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Продовольственная и  
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Organización de las  
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Alimentación y la Agricultura

منظمة  
الأغذية والزراعة  
للأمم المتحدة

# FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

## Thirty-fourth Session

Mexico City, Mexico, 29 February - 3 March 2016

## DRAFT REPORT

### I. Introductory Items

#### *Organization of the Regional Conference*

1. The Thirty-fourth session of the Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean was held in Mexico City (Mexico) from 29 February to 3 March 2016. The Regional Conference senior officers' meeting was held between 29 February and the morning session of 1 March, while the ministerial meeting was held from the afternoon session of 1 March to 3 March 2016. Representatives from xx Member Nations attended, including xx ministers, xx deputy ministers and high-level officials as heads of delegation.

#### *Inaugural Ceremonies*

2. The senior officers' meeting was opened by Mr Raúl Benítez, Assistant Director-General and FAO Regional Representative for Latin America and the Caribbean, who thanked the Government and people of the United Mexican States for their hospitality, welcomed Member Nation delegations and noted the new role of Regional Conferences in guiding FAO's work.

#### *Election of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons and Appointment of the Rapporteur*

3. The Regional Conference unanimously elected as Chairperson Mr José Eduardo Calzada, Secretary of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food of Mexico, who expressed thanks for his appointment and welcomed delegates to the meeting. Mr Godfrey Eneas, Ambassador of the Bahamas to FAO, and Mr José Luis Molinas Vega, Minister and Executive

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Secretary of the Technical Secretariat for Economic and Social Development Planning of Paraguay, were elected as Vice-Chairpersons.

4. The Regional Conference unanimously elected as Rapporteur Mr Claudio Rozenca, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Argentina to FAO, and Mr Julius Ross, Official from the Ministry of Agriculture, Lands and Fisheries of Antigua and Barbuda.

#### ***Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable***

5. The Regional Conference adopted the Agenda and Timetable.
6. The Regional Conference agreed to give the floor to the spokespersons, elected by civil society organizations during the consultation preceding the current session, in the order in which the floor was requested, as an expression of interest in the participation of civil society and non-governmental organizations in the work of FAO and in line with the experience of the previous (33rd) session of the Regional Conference in 2014.

#### ***Statement by the Chairperson of the 34th Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean***

7. Mexico's Secretary of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food, Mr José Eduardo Calzada, welcomed all participants, gave thanks for his appointment as Chairperson of the 34th session of the Regional Conference and stressed that the meeting was an expression of commitment to sustainable development.

## **II. Global and Regional Policy and Regulatory Matters**

8. The Regional Conference considered the following important policy issues for the region:
  - a) food and nutrition security: from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
  - b) transformation of the rural sector: rural territorial development, family farming, social and economic inclusion and innovation;
  - c) sustainable use of natural resources, risk management and climate change adaptation in the new framework of SDGs.

#### ***Challenges and Perspectives for Food and Nutrition Security in Latin America and the Caribbean: from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)***

The Regional Conference:

9. Acknowledged that, in spite of the great progress made, efforts needed to be intensified to provide development opportunities to Latin American and Caribbean people still suffering from extreme poverty, hunger and other forms of malnutrition.
10. Stressed that implementation of the new 2030 Agenda set out in the SDGs and the Framework for Action of the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2), as well as regional undertakings, such as the Latin America and the Caribbean without Hunger 2025 initiative and the 2025 Plan for Food Security, Nutrition and Hunger Eradication of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC FNS Plan), provided a favourable framework for achieving a region free from hunger and poverty within a generation.
11. Took note of the alignment between the new SDGs set out in the 2030 Agenda and the FAO strategic objectives and results framework, and urged the Organization to continue focusing the implementation of its work programme on country priorities in 2016-17.
12. Called on FAO to continue supporting the implementation of such global and regional commitments, as well as related public policies.

13. Called on FAO to prioritize its action in countries and regions that posed the greatest challenges in terms of hunger and rural poverty, paying special attention to the targets of the new SDGs.
14. Called on FAO to support countries with capacity-building in order to develop indicators and information systems on SDGs at the regional and national levels.
15. Called on FAO, in cooperation with other international organizations, to promote mechanisms for facilitating intra-regional agrifood trade.

***Challenges for Transforming the Rural Sector in Latin America and the Caribbean: Rural Territorial Development, Family Farming, Social and Economic Inclusion and Innovation***

***The Regional Conference:***

16. Highlighted the contribution of the Regional Initiative on Family Farming and Territorial Development to technological, social and institutional innovations to achieve food and nutrition security and eradicate rural poverty in the region.
17. Called for continued support for the development of inter-institutional coordination mechanisms and governance to facilitate the interaction of policies and dialogue between governments, civil society and the private sector to achieve social and economic transformation of the rural sector in Latin America and the Caribbean.
18. Called for strengthening of South-South and triangular cooperation strategies to develop sustainable agrifood systems and to reduce rural poverty in the most vulnerable countries and regions of Latin America and the Caribbean.
19. Stressed the importance of furthering work on fisheries and aquaculture, with particular emphasis on artisanal fisheries, the forestry sector and communities whose livelihoods depend on forests.
20. Requested FAO to reinforce work on social protection linked with sustainable development.
21. Recommended that countries strengthen family farming and rural development policies based on a territorial approach, paying special attention to the interaction of policies for sustainable production; disaster risk management; agricultural insurance; technical assistance; rural extension and communication; social protection; and farm and non-farm employment in territorial development programmes, in order to help meet the SDGs.

***Challenges for Sustainable Use of Natural Resources, Risk Management and Climate Change Adaptation in Latin America and the Caribbean in the New Framework of Sustainable Development Goals***

**The Regional Conference:**

22. Requested FAO to promote fora for policy dialogue among countries in the region in order to determine concerted action for fostering better coordination between climate change adaptation activities and disaster risk reduction activities, through the exchange of experiences, practices, knowledge and technology.
23. In accordance with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, agreed on the need to complement national support given to countries by the Organization within a regional context, for extreme event prevention, mitigation and preparedness, placing particular emphasis on vulnerable populations such as smallholders, family farmers and artisanal fishers.
24. Encouraged continued strengthening of national plant and animal health and food safety systems, and the development of programmes to strengthen national efforts for prevention, control and eradication of invasive species, pests and diseases.
25. Called for work to continue on the preparation of guidelines to help formulate policies to promote all three dimensions of sustainable agriculture (social, economic and environmental), based on

countries' practical experience, promoting the development of a regional programme aimed at exchanging experiences and lessons learned by countries in this area.

26. Took note of the conclusions and recommendations of the Regional Seminar on Agroecology in Latin America and the Caribbean and urged FAO to continue working in this way.

### **III. Programme and Budget Matters**

#### ***Report on FAO Activities in the Region 2014-15 and Results and Priorities for FAO in the Latin America and Caribbean Region and Regional Strategic Review***

The Regional Conference:

27. Welcomed the action taken and results achieved in 2014 and 2015 in addressing regional challenges.
  - a. Acknowledged FAO support to the CELAC working groups on family farming and the advancement of women and the 2025 CELAC FNS Plan, and called for work to continue in this direction.
  - b. Endorsed the work achieved in the area of South-South cooperation and resource mobilization; the support provided to Parliamentary Fronts against Hunger in developing legal frameworks for the right to food; the contribution made by a regional strategy on food losses and waste; the impetus given to the regional network of public food marketing and supply systems; and the support provided to platforms for policy dialogue on family farming, such as the MERCOSUR Specialized Meeting on Family Farming (REAF) and national family farming committees.
28. Underlined the need for continuity in the strategic direction of the Organization and welcomed the strategic planning process under way. It took note of the full alignment between the new SDGs contained in Agenda 2030 and FAO strategic objectives.
29. Supported the adjustments to the regional initiatives for the 2016-17 biennium: (i) support for the Latin America and the Caribbean without Hunger initiative; (ii) family farming and territorial development in rural areas; and (iii) sustainable use of natural resources, disaster risk management and climate change adaptation.
30. Took note of the need for further implementation of the regional initiatives in such areas as: fisheries and aquaculture, forestry, agro-ecology and crop diversification. It acknowledged the exceptional challenges facing Haiti and recommended continuing to develop specific actions to address them.
31. Welcomed the strategic review exercise performed by FAO in Latin America and the Caribbean and took note of the changes identified in trends and their use for planning the forthcoming four-year period 2018-21.

#### ***Decentralization and Decentralized Offices Network and Multi-year Programme of Work for the Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean***

The Regional Conference:

32. Acknowledged the expediency of updating the coverage of FAO offices in the region, in order to adapt to current developments and requirements and achieve greater efficiency in the implementation of strategic objectives.
33. Generally endorsed the proposed principles and general criteria for reviewing the coverage of FAO offices in the region and supported the Director-General's initiatives for the aforesaid principles and criteria.
34. Examined the changes recommended for Latin America and the Caribbean and suggested as valid options, for consideration by Member Nations, multiple accreditation offices with an FAO

representative located in another country, or partnership and liaison offices. This would ensure a cooperation programme with more predictable and long-term resources which, in turn, could generate synergies between planned activities and mobilize additional resources from other potentially interested donors.