

12 and 13 February 2024

## Eighth global meeting of the Farmers' Forum

In conjunction with the forty-seventh session  
of IFAD's Governing Council



# Summary of the Synthesis of Deliberations of the eighth global meeting of the Farmers' Forum 12–13 February 2024

Honourable Governors of the International Fund for Agricultural Development,

in the current context of multiple and intersecting crises, we believe that IFAD has the potential to play a major role in strengthening the capacity of food producers to provide sufficient and healthy food for populations.

Building on the positive results of the last 20 years of partnership, we believe it is essential, given the key role of IFAD, to:

- Include representatives of farmers' organizations in IFAD's governance structure, including through participation with observer status on the Executive Board, as already expressed in the Synthesis of Deliberations of the Farmers' Forum of 2020;
- Strengthen the autonomous processes of the Farmers' Forum at national and regional levels, in accordance with the decentralization of the global Farmers' Forum, especially with regard to the country strategic opportunities programmes;
- Include farmers' organizations in discussions on IFAD programmes and in their co-construction at all levels, to ensure real participation in project formulation and supervision;
- Draft clear guidelines for IFAD's engagement and collaboration with farmers' organizations; and
- Ensure that dialogue and systematic engagement with farmers' organizations are considered a central responsibility of the operational teams at country level.

We also call on IFAD to:

1. Continue to support institutional funds for women and youth, showcasing women and youth-led models related to climate resilient farming, fishing and pastoralism;

2. Integrate smallholder agroecology and other sustainable and resilient practices, including organic farming, into all its projects and programmes;
3. Commit to shift from a market-based approach to redistributive land policies, working directly with Member States and recognizing the leadership of FAO, towards a new international conference for agrarian reform and rural development;
4. Support the implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security;
5. Involve farmers' organizations at all stages of decision-making, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of public policies impacting farming and food production;
6. Support ambitious public policies for the fair distribution of land-use rights, namely genuine agrarian reforms, policies to support the spread of smallholder agroecology and policies to develop infrastructure;
7. Support governments in developing market regulation policies, in order to ensure the stability of local markets, fair prices that cover the costs of sustainable production and decent revenues for all food producers;
8. Support local economic development in the form of enhancement of local markets and inclusive value chains, in order to eliminate practices that harm natural resources;
9. Make available to farmers' organizations substantial grants and funding to support all climate-friendly agroecological practices;
10. Support reflection and undertake a comprehensive effort to disseminate information on the risks associated with solutions involving carbon markets. We also ask that farmers' organizations be involved in international discussions on carbon markets to ensure all farmers are well informed;
11. Perform vulnerability assessments within the regions to develop adaptation plans to respond to the climate crisis;
12. Implement the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines) in policies and support programmes for small-scale fishers, at all levels;
13. Provide dedicated funding support to fishers' organizations for better infrastructure and sustainable fishing practices;
14. Support existing good practices related to climate change resilience in artisanal fisheries; and

15. Ensure greater participation of livestock breeders' and pastoralists' organizations in consultations with farmers' organizations at all levels, and support livestock breeding and pastoralism more ambitiously in the projects and programmes it finances.

Regarding funding and the implementation of IFAD's programmes and projects:

1. We urge governments to increase funding to IFAD to support public policies and programmes for more sustainable long-term investment in smallholder production and to strengthen the internal capacity of farmers' organizations through direct financing.
2. We recommend that IFAD create a permanent and adequate financing mechanism to support capacity-building grants to producers and farmers' organizations to enable them to participate successfully in policy dialogue at all levels and to play an effective role as implementing partners of IFAD-funded projects and programmes.

Regarding the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas, we ask IFAD to integrate the Declaration into all its programmes as a tool and to support its implementation, by funding specific programmes at regional and country levels, and by engaging proactively in the United Nations working group on the rights of peasants and in all other relevant United Nations bodies and mechanisms.

We also ask IFAD to support the design, development and implementation of national and regional action plans for the United Nations Decade of Family Farming by strengthening its programmes to encourage policy changes that benefit food producers.

Finally, we ask IFAD to support the multilateral system in a general manner and to integrate the policies of the Committee on World Food Security into all its programmes and into the processes of the Farmers' Forum.

In conclusion, we are determined to strengthen our dialogue with IFAD, and to mobilize in order to support the replenishment of IFAD's funds, and to work together for a greater commitment from governments to respond to the current global crisis.

We trust that IFAD will take into account the recommendations arising from this Farmers' Forum and implement them to achieve our common goals.