

FAO address to the IOM Council

1 December 2021, Geneva, 15.00 – 18.00 CET

Excellencies, Distinguished delegates and Colleagues,

- In recent years, we have witnessed a growing importance and interdependence between agriculture, rural development, food security and migration, ultimately impacting and informing the work of our organizations, but more so, creating new opportunities for inter-agency collaboration building on FAO's joint global MoU with IOM. Allow me to share a couple of them.
- Together in the UN Network on Migration, we are actively supporting implementation of a number of thematic priority areas with links to agriculture and the rural livelihoods of migrants.
- We are also advancing on our collaboration across the Humanitarian, Development Peace Nexus, in furtherance of achieving durable solutions for the forcibly displaced.
- To this end, we are looking forward to IOM's contribution to the Global Network against Food Crises, and its invaluable contribution of displacement data to the yearly report.
- The African Climate Mobility Initiative is another example of our close collaboration, where we act as Co-Chairs of the work stream on Rural Areas, together with IOM and CGIAR.
- Joint resource mobilization efforts carried out in the context of the Peace Building Fund and the Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund have become increasingly important to our partnership, spurring national and regional engagement and reinforcing the strong connection between our technical areas of work.
- Our joint country-level interventions are increasingly focusing on improving data collection in rural areas highlighting the linkages between migration, forced displacement and climate change, as well as on empowerment of rural communities and boosting their agricultural livelihoods, and the prevention and mitigation of local conflicts.
- As part of our joint efforts on mainstreaming migration, FAO and IOM have recently completed the Toolkit for Integrating Migration into Rural Development Interventions aimed to support international cooperation and development actors working in the rural development sector.
- Reflecting upon the above-mentioned milestones, strengthening our collaboration, must remain a priority.
- We reiterate our enthusiasm and commitment to continuing to work together to ensure sustainable rural livelihoods and food security for migrants, displaced people and returnees all over the world, while harnessing the potential of migration for rural transformation.