

Statement by the representative of Canada

I am delighted to address you on behalf of Canada on the occasion of the forty-sixth session of the Governing Council.

This year, the overarching theme of the session underscores the urgency of our collective efforts to promote food security and reduce poverty. We find ourselves in a changing global landscape scarred by growing climate and economic shocks, COVID-19 and intensifying conflicts, including the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

An unprecedented global food crisis risks becoming even more serious this year, taking us further from reaching the objective of zero hunger by 2030. The hard-won progress made over the past decade is in the process of vanishing before our eyes.

Canada recognizes the urgency of supporting a sustainable transformation of food systems and inclusive development, focusing predominantly on the poorest and most vulnerable. We allocated close to US\$650 million for food and nutritional humanitarian aid in 2022, in addition to US\$600 million for agricultural development during the fiscal year 2021-2022.

We also recognize that IFAD plays a key role in these efforts through its remarkable scope. That is why Canada has increased its contribution to the Twelfth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources (IFAD12) by 50 per cent and granted US\$340 million in supplementary loans in the form of climate finance.

During the past year, IFAD has kept rural resilience at the forefront of its activities, including by launching the Crisis Response Initiative. IFAD's mandate is more relevant than ever before, to support national responses with local accountability within a context of multiple challenges and budget constraints.

As we continue stepping up our efforts to achieve food security, I' would like to highlight four of IFAD's core areas of strength helping to drive increased investments and ambition on the ground:

First, we must look for ways to increase sustainable food production, while also contributing to climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts. IFAD has a strong track record on environment and climate action, particularly when it comes to smallholder adaptation. This makes the Fund a partner of choice.

Second, women make essential contributions to food systems yet are disproportionately impacted by poverty, inequality and shocks. IFAD's focus on gender-transformative approaches is key to supporting women's empowerment and addressing structural barriers, such as discriminatory norms, unequal workloads and access to productive resources.

Third, we must nurture strategic partnerships, including with multilateral development banks, Rome-based agencies and the private sector, to ensure effective collaboration and leverage resources for more impact. As an assembler of finance, IFAD has mobilized significant cofinancing to deliver more in lockstep with others. We would like to see this work continue.

Fourth, IFAD's engagement at country level with governments and other stakeholders is key to building support for public investments in the agriculture sector, accompanied by sound policies. We view IFAD's decentralization process as an opportunity to support governments, facilitate strategic dialogue and strengthen capacity.

Looking ahead to IFAD13, we will need to build on IFAD's strong work programme and contemplate how the Fund can most effectively deploy its resources to make the greatest impact.

We have no doubt that IFAD will rise to the challenge, and Canada is pleased to be a steadfast supporter of the Fund.

Thank you. Merci.