

**STATEMENT OF MR IAIN KELLET,
IFAD's Chief Financial Officer and Head of
Financial Operations Department**

**NATIONAL ROUNDTABLE WORKSHOP
UGANDA COUNTRY PROGRAMME EVALUATION**

Kampala, 12 July 2012

1. Hon. Prime Minister;
2. Hon. Ministers;
3. Authorities and Officials of the Government of Uganda;
4. Representatives of multilateral and bi-lateral aid organisations;
5. IFAD-supported project staff; and

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am honoured to have this unique opportunity to address the participants of this National Round Table Workshop, which has been jointly organized by the Government of Uganda and IFAD.

Let me start by saying how pleased I am to be in Uganda. It is particularly special for me, as it is the first time - since I joined IFAD about a year ago - that I have the opportunity to undertake such a country visit. In fact, as a relative new comer in the IFAD Senior Management Team, this Uganda country

programme evaluation workshop provides an ideal opportunity for me to understand better the role of IFAD in an important country in Africa.

This workshop is the culmination of the Uganda country programme evaluation by our Independent Office of Evaluation, which I understand has provided an opportunity to reflect and discuss the results and lessons learned from the partnership between IFAD and Government in promoting sustainable agriculture and rural development in Uganda. I therefore eagerly look forward to listening with attention to the comments and views of the many participants who have taken time to join us on this special occasion.

I have had the privilege to undertaken field visits in the past two days to two IFAD-funded projects in Uganda, namely the Rural Financial Services Programme and the District Livelihoods Support Programme. This gave me the possibility to meet with beneficiaries as well as see some of the development activities promoted by these projects on the ground.

Among other issues, I was able to better appreciate the opportunities and challenges of

supporting rural poor people improve their food security, have better access to rural finance and reliable markets as well as earn more income for better overall livelihoods.

I take this occasion to commend all those concerned in designing and implementing IFAD-financed projects for their hard work, and also thank authorities both at the national as well as the local levels who were instrumental in organising the field visits.

Uganda is an important country, where IFAD has financed activities since 1981, more or less since the establishment of the Fund. Projects financed by IFAD have contributed to, among other areas, promoting public-private partnership in the palm oil sector, developing rural roads and market infrastructure, empowering communities and women, and enhancing food security.

The Uganda country programme evaluation, which the IFAD management appreciates and supports, has confirmed the good results achieved and noted areas we need to collectively address to ensure even

stronger outcomes in the reduction of rural poverty in the future.

I would also like to use this statement to brief you all about some of the recent developments at IFAD. In December 2011, the Fund successfully concluded the ninth replenishment of its resources. In this regard, at the IFAD Governing Council in February 2012, all Member States collectively agreed on a target replenishment level of USD 1.5 billion for the ninth replenishment, which represents a 25 per cent increase over the contributions agreed by Member States in the eighth replenishment in 2008. This is particularly significant, as this sizeable increase in the ninth replenishment came in a period of considerable financial and economic constraints in many donor countries. This is a further confirmation by Member States of their confidence in IFAD and support towards the organization's specialised mandate of assisting small farmers in rural areas to promote agriculture as an engine of growth and economic transformation.

In light of the level of resources made available to IFAD in the ninth replenishment, the Fund will be able

to commit new loans and grants of approximately USD 1 billion per year. Moreover, the Fund is exploring options to mobilise additional resources through innovative financing mechanisms beyond the financing generated through the regular replenishment process, with the aim of allowing the organisation eventually to expand even further the total commitments for new activities in the future.

With that, distinguished dignitaries and participants, I would like to reassure you of IFAD's continued commitment to supporting Uganda in its fight against rural poverty in the years to come. This workshop will provide essential inputs in defining the future priorities for the IFAD-Government country strategy and partnership, and I would like to encourage you to participate actively in the debate, and convey my best wishes for a successful outcome of today's deliberations.

Thank you.