

Statement by the representative of the Republic of Peru

Thank you, Mr President,

Permit me to welcome the delegates to the forty-sixth session of the Governing Council, gathered here to discuss the theme "Accelerating Action for Food Security" under global circumstances that oblige us today to focus our attention on rural development to efficiently and effectively tackle poverty and food insecurity.

Last week, FAO, WFP, WTO, the IMF and the World Bank issued a joint statement calling for urgent action to combat the global food and nutrition security crisis, noting that despite development gains, poverty and food insecurity are still on the rise, exacerbated by climate change, the COVID-19 pandemic, conflicts and the economic recession. According to WFP, 349 million people in 79 countries are grappling with food insecurity and malnutrition.

We must bear in mind that 80 per cent of the world's poor live in rural areas, coping with deficiencies in governance, informal employment, underdeveloped production systems, limited access to public services and inadequate social protection coverage. Furthermore, one fifth of the world's rural population lives in extreme poverty – a rate four times higher than that of the urban population.

We must not forget that the vast majority of people living in rural areas depends on agriculture for subsistence and that small-scale production provides 70 per cent of the food.

We therefore need to promote a new model of rural development that involves greater investment in sustainable agriculture and infrastructure to take tap into the potential of the rural population and rural resources. This will require a multidimensional approach that includes higher agricultural productivity, economic diversification, social protection and job creation.

It is essential that, through the resources contributed to IFAD, we invest in millions of people in rural areas, prioritizing the poorest at greater risk. IFAD interventions target small-scale producers, women, youth, Indigenous Peoples and other extremely poor vulnerable groups suffering from food insecurity.

It is therefore important to capitalize the Fund with a greater contribution to its resources in its next replenishment to promote programmes to improve living conditions and livelihoods, boosting the productive capacity of the rural population and achieving its effective participation in the markets, while heightening the sustainability and resilience of its activities.

Rural development is essential for eradicating hunger and poverty and critical for achieving the SDGs. The projects supported by IFAD have the capacity to transform rural communities both economically and socially, while promoting gender equality and inclusion.

Agriculture receives very limited financing, and small-scale agriculture, in particular, has insufficient access to the financing it needs. It is urgent not only to increase investment in sustainable small-scale agriculture but to develop new forms of investment with shared risks and benefits for investors and small-scale farmers.

We need to connect small-scale producers with food sector value chains in the local, national, regional and global markets; create the conditions for public-private partnerships, partnerships between producers' organizations and the private sector, and partnerships between private enterprises.

Small-scale agriculture is practiced by the majority of the world's farm families and makes an enormous contribution to global food security. This is the time to invest to achieve sustainable rural livelihoods through practices that respect the environment and enhance the potential of men and women while equitably addressing their the needs.

Thank you, Mr President.