

International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

47th session of the Governing Council

(Rome, 14-15 February 2024)

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JOINT STATEMENT BY

FRANCE and ANGOLA

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Mr. Chair,

Distinguished Governors,

Dear Delegates,

On the occasion of the 47th Governing Council of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Angola and France are honored to make this joint statement as co-champions of the 13th replenishment of IFAD resources. This is a key year that marks the conclusion of the IFAD-13 consultations and, the final year of the IFAD-12 cycle.

On the first point, we would like to congratulate IFAD on the quality of the consultation process, which was extremely well conducted and enabled the Member States' points of view to be taken into account and reconciled. The draft report of the consultation, the results management framework and the draft resolution submitted to the Governing Council, approved at the last session in Paris last December, are the results of these in-depth discussions, conducted in the spirit of dialogue and openness that have been characterizing IFAD for many years.

In 2024, we are still living in a world with unacceptably high levels of hunger and poverty. Nearly 800 million people worldwide suffer from hunger. Since 2021, the number of people suffering from acute food insecurity has also risen by 34%. The effects of climate change are increasingly visible and undeniable. Our chances of achieving the sustainable development objectives by 2030 risk being compromised and require a collective leap forward.

In this respect, we would like to reaffirm that no country should have to choose between fighting poverty and preserving the planet, or between development aspirations and climate action.

Between 2019 and 2021, IFAD's projects have raised incomes for more than 77 million rural people, improved market access for more than 60 million small-scale producers and strengthened the resilience of nearly 40 million people. To this end, we support the ambitious target of \$2 billion in new financing for IFAD, which will support the realization of a work program of at least \$10 billion during the 2025-2027 cycle, and work to improve the incomes, production, food security and resilience of more than 100 million people.

By hosting the fourth IFAD replenishment session on December 14 and 15, 2023 in Paris, Angola and France have set an example, pledging significant contributions (\$4 million for Angola and \$150 million for France). To date, nearly 50 IFAD Member States have reiterated their commitment to support the Fund, with pledges reaching a significant amount of nearly \$1.2 billion. For many Member States, the contribution pledged in Paris was the largest since they joined IFAD, demonstrating strong confidence in its mandate and action. This momentum must be maintained, and we invite all Member States who have not yet done so to commit by making as ambitious a contribution as possible to IFAD-13, to enable the institution to achieve the objectives assigned to it, to be in a position to act counter-cyclically and to provide the necessary resources to the countries that need them most.

Throughout the IFAD-13 cycle, our two governments will continue to support IFAD's ambition on climate and environmental issues. COP28 once again demonstrated the crucial role IFAD can play as an assembler of climate financing, particularly for adaptation. To consolidate this role, IFAD must commit to aligning all its operations with the Paris Agreement. This also means strengthening the link between climate, biodiversity, and development in its actions. Indeed, as the current crisis shows, rural development needs to be promoted in harmony with climate issues and anchored in nature-based solutions such as agroecology. In this respect, IFAD can build on initial successes in this area, particularly its participation in the Great Green Wall initiative.

Lastly, the final year of IFAD-12's implementation will also be a key moment for continuing to drive forward an ambitious program, both in terms of cross-cutting priorities such as climate, gender equality and youth and in terms of strengthening support for the poorest countries. We encourage IFAD to continue its leading role in strengthening international support for the transformation of food systems, helping to rally efforts around Sustainable Development Goal 2, while combating poverty, climate change, biodiversity loss and land degradation.

Our two governments wish you an excellent 47th session of the Governing Council. We look forward to working with you over the coming year and to reaffirming our ambitious goal of eradicating rural poverty and hunger through multilateral cooperation./.