

Statement by the representative of the Kingdom of Spain

Mr. President,

We have eight years left to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal of zero hunger and meet the targets to end food insecurity, hunger and all forms of malnutrition. However, according to the 2022 SOFI report, 8 per cent of the world's population will suffer from hunger in 2030 – just as in 2015, when the 2030 Agenda was launched.

Despite the hope that food security would begin to improve in 2021, hunger and malnutrition increased as a result of the global pandemic, the pressures of the climate crisis, high energy and fertilizer prices and, of course, Russian aggression in Ukraine.

One year since the start of the war in Ukraine, we still see little indication that it will soon end, and, as we need no reminder, its effects on the global food system have been devastating.

In light of this, accelerating action for food security is our obligation. Therefore, we cannot flag in our efforts to find and implement measures to mitigate this catastrophe and give all citizens of this planet access to adequate food.

This food, energy and agricultural input supply crisis requires a greater effort to promote the food security of the rural population, which is extremely vulnerable, and here, IFAD is a key actor. These crises have exposed the unsustainability of current agrifood systems. The medium-to-long-term response must be to strengthen local, national and regional markets and encourage local stockpiling.

The IFAD approach to agriculture, which covers the entire value chain from the farm to the table, with special emphasis on family farming and agroecological practices, has proven very fruitful. We must therefore continue to support it.

It is also essential for IFAD to continue working to combat climate change in all its activities, as it has up to now, and, as we have previously discussed, increase the financing for the adaptation of food systems to climate change. In any case, we must not forget that IFAD's comparative advantage lies in its ability to promote agricultural development, create resilience, and reduce hunger and poverty in rural areas, bearing in mind the realities of women, youth and Indigenous Peoples and the effects of climate change.

Let me congratulate IFAD's new President, Alvaro Lario, who is now presiding over his first Governing Council, and remind you of the impetus he gave to IFAD's transition to a specialized sector financial institution during his tenure as Associate Vice-President of the Financial Operations Department, a process that Spain always supported. We are confident that IFAD will become even more financially independent without detracting from its role as a member of the family of United Nations agencies. I would therefore like to express my satisfaction at learning that IFAD's plans include continuing its close collaboration and coordination with the other two Rome-based United Nations agencies, FAO and WFP, as well as the World Bank and regional development banks.

Let me reiterate Spain's support for IFAD, evidenced in this year's commitment of EUR 5 million for IFAD12 and with it, our support for the work of the Fund during the period. Finally, I would like to express my satisfaction at the implementation of the 2020 Spain-IFAD cofinancing framework agreement as follow-up to the Spanish Trust Fund, the latter of which has provided cofinancing of EUR 300 million for projects in 23 countries.

Thank you very much.