



COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY

Forty-second Session

"Making a Difference in Food Security and Nutrition"

Rome, Italy, 12-15 October 2015

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT (IFAD)

Excellencies,
Honourable Delegates,
Colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I know that every annual meeting of the Committee on World Food Security is important. But this year's session holds particular significance.

Last month, the United Nations endorsed Agenda 2030, a new path forward to achieve sustainable development. For the work of this Committee, I believe Agenda 2030 presents a tremendous opportunity.

After all, the Agenda is bringing renewed global attention and commitment to sustainable development. With this comes increased recognition of the importance of agriculture — not just for the sake of developing countries, but for the world as a whole.

This, in turn, shines a bright light on the issues at the heart of your work: ending hunger, promoting nutrition and helping smallholder agriculture deliver on its potential.

Achieving Agenda 2030 will demand profound changes of the agriculture sector and food systems at all levels.

We need new approaches in production, processing, distribution and consumption.

We need new investments, new technologies, new skills and new partnerships.

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We need policy and institutional solutions to new and emerging issues:

- From quality standards in modern food markets to more inclusive value chains.
- From climate change adaptation to the nutritional impact of agriculture.
- From integrated rural-urban food systems to reduction of food losses and waste.

And we need to do all this with the meaningful input of the ones who know these issues best: poor rural women and men, rural youth, smallholder farmers, and all the other operators in food value chains.

That brings me back to the Committee on World Food Security.

The CFS is ideally positioned to promote multi-stakeholder policy debate.

You already have important instruments to guide this work. I am thinking of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests; and the Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems.

In the years ahead, the CFS can build on these tools, and expand their use. As the tools are used more, there will be new lessons and knowledge to share. Here, too, the CFS can continue to play a major role.

Let us remember that three-quarters of the world's poorest and hungriest people live in rural areas. And let us not forget our young women and men. Their prospects for employment look bleak when one considers that an estimated 600 million young people in developing countries will be competing for around 200 million jobs over the next decade.

That's why I'm pleased this meeting gives special attention to youth and the notion of protracted crises and resilience.

So many young people are moving to the city in search of a better life. We need to better understand their aspirations, and work with them to create more opportunities at home.

By doing more to harness the energy and ambition of young people, we can help rural communities become more resilient, even in the face of climate change.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Agenda 2030 offers all of us in the development community a new path forward. We must seize the moment to make concrete progress, because business as usual is no longer good enough.