

Excellencies,
Mr. President,
Distinguished Governors,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Address by the Austrian Governor, Ms. Edith Frauwallner, on the occasion of the
47th IFAD Governing Council

In 2024, with only six years left to meet the universally agreed SDGs, humanity faces extraordinary challenges due to multiple interlinked crises and conflicts. In this multi-crisis environment and against a background of rising global food insecurity, there is an urgent need for investments to transform food systems and make them more sustainable and resilient. Such a transformation is required if we are to effectively address poverty, hunger, instability and climate change. What is also required, is effective cooperation among various stakeholders in order to face these challenges in a coordinated way.

Over the past years, IFAD has managed to establish itself as a well-known, respected and needed partner when it comes to food systems transformation and working with smallholder farmers. IFAD has marked its spot within the international development finance architecture. We believe it is important to acknowledge the strong dedication and commitment of IFAD staff, management and leadership that lead up to this role. Going forward, we encourage IFAD to further deepen its engagement with relevant actors, share its expertise and continue to actively seek their cooperation.

Moreover, Austria sincerely congratulates IFAD to a very successful IFAD 13 replenishment. The preliminary pledges so far give testimony of the importance of IFAD's mandate and the high trust that Member States put into the organisation to effectively deliver on it. As a long-standing partner, Austria is proud to contribute to IFAD 13. We support its strategic direction and recognize the strong value proposition offered. The enhanced focus on fragile contexts, the increased commitment to invest in biodiversity and the climate resilience of small-scale producers, the strengthened engagement with the private sector and the continued pledge to inclusivity and leaving no one behind are well-chosen responses to our current global challenges, that fully reflect IFAD's comparative advantage. We also recognize that IFAD went the extra mile by establishing the Additional core climate contributions. This instrument, that is set-up with a long-term vision, does not only allow all recipient member countries to benefit from resources that IFAD would otherwise not be able to access, it also brings much needed climate finance to smallholder farmers all over the world.

In closing, let me assure you, President Lario, that Austria stays committed to support IFAD in building rural resilience for a food-secure future in which no one is left behind.

Thank you.