commends the opening of a local IFAD country office in Luanda, pending ratification of the agreement. We are convinced that this new phase will bring greater responsiveness, a better knowledge of specific needs and better coordination with the sectors of national interest.

Decentralization, capacity-building, infrastructure financing and prioritizing Africa based on its potential will undeniably consolidate the vision whereby, thanks to higher productivity and increased industrialization, we will be in a position to support the African agenda and programmes, integration and increased agricultural productivity, development and engagement in working towards the Sustainable Development Goals, reducing dependence and improving the indicators of development as a whole.

Thank you Mr Chairperson.