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Forty- Sixth Session of the Governing Council of the International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD)
Date: 14th to 15th February 2023.
Venue: FAO, Headquarters, Rome- Italy.

Theme: ‘Accelerating action for food security.’

Statement by the Governor, Hon. Josephine Lagu Yanga,
Minister of Agriculture and Food Security- Republic of South Sudan.

First and foremost on behalf of the President of the Republic of South Sudan H.E Salva Kiir Mayardit and on my own behalf may I explore this opportunity to extend my sincere compliments and gratitude to the world leaders and scientists who have travelled along way upto here to attend this very important function of the Forty- Sixth Session of the Governing Council of the International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD) today here at the FAO Headquarters in Rome –Italy.

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, I felt honored and privileged to attain to an invitation from the President of the International Fund for Agriculture Development [IFAD} to attend the **Forty- Sixth Session of its Governing Council** which is a historic milestone lifeline event for International Fund for Agriculture Development [IFAD] Governing Council. Therefore looking into the significance of this event I brought together with me a senior delegation comprising of professional experts and technicians from the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security - Republic South Sudan, to participate in this very important meeting of the Forty-Sixth Session of the Governing Council of the International Fund for Agriculture Development [IFAD]

Nevertheless, Special thanks goes to the International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD) for its commendable efforts in organizing such a strategic unprecedented International Agricultural Development Fund Meeting of the Governing Council aiming at accelerating action for food security. Again many thanks and appreciations are also extended to the organizing body of this great colorful event for their different active roles on making this event a success.

Honorable Distinguished Guests, I would like to reflect on today’s Forty-Sixth Session of the Governing Council of the International Fund for Agriculture Development Fund (IFAD)’s Theme Topics as they may relate to the contemporary global food security situation.

i. Accelerate Investment in transforming food systems:

Definition of food system: It is a complex web of activities including the production, processing, transport and consumption of food.

Accelerate investment in transforming food system can be achieved through the following:

- a .Improved farmer’s access roads/ Feeder roads .By:**
- 1. labour Intensive Public works or Mechanization.**
 - 2. Engagement of the local beneficiaries.**
 - 3. Setting up a standard rate for construction.**

b. Market infrastructure development and Procurement. By :

1. Engagement or establishment of linkages with the concerned Ministries i.e. Ministry of Trade and Commerce to set up guidelines, specifications rules and laws that can curb down actions of Fraud and counterfeit which are being practiced during marketing processes.
2. Built-up a strong private sector capable of driving the rural economy into more vibrant economy which may in turn act as an engine of growth and prosperity for the rural population
3. Engagement of home grown school feeding programs and pro- small holder farmers to be part of the local procurement.
4. Establishing a food safety and quality standard as a basis for all procurement procedures and processes in all of the member states this may encourage the local farmers to produce more food since both the safety and quality assurances of their produce will be made known to them, and these assurances are also linked to the marketing aspect.

ii. Agricultural Crop Production and Productivity.

a. Policy formulation, design and Implementation.

- a.1. Providing support to governments counterparts in the member states in the formulation, design , review and implementation of key agricultural, and agri-food system policies, strategies, programmes and legal frameworks to enhance agricultural production and productivity.

b. Assessment and analysis.

- b.1. Strengthening Institutional capacities and systems in areas of crop production, food availability and trade, nutrition, vulnerability analysis and mapping, market development and value chains, adaptation to climate change, disaster preparedness and early warning.

c. Coordination architecture.

- c.1. Strengthening multi-sectorial collaboration / coordination mechanisms and institutional arrangements to ensure alignment and coherence of sectoral policies and strategies that reinforce complementarities between agr-food systems programmes of governments and that one of the United Nations to create a strong global agri-food system.

d. Advocacy and Resource Mobilization

- d.1. Enhancing advocacy efforts at different levels to enhance the United Nations International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD) and advance Agricultural sustainable programmes and strategies.

e. Partnerships

- e.1 Strengthening and expanding partnerships with government relevant institutions, the United Nations entities, development partners, regional organizations, international financial institutions, the private sector, NGOs and civil society organizations; will accelerate actions for both food security and food systems in the member states.
- e.2 Supporting South- South and Triangular Cooperation in areas of Knowledge and know how exchange, technical assistance , joint projects implementation and resource mobilization will enhance and exhibit great technical advancement and sustainable agricultural development.
- e.3. Encouraging potential investors to Invest globally in different sectors of agricultural production such as engagement in Agro-Processing [Value Addition] Industries for both local consumption and export as well as large scale commercial farming.

iii. Farmers Organizations (Groups)

The farmers organization can be empowered and transformed through the following:

- a. Provision of subsidized Inputs of Production.

- b. Provision of Micro- Financing and loan services.
- c. Strengthen and support Farmers Cooperatives Societies.
- d.. Farmers Children Access to quality education.
- e.. Representation in the legislature
- f. Provision of good markets for their produce.
- g. .Provide avenues for farmers and their families to live dignified and prosperous lives.
‘ In other words these are farmers basic rights’

Relevant Topics:

1. **Covid -19:** There is need to consider during the pandemic, provision of financial and other forms of support and assistance to vulnerable farmers whose livelihoods depend on agriculture
2. **Climate and environment:** There is a need to enhance global irrigation development and practice of smart agriculture to supplement gaps posed by climate change.
3. **Smallholder farmers:** It is very important to review and update the approaches used in supporting the small scale farmers and come up with new appropriate approaches that can maximize up scaling it small farmers production and productivity potential.
4. **Fisheries and Aquaculture:** It is very crucial to enforce strict laws, rules and regulations that guide and protect the fisheries and Aquaculture from human pressure including over exploitation, pollution and habitat change.
5. **Livestock and rangeland:** Livestock development and rangeland management are very important elements for creation of wealth and livelihoods but there is also a high risk from it to create conflicts among the neighboring communities over water and pasture, thus there is a high need for developing strong rules, regulations and law enforcing agents to curb down crimes related to livestock and rangeland management.
6. **Gender:** Women empowerment through access to resources and services including land, finance inputs and equipment is key to increased agricultural production and productivity.
7. **Land:** Mapping and registration of agricultural lands including development of new techs to conserve the soil fertility is very key for agricultural production and productivity.
8. **Nutrition:** There is a need for creating development programs of nutritious foods containing all the micronutrient substance targeting vulnerable populations.
9. The is a need to come with global youth development agenda to address issues related to youth unemployment, crime, possible uncovered potentials and window of great opportunities.

In conclusion, I would like to end my deliberations by requesting the dignitaries present here today to have two of my take- aways as follow: 1. Consolidation of Farmer Rights and 2. Global Agricultural Investment of which I would again like to forward an Invitation to my Counterparts, the Ministers of Agriculture and some potential investors to visit South Sudan to see for themselves all the potentials that South Sudan has for cooperation in the field of agricultural sector development and Investment.

Thank you for Listening.!

Hon. Josephine Lagu Yanga
National Minister of Agriculture and Food Security.
Republic of South Sudan- Jubae