

Declaration of the Right to Food Observatory for Latin America and the
Caribbean (RFO-LAC) in the context of the 7th Regional RFO-LAC Meeting

December 6, 2017, Cartagena de Indias; Colombia

The universities that are members of the Right to Food Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean (RFO-LAC), on the occasion of its 7th Regional Meeting, consider a matter of concern the setbacks in the region in the fight against hunger and the increasing rates of overweight and obesity, among others.

In view of this grim scenario, as a network of more than 50 academic institutions, we believe it is essential to continue making efforts to engage social and political actors, and also generate knowledge to facilitate decision-making by governments and parliamentarians in the region on issues related to the Right to Food, on the understanding that essential aspects of this Right include food sovereignty, food and nutrition security, climate change, rural development, and sustainable food systems, with a gender-sensitive approach.

As RFO, we urge States and their governments, legislators, judicial bodies, academia and civil society to ensure the enforceability and justiciability of the Right to Food. Furthermore, we consider imperative that public policy and legislation be developed following a human rights-based approach.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development imposes on us a major challenge and ambitious goals. Without question, the only way to move forward is to work together with parliaments, governments, academia, civil society and international cooperation agencies.

In this context, RFO-LAC members include researchers with extensive experience in research methodology, action, analysis, monitoring and assessment of public policy and legislation, and advising parliamentary commissions in the context of partnerships with the Parliamentary Fronts Against Hunger in Latin America and the Caribbean (PFH) and the Latin American and Caribbean Parliament (PARLATINO).

We would like to take the opportunity to offer governments the technical expertise and capabilities of RFO-LAC member universities and express our interest in joining forces in the fight against the scourge of hunger and malnutrition that is having an effect on our societies' human capital now and will also in the future.

We appreciate and acknowledge the support of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), which has made it possible for academics who are members of this network to take part in the process of developing public policy and legislation in the region.

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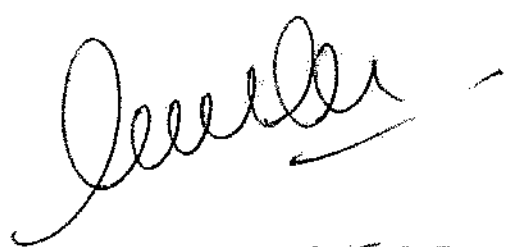
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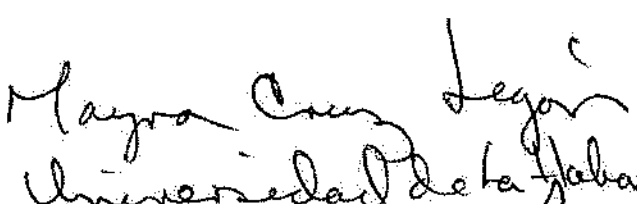

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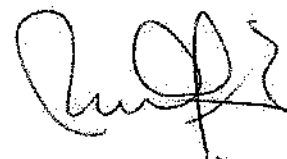

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