

**Statement of the Syrian Arab Republic for
The 46th session of the Governing Council of
the International Fund for Agricultural
Development (IFAD)**

**Mr. Alvaro Lario - President of the International Fund
for Agricultural Development (IFAD)**

Ladies and gentlemen,

I am pleased and honored to represent the Syrian Arab Republic in the meetings of the Governing council of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) in the forty-sixth session. These meetings, which discuss an important subject of "activating efforts for achieving food security". This matter affects and is affected by other objectives and goals of the sustainable development 2030. Objectives and goals can interact with each other to form a vicious circle that may be difficult to escape from if the world does not seek to make more efforts towards transforming agricultural and food systems to become more efficient, sustainable, inclusive and resilient.

I would like to start by expressing my sincere thanks to Mr. Alvaro Lario - President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) for his kind invitation to participate in these meetings. We all hope that the

Fund's efforts will be successful in achieving the set goals, better levels of agricultural and rural development and combating poverty, malnutrition and hunger, in a world full of tensions.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The cooperation between the Syrian Arab Republic and the International Fund for Rural Development, the great successes that have been achieved in the implemented projects are considered a thriving model in light of the positive impact on the livelihoods of people of the rural areas that have been targeted, starting from reclamation projects and ending with the livestock development project.

However, the challenges facing the world in general, and the Near East Region in particular, related to food and food security are clear in light of the successive crises and climate changes. They have negatively affected, not only food supplies and prices, but also providing production requirements such as energy and fertilizers, which leads us to the necessity and importance of thinking about overcoming these challenges.

The exceptional circumstances that faced the Syrian Arab Republic during the past decade caused great damage to the agricultural and irrigation infrastructure. Meanwhile the world is striving to leave no one behind, the Syrian people are left exposed to huge challenges to restore their life and food security and are prevented from investing the country's resources and developing its

agricultural and food systems in light of the unilateral coercive measures that violate international law. These measures have contributed to undermining the pillars of the development path in which Syria had made great strides and through which it was involved in international action towards achieving the goals of sustainable development 2030.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Since the earth is the only planet suitable for living so far, and we are all bound to live on it, it is our duty to work together and preserve it. In the event the world doesn't acknowledge the dangers it faces, the next stage will be characterized by severe environmental, social and economic crises, driven by geopolitical trends.

The continuation of emerging new and unexpected crises will lead to the adoption of defensive economic policies. Like building self-sufficiency through the unsustainable use of the available natural resources, in an alarming manner and reaching the point of no return of the loss of biodiversity and the collapse of ecosystems, and the subsequent decline of agricultural systems and food production in quantity and quality. This will threaten levels of food security, especially in countries that are less capable of financing agricultural investments that are responsive to climate change and the state of natural resources. This will bring risks of stagnation, economic and social development challenges, and impose inflationary pressures on these countries. As a result,

economic and social consequences and crises in livelihoods will arise leading to waves of obligatory migration.

What has been mentioned is only some of the potential risks and cascading effects that could lead to a humanitarian crisis with multiple interconnected environmental, economic and social risks related to supply and demand for natural resources, food and energy, and no country will be able to escape from its effects.

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is time for rapid and programmatic action on transforming agriculture and food systems, increasing investments in climate-smart agriculture and green economies, increasing reliance on innovation and technology, inclusive rural transformation, and job and income creation for the most vulnerable and small-scale agricultural producers, women, youth and people with disabilities.

Working together on these axes would lead to ensuring sustainable production and consumption patterns through efficient and comprehensive agricultural and food value chains that are able to withstand climate changes. Thus, progress towards eliminating hunger and accelerating action to achieve food security, protection, maintenance and sustainable ecosystems. The result is inclusive economic growth based on the reduction of inequality and benefiting all the world's inhabitants.

Herein lies the primary and prominent role of the International Fund for Agricultural Development by enhancing capacity building, intensifying efforts, and increasing the volume of funding in priority areas and countries, with a focus on promoting integrated rural development, building resilience to shocks and pressures, and risk management.

Assalam Alaikum Wa Rahmato Allah Wa Barakatuh

Minister of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform