

## **Statement by the representative of the Arab Republic of Egypt**

Mr President,  
Mr Chairperson,  
Representatives of Member States,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

At the outset I should like to thank the President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) for his kind invitation to the Arab Republic of Egypt to participate in IFAD's forty-sixth session of the Governing Council, the main theme of which is "Accelerating Action to Achieve Food Security" to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goal 2: "End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition".

I am also pleased on behalf of the Egyptian Government to convey the greetings of the Egyptian State leadership, Government and people to all countries participating in this session and take this opportunity to commend the role played by the Fund in eradicating poverty and combating hunger in rural areas and its consistent and sustained support for agricultural and rural development programmes and initiatives, climate change and water issues, among others, in addition to supporting smallholders in our various countries and providing a better life for rural families.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The agricultural sector is undoubtedly one of the main pillars of the economy of countries, including Egypt. In this context, Egypt has announced its Agricultural Development Strategy 2030, which is concerned with developing the agricultural sector and implementing the Sustainable Development Goals. This has recently been made evident in the launch by Egypt of the national platform for the Nexus for Water, Food and Energy (NWFE) programme, in cooperation with international development partners including IFAD. The NWFE programme includes a number of projects in the areas of water, food and energy; letters of intent pertaining to these projects were signed with development partners on the sidelines of the United Nations Conference of the Parties on climate, COP27, held in Sharm el-Sheikh last November.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Developing countries and emerging economies cannot build sustainable agricultural and food systems. The implementation of these programmes requires innovative, affordable catalytic funding programmes, in line with the IFAD strategy, that support and promote rural development and contribute to the achievement of economic and social advancement based on agricultural investments. There is a need to enable youth and women to work in agriculture and to find ways and means of facilitating the attainment of this goal. There is a need to leverage the outcomes of the national document of the United Nations Food Systems Summit to prioritize solutions to increase small-scale farmers' resilience, including: value-added and agricultural manufacturing projects; the provision of catalytic funding to small-scale farmers, in particular for projects for women and youth; and promotion of the use of climate-smart technology in the old lands in order to maximize agricultural productivity and improve the sustainable use of natural resources, especially water, all of which need to be expanded in the period ahead.

The world is witnessing various crises, starting with the spread of the novel coronavirus and then the Russian-Ukrainian conflict, in addition to climate change, that have led to disruptions in supply chains; the impact on global trade and the rise in the costs of food products has affected rich countries in general and developing countries in particular. You may share our view that there is a need to provide all means of support, particularly to the

most affected countries, to help them confront these problems and achieve food security for their peoples.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The United Arab Republic of Egypt has taken a number of proactive steps to confront these challenges, including vertical expansion, by producing highly productive drought- and salinity-resistant plant varieties for strategic crops, and horizontal expansion, through the reclamation of new land, in addition to introducing financing initiatives and encouraging long-term agricultural activities without interest, particularly projects to modernize field irrigation, livestock production, etc. In addition, it has expanded the mechanization of agricultural services and built silos to increase storage capacity for strategic crops, particularly wheat and maize.

Ladies and gentlemen,

In this context I would like to point to the importance of the outcomes of the COP27 Climate Conference at which, for the first time in the history of the conference, it was agreed to cover and place on the agenda the losses and damage resulting from climate change and an unprecedented decision was adopted establishing a "loss and damage fund" to address climate challenges, particularly in developing countries, where damage compensation funding will differ in its coverage of costs that they cannot avoid or adapt to.

We hope that through joint hard work and the support of the International Fund we will find a mechanism to ensure that this decision is sustained and the financial support necessary to finance the Damages Fund in order to support the affected countries is provided.

In conclusion, I should like to emphasize that the Arab Republic of Egypt will continue its efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and drive policies to do more to raise the living standards of the rural Egyptian population and strengthen cooperation with Member States and IFAD Management to achieve food security for our peoples.

May the peace and blessings of God be upon you.