

The forty-sixth session of the IFAD Governing Council Meeting General Statement by IFAD's Governor of Japan

Mr. Chairperson,
Mr. President,
Distinguished Delegates,

Last year, 2022 was another globally chaotic year due to the global food crisis caused by Russia's invasion on Ukraine, in addition to the still ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Under such a global situation, IFAD's steady project implementation has contributed greatly to maintaining global food security.

With social and economic insecurity predicted to continue, further expanding the impact of increasing incomes of small farmers in poor rural areas, which is IFAD's core mandate, is crucial to achieving the 2030 Agenda, with its deadline drawing near.

Mr. Chairperson,

Against this backdrop, Japan hosted the TICAD 8 in Tunisia last August. Japan announced a \$300 million co-financing with the African Development Bank and the development of 200,000 human resources in the agricultural sector. In addition, taking the opportunity of the G7 Presidency this year, Japan will work to realize a resilient food security that focuses on each "human" with the aim of enabling access to affordable and sufficient food for all people, in cooperation with the international community including IFAD.

At this session of the Governing Council, Ukraine has newly applied for non-original membership, and Japan welcomes the new member. Japan will continue to cooperate in the reconstruction of Ukraine, whose agricultural production was affected by Russia's invasion, and in ensuring food security in the world.

This year, IFAD is scheduled to hold the Consultation on the 13th Replenishment of IFAD's Resources. While we understand that the issues which IFAD focuses on, such as climate change, food system resilience, gender equality, youth support, and indigenous peoples support, are all important, we would like to contribute to the discussion regarding to which activities IFAD should attach more importance in the future to have a greater impact on the field.

Mr. Chairperson

We look forward to a fruitful discussion at the 46th Governing Council aiming at achieving SDGs. For achieving SDGs such as goal 1 (no poverty), goal 2(zero hunger), goal 5 (gender equality), goal 6(access to water) and goal 13 (climate change), Japan intends to continuously cooperate with IFAD and IFAD Liaison Office in Japan.

(End)