

**General Statement  
Cambodia  
FORTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF GOVERNING COUNCIL  
14-15 February 2024**

**His Excellency Mr. Chairman,  
His Excellency Mr. Alvaro Lario  
Excellencies Fellow Governors and Head of Delegations of Member States  
Excellencies Ladies and Gentlemen**

It is indeed my honor and pleasure to participate in person in this 47<sup>th</sup> Session of the Governing Council of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) on behalf of the Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia.

Our collective focus on the theme, "*Innovation for a Food-Secure Future*," underscores the critical importance of creative solutions as we navigate the complex challenges of the 21st century.

The interconnectedness of a sustainable and resilient food supply with our capacity for innovation has never been clearer. Innovation, with its diverse forms and applications, provides the tools needed to transform and fortify our food systems against the multifaceted challenges we are facing. From the impacts of climate change to the imperative of feeding a growing global population, the call for creative, forward-thinking approaches are extremely crucial.

In Cambodia, we recognize the pivotal role that innovation plays in shaping the future of food security. As our nation confronts challenges such as population growth, climate change, and evolving global dynamics, harnessing the power of innovation is imperative to enhance the resilience, efficiency, and sustainability of our food systems. Recent advancements in technology, science, and agriculture have provided unprecedented opportunities for addressing the complex issues surrounding food security, and Cambodia is steadfast in its commitment to fostering innovation in the agriculture and food sectors.

We acknowledge with gratitude the invaluable contributions of our farmers, researchers, entrepreneurs, and stakeholders, who play a crucial role in driving innovation. Their dedication and ingenuity contribute significantly to the development of sustainable agricultural practices, precision farming techniques, and novel approaches to food production, processing, and distribution.

However, the monumental efforts by the Government and people of Cambodia alone are insufficient to address these complex food security issues without the support of our development partners, especially IFAD with its focus on agriculture and the rural people. It is, therefore, our utmost priority to request a substantial increase in IFAD resources dedicated to promoting innovation for a food-secure future, especially the increment of country allocation for Cambodia.

After the general election on 23 July 2023, the new Government has embarked on a new Five Phase Pentagonal Strategy to guide the socio-economic development agenda for the next 25 years to accomplish the Cambodia Vision 2050 of becoming a high-income country. **People, Road, Water, Electricity, and Technology** are at the center Phase 1 Strategy which are embedded in 5 Strategic Pentagons: Human Capital Development (Pentagon 1); Economic

Diversification and Competitiveness Enhancement (Pentagon 2); Development of Private Sector (Pentagon 3); Resilient, Sustainable and Inclusive Development (Pentagon 4); and Development of Digital Economy and Society (Pentagon 5).

Phase 1 of the Strategy for Growth, Employment, Equity, Efficiency, and Sustainability, 2023-28 was launched on August 24, 2023, and sets out 5 key strategic objectives of ensuring crisis-resilient economic growth of around 7%; creating more quality jobs; targeting poverty rate below 10%; strengthening capacity, governance, and improving quality of public institutions; and ensuring sustainable socio-economic development and building resilience to climate change. As Cambodia takes the first-phase steps in the next 5 years towards its ambitious path for prosperity with very strong commitment, dedication, and resolve, our development partners will play an important role in contributing towards our success in achieving resilient, sustainable, and inclusive socio-economic development.

As we embark on this journey toward a food-secure future, we extend an invitation to all stakeholders to join hands in this collective effort. Together, we can build a resilient, sustainable, and innovative food system that ensures the well-being of our citizens and the prosperity of our nation.

In closing, I express my sincere gratitude to the President, the management team, and staff for their excellent arrangements for the 47th Session of the Governing Council and the warm hospitality extended to the Cambodian Delegation and supports to Cambodia.

**Thank you.**