



Gilbert F. Hounbo

President

International Fund for Agricultural Development

Gilbert F. Hounbo became the sixth President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) on 1 April 2017. He was reappointed for a second term in February 2021. IFAD is a UN development and international financial institution whose sole mission is to eradicate hunger and poverty among extremely poor small-scale food producers. This year IFAD aims to increase the incomes of 20 million women and men by 20 per cent.

Born and raised in Togo, Hounbo experienced first-hand the harshness of rural life among vulnerable people. It instilled in him a lifelong passion for engaging in development efforts that are transformative and sustainable. He applies his personal insights and 30 years of experience in organizational leadership, international development, financial management and diplomacy to ensure IFAD's programmes combine community based knowledge with innovative technologies.

Hounbo also contributes to the efficacy of other organizations with missions to advance the wellbeing of vulnerable populations and the health of the planet. He is the Chair of UN-Water, which coordinates the efforts of over 30 UN entities and international organizations working on water and sanitation issues. He is also helping to shape the future of global food security and agriculture as a member of the Board of Stewards for the Food System Initiative. As a founding member of the Ambassadors Group for Generation Africa, Hounbo collaborates with other continental leaders on ways to foster support for innovative young African entrepreneurs.

Prior to his appointment as IFAD President, Hounbo was the Deputy Director-General of the International Labour Organization (ILO), where he led field operations in more than 100 countries and managed bilateral and multilateral partnerships. From 2008 to 2012, he served as Prime Minister of the Togolese Republic, where he introduced economic and social reforms leading to poverty reduction.

From 1996 to 2008, he undertook a number of roles at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), including Director of Finances, Chief of Staff, Assistant Secretary-General and Africa Regional Director. In addition, he led poverty alleviation programmes in 45 countries in sub-Saharan Africa. Before this, Hounbo spent a decade in the private sector, including at Price Waterhouse, Canada, where he worked in audit and financial advisory services.

In 2021, President Hounbo was invited to become a board member of the International Center for Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA), and was also recently invited to chair the Board of the Natural Resource Governance Institute.

Hounbo earned a *Maîtrise en gestion des entreprises* from the University of Lomé, Togo and a *Diplôme d'Etudes Supérieures Spécialisées* in Specialised Accounting from the University of Quebec, Canada. He is a member of the Canadian Institute of Chartered Professional Accountants.