

## **Statement by the representative of the Republic of Cuba**

Mr President,  
Distinguished Governors,  
Esteemed delegates,

Allow me to convey warmest greetings on behalf of the Government and people of Cuba.

According to the United Nations, humanity is in the throes of a global food crisis without precedent. More than one in every 10 people are severely food insecure and more than three billion people cannot afford a healthy diet. This is 10 times the number five years ago.

The situation would be very different if the US\$2,113 billion earmarked for military spending in 2022 had been invested in programmes to eliminate hunger and food insecurity in the world.

In this context, IFAD's work is vital if we are to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 2: to end hunger and malnutrition. Your cooperation programmes and projects must be underpinned by all three dimensions of sustainable development: social, environmental and economic. In addition, they must provide universal assistance to address the needs of all developing countries, including upper-middle-income-countries and small island developing states.

Your contribution is crucial, both to redouble international cooperation efforts and to mobilize new resources for emergency assistance to the 349 million people now facing acute food insecurity in 79 countries, mainly developing countries.

The persistence of an unjust international order, decades of brutal neoliberalism, protectionism and economic dependency based on centuries of colonialism and neocolonialism are the root causes of the underdevelopment, extreme poverty, hunger and exclusion suffered by the majority of the world's people.

The scenario is complicated further for those countries suffering the application of unilateral coercive measures, in violation of international law, which stand in the way of their legitimate right to development.

Between August 2021 and February 2022 alone, the intensification of the economic, financial and trade embargo by the United States against Cuba had an impact on our agriculture of over US\$270 million.

In terms of food production, the lack of fuel caused by the siege imposed by the Government of the United States had an adverse impact on irrigation, land preparation, plant protection and transportation.

Mr President,

Despite the embargo, Cuba perseveres in its efforts to guarantee food security for its people. To this end, we continue to refine food production, processing, commercialization and consumption using endogenous local capacities. In doing so, we give priority to science, technology and innovation as the engines of sustainable development.

The Cuban Parliament passed Law 148/2022 on Food Sovereignty and Food and Nutritional Security to protect the right of all people to a healthy and adequate diet. In this endeavour, we rely on support from the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes based in Cuba.

We are grateful to IFAD for your cooperation in support of rural development and agricultural cooperation in our country, through the implementation of three priority sector programmes for agricultural development. In addition, we reiterate the political will to honour the debts incurred with the organization despite the severe financial, economic and trade restrictions faced by our country.

Allow me to conclude, Mr President, with assurances that in order to accelerate actions for food security Cuba will continue to press for solidarity, cooperation and strengthened multilateralism.

Thank you.