

## Great Green Wall ministerial meeting

7 September 2020

**Talking Points for IFAD President, Gilbert F. Houngbo** (check against delivery)

The focus of our intervention is on sustainable agriculture, increasing resilience to climate change, enhancing food security, creating jobs and supporting COVID recovery, which is very much in line with the objectives of the Great Green Wall Initiative. I would like to make six important points:

1. **It is my pleasure to share with distinguished Ministers and other participating entities, IFAD's commitment** to work with the Green Climate Fund Secretariat on an umbrella programme to make the Great Green Wall a reality. This programme will provide a vision and a concrete pathway for transformative investments, sustainable impact and new opportunities.
2. **We have benefited from the leadership of Ibrahim Thiaw, UNCCD Executive Secretary, and Monique Barbut, Special Envoy for France,** to propose a programmatic approach that is innovative and that matches the ambition of the Great Green Wall Initiative.
3. **At this point, we have a draft programme that will be improved and finalised thanks to your guidance.** Our objective is a submission at the 28th session of the GCF Board.
4. In addition, we are finalising two multi-country programmes that fit very well in the objectives of the Great Green Wall and can help demonstrate how we can operate:
  - **the Inclusive Green Financing Initiative**, driving the transformation to a climate-resilient financial system for small-scale producers; and
  - **Africa Integrated Climate Risk Financing Programme**, building the resilience of small-scale producers to climate change impacts in Africa – Sahel.
5. **We stand ready to facilitate consultations to firm up this programmatic approach** with Great Green Wall countries, focal points, National Designated Entities, Accredited Entities, and all key stakeholders.
6. **The key actions to realise the vision of this approach are as follows:**
  - **To be innovative** and to add value to the work done by each individual country;
  - **To support countries in mobilizing** all the range of Green Climate Fund resources and financial tools (including grants, loans, equity and

guarantees) to support adaptation as well as the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic;

- **To enhance the work already done by Great Green Wall entities** and avoid duplication;
- **To enhance the participation of the private sector**;
- **To accelerate the consultative and inclusive process during the upcoming months** for the development and implementation of the programmatic approach;
- **To build on the analysis and evidence** recently released by United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

We look forward to your guidance.

Thank you.