

## *Statement of the United States Governor to IFAD*

As we conclude the Consultation on the Thirteenth Replenishment of IFAD's Resources, the United States is confident that IFAD is well-placed to advance its mission of reducing poverty and food insecurity through inclusive and sustainable rural transformation. We applaud President Lario, his senior leadership team, IFAD staff, and the IFAD13 Chair, Kyle Peters, for their commitment to and collaboration on a successful Replenishment consultation.

In December, IFAD hosted a historic pledging session, with Member States pledging over \$1.1 billion on a single day, including the leading U.S. pledge of \$162 million. This record achievement underlines Member States' support for IFAD as an indispensable partner in the global effort to promote sustainable, long-term food security. While there is much still to be done to deliver on IFAD12, we believe the ongoing results of the past year's IFAD13 Replenishment consultation will strengthen the institution and its ability to support the global effort to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

Many of the world's most pressing challenges – pandemics, fragility, and climate change – are global and are increasing in their frequency, scope, and complexity. They are also interlinked, both exacerbating and exacerbated by food insecurity. In September, U.S. Treasury Secretary Yellen underscored the devastating impacts of these challenges on global food security, calling attention to the lingering effects of Covid-19, Russia's war on Ukraine, and increasingly extreme climate events. She highlighted how these shocks have weighed most heavily on the poorest and most vulnerable and emphasized that our collective response must do more than just respond to moments of crisis—it must build resilience to such events.

IFAD remains essential to this global effort by building and supporting systems that allow people to endure these shocks without going hungry, and to live healthy and prosperous lives. The themes taken up in IFAD13, including climate adaptation, fragility and conflict, and private capital mobilization, align closely with the global effort to evolve the multilateral development banks. They also position IFAD well to address global challenges through new approaches that elevate rural communities and vulnerable populations.

The United States supports IFAD's continued prioritization of innovative approaches for building resilience to a changing climate. In 2023, the United States, the African Union (AU), and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) launched the Vision for Adapted Crops and Soils (VACS). VACS seeks to help rural communities respond to climate change and global food and nutrition insecurity by investing in climate-resilient, nutritious crop varieties and healthy soils. We applaud the IFAD Executive Board's approval in September last year of a VACS pillar within its Rural Resilience Programme (2RP) multi-donor trust fund that will leverage IFAD's mission, experience, and track record in support of this initiative. This pillar will deploy supplemental resources and integrate them into IFAD's programs to amplify VACS-aligned adaptation efforts, such as plant breeding, soil health improvement, seed system strengthening, and value chain development to build more nutritious and resilient food systems. At COP28 in December, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken announced the United States' founding commitment of \$50 million to the VACS pillar at IFAD. We encourage other Member States to

join us in contributing to the VACS pillar at IFAD to spur crop productivity, improve nutrition outcomes, reduce land degradation, and strengthen resilience to extreme weather.

In addition to initiatives such as VACS, ambitious investments in climate-smart agriculture and food systems innovation—such as the Agriculture Innovation Mission for Climate (AIM for Climate)—can support new solutions for meeting nutritional needs, increasing productivity, and conserving nature and biodiversity. The United States and the United Arab Emirates launched AIM for Climate at COP26 to drive more rapid and transformative climate action in the agricultural sector. Featured as a flagship initiative at COP28, AIM for Climate announced new partners and increased investments totaling \$17 billion—up from \$8 billion at COP27. Initiatives such as these present opportunities for greater public-private investment and cross-sectoral partnerships to deploy effective solutions at the nexus of food security and climate.

The United States also strongly commends IFAD13's increased ambition in supporting and elevating low-income countries, particularly in Africa. Following on the momentum of the U.S.-African Leaders Summit at the end of 2022, the United States continues to engage and expand partnerships with African countries, institutions, and people. For example, the United States and the AU have continued work to advance the shared objectives of the U.S.-AU Strategic Partnership on Food Security. This includes joint work to identify infrastructure investments that can increase resilient, sustainable African food production and trade.

As part of our effort to strengthen global food security, the United States is working with the international financial institutions (IFIs)—including IFAD—to build on the successful track record of the *IFI Action Plan to Address Food Insecurity*. Launched in 2022, the *IFI Action Plan* proved an effective guide in shaping the IFIs' response to the food security crisis. The United States looks forward to working with IFAD, and its peer IFIs, to strengthen this coordination and cohesion, including on topics such as the climate-food nexus, investment tracking, data collection and knowledge generation, and, critically, private capital mobilization. IFAD's enhanced focus on private sector engagement will reinforce its ability to assemble finance for rural development, including in under-developed agro-ecological zones and rural communities, particularly through its scaled-up Private Sector Financing Programme.

At this 47<sup>th</sup> Governing Council, we celebrate the vision of innovation for a food-secure future and the unprecedented support that Member States have entrusted to IFAD as a critical proponent of rural communities within the international financing system. As we look toward tomorrow with greater ambition, we must also continue to focus on effective implementation and deploying current resources for impact to address today's challenges.

In this, the final year of IFAD12, the United States encourages IFAD to remain focused on delivering the commitments laid out in the last Replenishment, even in the face of an ever more complex world. The United States looks forward to continuing our close work with IFAD management, fellow Member States, and other stakeholders to continue strengthening IFAD so that it can deliver greater food security and poverty reduction for the rural communities it serves.