

**The 50th Session of the Committee on World
Food Security (CFS)**

Recorded Statement by

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President

IFAD

Excellencies,

Dear colleagues,

Ladies and gentlemen,

1. I regret that I cannot be with you **in person** today due to a **last minute** commitment at the G-20 Ministerial meetings and let me wish you **ALL** a very fruitful session.
2. At the **opening** of this 50th session, the **state of world** food security and nutrition is grim.
3. Let me ask you to **consider** -- can we feed **everyone** in the **world** at this time of multiple crises?
4. And, as importantly, can we **do so** in a **way** that **ensures** our children and grandchildren will **ALSO** be able to feed themselves?
5. I believe that **we can**, and that **we must**.
6. But we will **only** succeed if we are **willing** to take **bold measures** and address the **underlying** and **systemic** problems within our food systems.
7. Today's food crisis is **not only** the result of the war in Ukraine, **or of** the COVID pandemic, **or of** climate change. **It is also** the **result** of underinvestment, the overall structure of food systems and glaring inequalities. For example, small-scale farmers receive on average **just**

6.5 cents of every dollar for the value of the food they produce¹.

8. We **must** address **immediate needs**, but **NOT** at the cost of investing in **longer term** solutions. We **CANNOT** continue to move **from crisis to crisis**.
9. Instead, we must **focus our efforts** to **build the resilience** of the world's **3 billion rural people** to the **full range of the threats** they are facing – from climate to conflict, from income shocks to food insecurity.
10. Small-scale producers are **KEY** to reversing the alarming trends we are seeing across the world. They are **remarkably** productive considering the challenges they face. For example, small farms produce around **one-third of global food calories** on **less than 11 per cent** of the farmland². Small farms also **support greater biodiversity** than large farms.³
11. So, what do **WE** need to do **differently** to improve food security and nutrition in 2023? **And** in 2024. **And** in 2025...
12. **First**, we need **much more** investment in climate change adaptation targeted at small-scale farmers. Currently,

¹ Oxfam, 2018. Ripe for change: Ending human suffering in supermarket supply chains. https://oi-files-d8-prod.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/file_attachments/cr-ripe-for-change-supermarket-supply-chains-210618-en.pdf.

² RDR 2021 (see table 10).

³ Ricciardi V, Mehrabi Z, Wittman H, et al, 2021. Higher yields and more biodiversity on smaller farms. Nature Sustainability, 4, 651–657.

small-scale agriculture receive **LESS** than 2 per cent of global climate finance.⁴ This has to change.

13. At IFAD, **all of our work** is looked at through a climate lens. **90 per cent** of our climate finance is dedicated to **adaptation**. **Many of our** climate adaptation approaches involve **nature-based solutions** -- that is, **using ecosystem functions** to protect **biodiversity** and build **resilience** to climate change.
14. Second, we need to **support** small-scale producers and rural SMEs so they can get their **products to markets**. That means investing in better roads, better storage facilities, and better services in rural areas. And we need to ensure that markets fairly reward them for their work.
15. Third, we must ensure that rural micro, small and medium enterprises (SMEs) can meet their full potential and generate jobs, especially for young people. Rural SMEs need financing, facilities and training so that they can help build food systems that produce prosperity for rural people. These priorities are at the heart of IFAD's work with the private sector.
16. Today's problems are complex and the challenges interconnected. Our only hope for success is to work together.

⁴ IFAD and Climate Policy Initiative study (2020): Examining the Climate Finance Gap for Small-Scale Agriculture: <https://www.ifad.org/en/web/knowledge/-/publication/examining-the-climate-finance-gap-for-small-scale-agriculture>

17. That why the CFS is so important.
18. The CFS has played a vital role over the years in bringing us all together and in promoting the policies we need to achieve a world free of hunger. At this challenging time, let us agree on bold actions, and the necessary funding required.
19. IFAD will continue to support and share our work with the CFS. We will continue to bring our knowledge on what works -- for small-scale farmers and for other rural workers in IFAD's programs and projects. .
20. . Working together, we can make a difference.
21. We can – and we must -- achieve a world where there is food security and nutrition for all.
22. Thank you.