

## **Statement by the representative of Burkina Faso**

Mr President,  
Distinguished Governors,  
Delegates and guests,

Burkina Faso would like to thank the President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development for the invitation to participate in this forty-sixth session of the Governing Council.

My country would also like to take this opportunity to convey warmest congratulations to the President of IFAD for his leadership and for the many initiatives being carried out every day to help eradicate poverty and hunger in the rural areas of developing countries. The Government and people of Burkina Faso express their gratitude to IFAD for its continuing technical and financial support in implementing policies to empower actors in the rural world.

Burkina Faso is an agropastoral Sahelian country vulnerable to the effects of climate change. It has a population of 20,505,155, most of whom live in rural areas. Young people under 15 and under 35 years of age, respectively, account for 45.3 per cent and 77.9 per cent of the population.

In recent years the country has faced a number of sociopolitical, security, humanitarian and health challenges that have hampered its economic recovery and are exacerbating food and nutritional problems, especially in rural areas. These crises have led to a massive population displacement, resulting in more than one million internally displaced persons registered in the course of November 2022.

Mr President,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

The overarching theme of this forty-sixth session of the Governing Council is "Accelerating action for food security". This theme is fully aligned with our current priorities and the way forward selected by Burkina Faso to address our food security challenges – food availability, access, use and stability – within a context of insecurity and sociopolitical and humanitarian crises.

To guarantee and achieve food and nutritional security in Burkina Faso, our strategy is to increase, secure and diversify the incomes of rural people, particularly women and young people, to improve living conditions for the population.

To this end, we have designed and implemented several projects and programmes for agricultural development with IFAD support, four of which are currently under way, for a total value of US\$205.2 million, or about CFAF 124.95 billion. There is one project in the process of closing and another in the pipeline: the Project to Build Smallholder Resilience, valued at US\$196.9 million or about CFAF 119.9 billion.

Mr President,  
Distinguished Governors,

These projects and programmes under implementation are making a major contribution to achieving the strategic objectives of the Action Plan for Stabilization and Development (PA-SD) and our national policies and strategies on food and nutritional security, namely the second National Development Plan (PND 2021-2025), the Rural Development Strategy (SDR 2016-2025) and the National Strategic Plan for Agrosilvopastoral Investment (PNIASP) 2021-2025.

To consolidate and scale up the gains of these projects, we would like to see the country allocation under the Thirteenth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources be used to finance initiatives to build resilience among rural people who are vulnerable to food and nutritional insecurity and to provide decent employment along agricultural value chains.

The major challenge in the rural sector for the coming years will be to guarantee food and nutritional security for an increasingly youthful population in a context of sustainable development, in particular by bringing young people and women into the farming modernization process.

Mr President,

This forty-sixth session of the Governing Council offers not only an opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to eliminate hunger and poverty by 2030 but also, and above all, to share the most successful strategies and reflect on the way in which IFAD can play a decisive and effective role in agriculture – by pursuing an inclusive approach towards transformation of the agricultural and rural sector through the reduction of poverty, hunger and malnutrition.

For Burkina Faso, the priority will be on strengthening the resilience of rural areas suffering the effects of climate change, COVID-19 and conflict. The aim is to create decent employment for rural youth and women around agricultural value chains, to strengthen food and nutritional security with food aid to internally displaced persons, and to strengthen livelihoods and build resilience.

In conclusion, Mr President, I invite IFAD to continue to provide leadership in mobilizing and coordinating resources to build resilience among rural people in the world, in particular in the Sahelian countries of Africa.

Let me reiterate the gratitude of the people of Burkina Faso for the many friends and partners who stand alongside our country in this context of extreme fragility, accompanying us along the path to development.

Thank you.