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Remarks by Mr. Gilbert Houngbo

President

International Fund for Agricultural Development  
(IFAD)



climate change and

13. To ensure no-one is left behind, we must champion rural women and ensure rural women have equal access to resources and financing, and rights to their land. We must also address the marginalization of groups indigenous peoples and persons with disabilities.

14. And ,  
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youth aged 15-24 live in developing countries<sup>3</sup>.

15. Too often, young people are marginalized and excluded from decent employment and positions of authority and responsibility.

16. In Africa, where more than half the population is rural, agriculture is expected to remain the biggest source of jobs for the foreseeable future.

17. Rural economies that offer a range of employment options can provide opportunities for the entrepreneurial energy of youth, enabling them to be an engine of growth while also contributing to better food security and nutrition.

Ladies and gentlemen,

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18. Let me conclude by thanking the Commission for your leadership in taking forward the Programme of Action of the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD). And specifically, for dedicating this annual session to discussions linking population with Food Security and Nutrition, and Sustainable Development.
19. I wish you all fruitful deliberations in the coming days.
20. Thank you.