

Written Statement at the 47th session of IFAD's Governing Council

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Affected by multiple crises including food insecurity and climate change, etc., many developing countries are in distress. The average income in more than one-third of low-income countries stays below the 2019 level and over 511 million people are acutely food-insecure, the smallholder farmers are severely impacted in particular. By focusing on the overarching theme "Innovation for a Food-secure Future", the 47th session of the Governing Council of International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) will address one of the most pressing issues on the agenda of global development and poverty reduction. As a UN specialized agency dedicated to smallholder farmers and rural poverty reduction, IFAD should take the opportunity of a successful Thirteenth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources (IFAD13), uphold fundamental principles and promote innovations to support client countries to tackle global challenges including food insecurity. In this connection, I would like to make three suggestions.

Firstly, "Innovation for a Food-Secure Future" requires IFAD to stick to its mandate and to unite all parties to meet challenges. To do so, IFAD should carry out the true multilateralism and uphold the principle of universality. While keeping on increasing its support to low-income and lower-middle-income countries, IFAD should deepen all-around cooperation with upper-middle-income countries (UMICs) including financial cooperation. Through North-South cooperation as the main channel as well as South-South and Triangular cooperation as a valuable supplement, IFAD should encourage developed countries to provide more support to address food crisis. At the same time, by leveraging the strength of the South-South and Triangular Cooperation and Knowledge Center, IFAD could promote more knowledge sharing of agricultural development, such as institutional building, technology and experiences, etc., so as to enhance the overall capacity of developing countries to deal with challenges and risks.

Secondly, "Innovation for a Food-Secure Future" requires IFAD to enhance its own capacity and to support developing countries in an innovative manner. To be bigger and stronger, IFAD should enhance its resilience and development effectiveness through advancing on-going reforms including Decentralization 2.0. IFAD should be demand-driven and provide tailored comprehensive services based on high-quality programs and projects. In order to lower financing costs and exchange rate risks of client countries, IFAD should be more innovative in lending tools and terms, and be more active in exploration of local currency lending.

Thirdly, "Innovation for a Food-Secure Future" requires IFAD to diversify its financing channels and to mobilize more resources for agricultural development. To become an efficient assembler of global agricultural development finance, IFAD should proactively implement the relevant G20 recommendations on Balance Sheet Optimization and make a substantial step on market borrowings. Only by establishing a sustainable financing mechanism can IFAD provide more concessional resources for food production and rural development in developing countries. In order to support the last mile of food production and rural development, IFAD should further enrich

the content of global partnerships, strengthen co-financing cooperation and actively expand the partnerships with new international financial institutions including the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), the New Development Bank (NDB) and the Multilateral Cooperation Center for Development Finance (MCDF).

Ladies and Gentlemen! With innovations in theories, institutions, practices on food security and poverty reduction, China has safeguarded food security for over 1.4 billion people, and nearly 100 million rural residents living below the current poverty line in China have been lifted out of poverty. This is a significant contribution to the global efforts in these areas. On the way forward, China will continue to make the Rural Vitalization Strategy as the focus of its efforts concerning agriculture, rural areas and farmers to consolidate and expand the achievements of poverty alleviation and food security. Meanwhile, China has proposed the Global Development Initiatives (GDI) and worked with all parties to implement the initiative, with an emphasis on areas of poverty alleviation, food security and development financing. Up to now, significant progress has been made, contributing to the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in developing countries. China is willing to deepen financial cooperation with IFAD in the area of rural vitalization, and welcome IFAD's participation in GDI to strengthen cooperation in global poverty reduction and food security, etc. I firmly believe, working together, we can make more contributions to the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the building of a global community of shared future for mankind!