

**The Russian Federation statement
to IFAD's Forty-Seventh Session of the Governing Council**

Mr President,
Distinguished Governors,
Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,
Dear colleagues,

The Russian Federation attaches great importance to the food security issues and sustainable agricultural development for the prosperity of emerging and low-income countries, especially in the context of growing multidimensional challenges: disruption of supply chains, limited access to essential commodities, increasing trade barriers and unilateral measures, imbalances in the international food market leading to price volatility, limited supply of fertilizers, etc.

Sadly, all the components of the current global food crisis affect mostly the poorest regions of the world - the main recipients of IFAD funds. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization's Statistics Department, some 735 million people faced hunger in 2022, and 2.4 billion people around the world are either moderately or severely food insecure. Overlapping crises are currently preventing the global community from combating hunger and eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions.

In this regard, the Russian Federation reaffirms its commitment to provide assistance to the most vulnerable countries to overcome the food crisis. In 2023, the Russian Federation allocated more than \$150 million to ensure food security, including emergency humanitarian support, provision of food supplies and technical assistance. In particular, the Russian Federation supports the implementation of school feeding programmes in cooperation with the World Food Programme. Russia remains a reliable supplier of agricultural commodities such as wheat, sunflower oil, grains, etc. The export of agricultural products of the Russian Federation in 2023 amounted to more than \$45 billion.

This year's issue of the Governing Council "Innovation for a food-secure future" is of the utmost importance.

Today, digital technologies and services (such as precision agriculture, smart irrigation systems based on weather stations, and unified digital platforms) are the mainstream of innovative development, contributing to increased efficiency and sustainability of the agricultural sector, rational use of limited land and water resources by agricultural producers, accelerating the decision-making process, and improving risk management in agriculture.

The Russian Federation highly appreciates and strongly supports the efforts made by IFAD and in particular by its President, Mr. Alvaro Lario, in the field of food security.