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CFS HIGH-LEVEL SPECIAL EVENT ON
STRENGTHENING GLOBAL GOVERNANCE OF
FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

Remarks by
Gilbert Houngbo

President
International Fund for Agricultural
Development (IFAD)

Virtual event
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Excellencies,
Honourable Delegates,
Colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. Last year, when we met for the annual CFS Week, progress to end hunger had already stalled. Every day, 690 million people went to bed hungry. And lack of momentum on SDG2 was putting the entire Agenda 2030 at risk.
2. Today, in addition to the recurrent challenges of climate change, fragility and economic slowdowns, we are faced with the staggering impact of Covid-19. We have already stated in SOFI 2020 that up to another 132 million people may go hungry in 2020 from the economic recession brought on by the pandemic.
3. So the stakes are much higher. And the goal of ending hunger seems more elusive than

ever. And yet we are all more determined than ever.

4. The pandemic has shone a spotlight on just how much the world relies on small-scale farmers, who produce half of all our food calories.
5. It has revealed the cost of decades of under-investment in agriculture.
6. And it has underscored the need to restructure our food systems.
7. We need food systems that are sustainable, climate-adapted, nutritious, inclusive, resilient and efficient.
8. The political will needs to be enhanced. For too long, investment in agriculture has been an after-thought. When IFAD was established in 1977, agriculture accounted for 15-20 per

cent of total ODA. Since that time, it has dropped to less than 5 per cent.

9. We need to harness knowledge to scale-up solutions quickly including digital technologies to transform the agricultural sector in developing countries.
10. Towards this I am pleased to announce that we have gone live with the IFAD-sponsored on-line database of CFS recommendations and policy products – promising a better adoption of these through national and local policy changes – to support our investments in rural transformation.
11. However, I am reminded here of the investment gap in the agriculture sector. In fact, the Ceres 2030 report has just been released. It reveals that additional USD 14 billion a year on average are needed until 2030 to end hunger, double the incomes of 545 million small-scale farmers, and limit

agricultural emissions in line with the Paris climate agreement. This means roughly doubling the amount of aid given for food security and nutrition each year.

12. Thus, building inclusive and resilient food systems is one of the most vital investment governments can make to end hunger and poverty.
13. Investing in long-term resilience and sustainability may seem to cost more up-front. But, in the long run, it is much cheaper, efficient than responding to emergencies and crises.

Ladies and gentlemen,

14. The road to global food security and nutrition passes through rural areas. It must. This is where most of our food gets produced. And this is where most of the poor and hungry live.

15. More than ending hunger and poverty, our goal is to transform rural areas. In this way, all citizens can enjoy a decent life where no one is left behind.

16. Thank you.