

**United States Statement to  
IFAD's Forty-Sixth Session of the Governing Council**

Mr. President, Mr. Chairman, Governors, and Distinguished Guests –

The United States expresses deep sadness at the tragic loss of life and destruction across Türkiye and Syria from the recent earthquakes. We are determined to do all that we can to help those affected by these earthquakes in the days, weeks, and months ahead.

The mission of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) to reduce poverty and strengthen food security in rural areas is critical, and exceedingly relevant as we begin the Consultation on the Thirteenth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources. IFAD is well-placed to continue to pursue this mission through its approach of inclusive and sustainable rural transformation. We applaud President Lario for his leadership of the institution at a pivotal moment, and we express our deep appreciation to IFAD management and staff for their work. We would also like to recognize the contributions of the Independent Office of Evaluation, that continually delivers high-value products and services to promote institutional learning and improved programming at IFAD.

Russia's brutal war against Ukraine has increased the volatility of food, fertilizer and energy prices, further elevated inflation, and sharply increased food insecurity across the globe, particularly among the most vulnerable people. The Black Sea Grain Initiative has helped meet urgent needs and stabilize world grain prices, although the world needs Russia to fulfill its commitments and alleviate the growing backlog of ships waiting for grain. It is essential this life-saving mechanism be extended beyond March.

Against this backdrop, IFAD's work with smallholder farmers and marginalized rural populations in combatting global hunger and promoting economic security is more relevant than ever. The United States commends IFAD's commitment to strengthening smallholder farmers and promoting resilience through its Crisis Response Initiative (CRI). We were pleased to contribute \$10 million to the Initiative alongside other donors, and we call on others to contribute to CRI. We also welcome Ukraine's request to join IFAD as the newest member-state, and we strongly urge the Governing Council to approve Ukraine's request.

Reflecting its longstanding commitment to food security, the United States moved swiftly to help rally the international response to the current food security crisis. The United States committed \$13.5 billion in emergency aid and food assistance last year alone, more than \$7 billion of which came through the Rome-based UN food agencies, responding to acute needs while also investing in climate-smart, resilient agriculture. In April 2022, Secretary Yellen convened the international financial institutions (IFIs) – including IFAD – to surge and scale their responses to rising food insecurity, resulting in the *IFI Action Plan to Address Food Insecurity*. IFAD's "last-mile" resilience-building efforts complement WFP's emergency humanitarian response and FAO's technical expertise and normative work; we welcome collaboration among the Rome-based agencies in the field and at the headquarters-level.

We strongly support IFAD's leadership in promoting climate resilience and delivering programming to support smallholder farmers in their efforts to adapt to climate change. Climate change and food security are interlinked challenges, and IFAD must continue to strengthen its holistic approach centered around the poorest and most vulnerable people. In this context, we applaud IFAD's partnership with the United States on the Global Methane Pledge to help reduce highly polluting methane emissions from the agriculture sector. IFAD has a \$500 million dollar pipeline of projects in methane-intensive sectors where it's possible to achieve climate mitigation and adaptation goals simultaneously. The United States is announcing a \$1 million pledge<sup>1</sup> to IFAD's Enhanced Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme (ASAP+) to advance the methane mitigation co-benefits of IFAD's climate adaptation work. We welcome others to join us in supporting this work.

In 2023, we encourage IFAD to execute on its increased climate ambition across its portfolio, to strengthen private sector partnerships and engagement, and to remain focused on supporting the poorest and most vulnerable people. We also encourage IFAD to continue to coordinate with other actors in the international food security financing architecture, including the other international financial institutions, multilateral funds, and Rome-based agencies, to deepen its impact on the ground.

IFAD is an important part of the international financial system that includes the multilateral development banks. As we have called on these banks to evolve to better address complex global challenges, we also highlight the opportunities for IFAD to adapt to help meet the needs of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The United States looks forward to working with IFAD management, stakeholders, and other members to strengthen the institution over the coming year so that it can continue to deliver on its core mission of reducing poverty and food insecurity through inclusive and sustainable rural transformation in the world's poorest countries.

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<sup>1</sup> Subject to Congressional Notification and completion of domestic procedures