



COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY

Forty-sixth Session

"Making a Difference in Food Security and Nutrition"

Rome, Italy, 14-18 October 2019

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

Excellencies,
delegates,
chairperson of the High Level Committee of Experts,
Ministers and Dear Ambassadors,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Please allow me, first of all, to congratulate the Committee on World Food Security on the celebration of its 45th anniversary, which actually coincides with the tenth anniversary of its reform, a reform which, in our humble opinion, really does deserve being pursued in order for it to be even more effective as a Committee.

Today we are here to discuss a need to step up progress under the sustainable development goal. In order for this to happen, however, each one of us has a prominent role to play in the transformation of food systems. At the same time, however, we need to continue to improve the impact of our action. It is clear that in this pursuit we must all stand together in our engagement towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

Just a few weeks ago in New York, the High Level Political Forum drew the attention of the whole world on the crucial importance of food security and nutrition. This week in Rome, the 46th Session of CFS is an opportunity to really build upon this élan. We all know that the progress towards SDG2 is stagnant right now. Equally, we understand that to the inclusive and sustainable nature of food systems is at the very heart of many sustainable development goals, especially that which seeks to end poverty, gender, good health and wellbeing, gender equality, clear water and sanitation, climate action and many more.

Consequently, the fact that we are falling behind with regard to the achievement of SDG, actually is challenging the fulfilment of the whole of the 2030 Agenda and we simply cannot allow for this to

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happen. What is it that we can do or, I should say, what is it that we must do. First of all, it would seem to me that we need to further invest in the resilience of smallholder farmers and family farmers.

If we take target three of SDG2 as a priority, then we will be able to double the agriculture productivity and the incomes of small-scale food producers. Smallholder farms already produce over 50% of the total of food calories on 30% of the agricultural land on the planet and we can only, therefore, imagine the impact on food security if we were capable of doubling this productivity and this level of production.

Secondly, we can continue and continuously increase the quality and the impact of our action in the ground and, thirdly, we can commit, both individually as well as collectively, to build momentum for change. This momentum should lead to a decisive mobilisation at the political level and it should also encourage the scientific community to embark on further agricultural research and actually make it a priority. It is for all of these reasons, ladies and gentlemen, that I am truly convinced that in order to achieve the zero hunger goal and all the other goals, for that matter, we absolutely need to transform our food systems and place smallholder farmers at the very centre of our action.

We are very glad to be able to cooperate with all of you attending this event here so that this plan of transformation can become a sustainable reality for us all. Thank you.