

## **Statement for the Forty-Sixth Session of the Governing Council of IFAD**

- **Hon. Shehan Semasinghe, State Minister of Finance, Sri Lanka**

President of IFAD,  
Distinguished Members of the Governing Council,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

With great honor and privilege that I participate at this 46th session of the Governing Council of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). On behalf of the Government and people of Sri Lanka, I am grateful to the Government of Italy for the excellent work arrangement made for this important meeting. This session focuses on “accelerating action for food security”, and will create a greater platform to discuss new challenges on rural transformation and resilience.

The Water-Energy-Food Nexus has emerged as a useful concept to describe and address the complex nature of global resources, on which we depend to achieve different social, economic and environmental goals. It avails a better understanding and analyze the interactions between the environment and human activities to work towards a more coordinated process. This can help us to identify, manage trade-offs and build synergies through our responses, allowing for more integrated and cost-effective planning, decision-making, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

IFAD has been Sri Lanka’s long standing agricultural partner dedicated to eradicate poverty and hunger in rural areas to achieve food security by improving agriculture production, productivity and farmer income. Sri Lanka has been fortunate to mobilize over USD 450mn during the last four decades for 19 development projects in the field of agriculture and irrigation.

IFAD has made to develop the rural economy, targeting the poorest people in those areas by increasing their production capacity, adapting them to climate shocks, improving women’s economic empowerment, educating on the use of nutritional resource and creating opportunities for rural youth.

Food security is one of the priorities of Sri Lanka. Under the guidance of Hon. Ranil Wikremesinghe, President of Sri Lanka, is looking afresh at the agricultural sector and its approach to food security with the vision of “All citizens have access to enough food at all times for an active healthy life”.

The progressive discussions with the IMF on restoring the economic stability and debt sustainability while protecting the poor and the vulnerable, are going on successfully. We reaffirm our commitment to support the IMF programme and expect support of Development Partners at this difficult time to protect the poor and vulnerable.

We are confident that IFAD can play a crucial role in our efforts to improve the livelihoods of rural people and ensure food security in Sri Lanka. IFAD's assistance to new technologies to increase productivity, minimize post-harvest losses, increase quality, value additions and better marketing could be enhanced.

Sri Lanka welcomes measures, such as technical assistance, special grants, budget support or a combination of measures that includes provisions to tackle food insecurity and malnutrition.

Thank you