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Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Organisation des Nations
Unies pour l'alimentation
et l'agriculture

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сельскохозяйственная организация
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Organización de las
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منظمة
الغذية والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

CONFERENCE

Fortieth Session

Rome, 3-8 July 2017

**Report of the 34th Session of the Regional Conference for Latin America
and the Caribbean (Mexico City, Mexico, 29 February-3 March 2016)**

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**LARC/16/REP
REPORT**

**Mexico City
Mexico
29 February to
3 March 2016**

**Thirty-fourth
FAO Regional Conference
for Latin America
and the Caribbean**



**FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED
NATIONS**

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Date and place of FAO Regional Conferences for Latin America and the Caribbean

| | |
|----------------|---|
| First | Quito, Ecuador, 18-25 September 1949 |
| Second | Montevideo, Uruguay, 1-12 December 1950 |
| Third | Buenos Aires, Argentina, 1-10 September 1954 |
| Fourth | Santiago, Chile, 19-30 November 1956 |
| Fifth | San José, Costa Rica, 12-21 November 1958 |
| Sixth | Mexico City, Mexico, 9-20 August 1960 |
| Seventh | Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 17-27 November 1962 |
| Eighth | Viña del Mar, Chile, 13-29 March 1965 |
| Ninth | Punta del Este, Uruguay, 5-16 December 1966 |
| Tenth | Kingston, Jamaica, 2-13 December 1968 |
| Eleventh | Caracas, Venezuela, 12-20 October 1970 |
| Twelfth | Cali, Colombia, 21 August - 2 September 1972 |
| Thirteenth | Panama City, Panama, 12-23 August 1974 |
| Fourteenth | Lima, Peru, 21-29 April 1976 |
| Fifteenth | Montevideo, Uruguay, 8-19 August 1978 |
| Sixteenth | Havana, Cuba, 26 August - 6 September 1980 |
| Seventeenth | Managua, Nicaragua, 20 August - 10 September 1982 |
| Eighteenth | Buenos Aires, Argentina, 6-15 August 1984 |
| Nineteenth | Bridgetown, Barbados, 5-13 August 1986 |
| Twentieth | Recife, Brazil, 2-7 October 1988 |
| Twenty-first | Santiago, Chile, 9-13 July 1990 |
| Twenty-second | Montevideo, Uruguay, 28 September - 2 October 1992 |
| Twenty-third | San Salvador, El Salvador, 29 August - 2 September 1994 |
| Twenty-fourth | Asunción, Paraguay, 2-6 July 1996 |
| Twenty-fifth | Nassau, Bahamas, 16-20 June 1998 |
| Twenty-sixth | Merida, Mexico, 10-14 April 2000 |
| Twenty-seventh | Havana, Cuba, 22-26 April 2002 |
| Twenty-eighth | Guatemala City, Guatemala, 26-30 April 2004 |
| Twenty-ninth | Caracas, Venezuela, 24-28 April 2006 |
| Thirtieth | Brasilia, Brazil, 14-18 April 2008 |
| Thirty-first | Panama City, Panama, 26-30 April 2010 |
| Thirty-second | Buenos Aires, Argentina, 26-30 March 2012 |
| Thirty-third | Santiago, Chile, 6-9 May 2014 |
| Thirty-fourth | Mexico City, Mexico, 29 February - 3 March 2016 |

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SUMMARY OF THE MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS

Matters for the Attention of the Council

The Council is invited to review and ratify the programmatic and budgetary issues.

Programmatic issues, paragraphs 38 a), 38 b), 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 53, 55, 57, 59

Matters for the Attention of the Conference

The Conference is invited to review and ratify the global and regional policy and regulatory matters

Global and regional policy and regulatory matters, paragraphs 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 26, 27, 28, 29, 31, 32, 33, 34, 37

INTRODUCTORY ITEMS AND SUMMARY OF DELIBERATIONS

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 32 Member Nations attended, including 25 ministers, 13 deputy ministers and high-level officials as heads of delegation.

Inaugural Ceremonies

2. The Regional Conference was opened by Mr Enrique Peña Nieto, President of the United Mexican States, along with Mr José Graziano da Silva, Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The President affirmed his country's commitment to eradicating hunger and stressed the importance of the Regional Conference for moving together towards more inclusive, poverty-free rural development with food and nutrition security.
3. 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

4. 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 Secretary of the Technical Secretariat for Economic and Social Development Planning of Paraguay, were elected as Vice-Chairpersons.
5. The Regional Conference unanimously elected as Rapporteur Mr Claudio Rozencwaig, Permanent Representative of the Argentine Republic 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

6. The Regional Conference adopted the Agenda and Timetable.
7. 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 Director-General of FAO

8. In his statement to the Regional Conference, the Director General of FAO, José Graziano da Silva, stressed the challenges facing Latin America and the Caribbean in working towards the targets set out in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). He highlighted the new efforts required to maintain and further the progress achieved over the past two decades in fighting hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition, promoting policies to support family farming and rural development,

and encouraging strategies for climate change adaptation, risk management and sustainable use of natural resources.

Statement by the Independent Chairperson of FAO Council

9. As Mr Wilfred J. Ngirwa, Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council, had been unable to attend the Regional Conference, his statement was made available to delegates.

Statement by the Chair of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS)

10. Ambassador Amira Daoud Hassan Gornass, CFS Chair and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Sudan to FAO, referred to the progress achieved by CFS over the past two years and some of its main topics of discussion, calling on the various actors to become involved.

Statement by the Chairperson of the 33rd FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean

11. The Chairperson of the 33rd session of the FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean, Mr Carlos Furche, Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Chile, highlighted progress achieved over the past two years in following up the agreements made at the 33rd session. This shows that Latin America and the Caribbean are fully committed to achieving FAO strategic objectives.

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

12. Mexico's Secretary of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food, Mr José Eduardo Calzada, welcomed 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 the region's commitment to the development of agriculture, especially peasant family farming. He also underlined the importance of all sides working constructively and contributing to the development of agriculture in rural areas of Latin American and Caribbean Member Nations.

II. Global and Regional Policy and Regulatory Matters

13. 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:

14. 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, obesity and other forms of malnutrition.
15. Stressed the importance of the new 2030 Agenda set out in the SDGs.
16. Reiterated the usefulness of 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), which

provided a favourable framework for achieving a region free from hunger and poverty within a generation.

17. Acknowledged 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.
18. Urged FAO to continue supporting the implementation of the aforesaid global and regional commitments, as well as related public policies.
19. Requested 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.
20. 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. It also invited countries to boost their national statistical systems and provide updated information.
21. Urged FAO to highlight the role of forests, fisheries and aquaculture in tackling food and nutrition insecurity and in facilitating trade with consumers.
22. Called on FAO, in cooperation with other international organizations, to promote mechanisms for intra-regional trade in agrifood, fishery and aquaculture products and to facilitate links with consumers.

Update on the Committee on World Food Security (CFS)

The Regional Conference:

23. Endorsed the report on the activities of CFS over the period 2014-2015, its Multi-Year Programme of Work for the biennium 2016-17 and the guidance note for the selection of future CFS activities.
24. Requested that implementation of policies agreed within CFS be encouraged, including the recently adopted Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems and the Framework for Action for Food Security and Nutrition in Protracted Crises, as well as other instruments already in use in the region, such as the voluntary guidelines to support the progressive realization of the right to adequate food and voluntary guidelines on the responsible governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forests in the context of national food security.

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:

25. 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.
26. Called for continued support for the development of inter-institutional coordination mechanisms and governance to facilitate the interaction of policies and dialogue among sectors and between governments, civil society and the private sector to achieve social and economic transformation of the rural sector in Latin America and the Caribbean, while preserving country leadership and paying particular attention to women, youth and indigenous peoples.
27. Called for strengthening of South-South and triangular cooperation strategies to develop healthy and sustainable agrifood systems and to reduce rural poverty in the most vulnerable countries and regions of Latin America and the Caribbean.
28. Stressed the importance of furthering work on fisheries and aquaculture, with particular emphasis on artisanal fisheries as a differentiated policy, in view of the fact that fishery and aquaculture resources make a major contribution to food and nutrition security by helping to eradicate hunger and poverty.

29. Highlighted the value of the forestry sector and of the communities whose livelihoods depend on forests, for achieving inclusive and sustainable rural development.
30. Requested FAO to reinforce work on social protection linked with sustainable development.
31. Recommended that countries strengthen family farming and rural development policies based on a territorial agro-ecology approach, placing special emphasis on the interaction of policies for sustainable production and responsible consumption, 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:

32. 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.
33. In accordance with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, highlighted the need to complement national support given to countries by the Organization within a regional context, for prevention, mitigation and response to extreme weather and human-induced events, placing particular emphasis on vulnerable populations such as smallholders, family farmers, foresters, artisanal fishers, women, youth and indigenous peoples.
34. 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.
35. Called for work to continue on the preparation of guidelines to help formulate ecosystem policies to promote all three dimensions of sustainable agriculture, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture – 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.
36. Called on FAO to accord greater importance to the value of forests and forest plantations with regard to risk management and climate change adaptation.
37. Took note of the conclusions and recommendations of the Regional Seminar on Agro-ecology in Latin America and the Caribbean and urged FAO to continue working on the issue.

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:

38. Welcomed the action taken and results achieved in 2014-2015 in addressing regional challenges, in particular through the three Regional Initiatives adopted by the 33rd FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean.
 - 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.

39. 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 set out in the 2030 Agenda and FAO strategic objectives.
40. Supported the adjustments to the Regional Initiatives for the 2016-2017 biennium and requested technical cooperation resources, in particular: (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.
41. 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.
42. 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.
43. Recognized the importance of collaboration between the Rome-based United Nations Agencies, and urged FAO to work jointly with them in fighting hunger and rural poverty. It also called for closer FAO collaboration with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the World Health Organization's Pan American Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) to strengthen the SDG monitoring process. It also urged FAO to develop a mechanism for monitoring programs jointly with other international organizations, in order to facilitate coordination between different agencies.

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

The Regional Conference:

44. 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.
45. Broadly endorsed the proposed principles and general criteria for reviewing the coverage of FAO offices in the region promoted by the Director-General.
46. 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.

Subregional consultation results

47. The three subregions confirmed the results and priorities for the 2016-2017 biennium, indicating the following characteristics specific to each subregion.
48. The Caribbean Subregion:
 - a) Supported the programme developed by FAO over the past biennium and requested that other issues and sectors not covered be addressed comprehensively;
 - b) Stressed the importance of the three general areas of work planned by FAO in the subregion for the forthcoming biennium, including climate change and disaster risk management and

other areas, such as data and statistics to improve the measurement of indicators and of various marketing measures to facilitate market access for all;

- c) Highlighted the specific characteristics that must be considered when addressing food and nutrition security challenges in small countries, most of which were Caribbean island states, and called for these challenges to be met in the context of country programming frameworks agreed with FAO, FAO strategic objectives and other relevant policy frameworks. In this context, it called for greater emphasis to be placed on partnerships between different actors inside and outside the subregion to build synergies, mobilize resources and maximize impact;
- d) Stressed the importance of continuing to recognize Haiti as a special case and reiterated the importance of developing a broader assistance programme and ensure better coordination and mobilization of resources for Haiti's food and agriculture sector to reduce food insecurity in specific areas of the country.

49. The Mesoamerica Subregion:

- a) Endorsed the three priority areas for FAO technical cooperation: (i) food and nutrition security; (ii) family farming and territorial development; and (iii) sustainable management of natural resources, risk management and climate change adaptation. Within the three priority areas, it focused on the following issues;
 - a) food banks; nutrition education and fighting malnutrition; strengthening information and statistical systems; reducing post-harvest losses; and supporting artisanal fishery programmes;
 - b) policies and programmes to help rural communities to build stronger roots and reduce rural migration; strengthening the social and economic inclusion of rural youth and women and indigenous peoples in rural development programmes; strengthening agroecological production systems; supporting fishery and aquaculture programmes; strengthening research and technological innovation, in particular collaboration between Central American universities; and inter-agency coordination and linkages for territorial development;
 - c) smallholder irrigation systems; strengthening risk management and early warning systems for climate and health risks; improving farmers' access to agricultural insurance; continued support for improving the resilience of groups affected by weather events in countries within Central America's Dry Corridor; implementation of voluntary guidelines on responsible access to land, fisheries and forests;
- b) Stressed the importance of inter-agency collaboration promoted by FAO with other organizations, including the World Food Programme (WFP), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), the International Atomic Energy Organization (IAEA), the Regional International Organization for Plant Protection and Animal Health (OIRSA), the Central American Integration System (SICA), the Central American Agricultural Council (CAC), the Central America Fisheries and Aquaculture Organization (OSPESCA) and the Central American Parliament (PARLACEN).

50. The South America Subregion:

- a) Acknowledged the subregion's progress in the area of food and nutrition security, reaffirming its commitment to the eradication of hunger, poverty and malnutrition in all its forms, including overweight and obesity, as well as its structural causes, such as social, economic and cultural inequality, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- b) Requested that FAO support implementation of the 2030 Agenda, in particular SDS monitoring, facilitating the development or strengthening of appropriate measuring and monitoring systems;

- c) Acknowledged FAO's key role in the subregion and its important work during the 2014-15 biennium, urging FAO to continue efforts to achieve food and nutrition security using a support strategy that considers diversity. It also stressed the importance of South-South cooperation and the various interregional initiatives, including the PetroCaribe Energy Cooperation Agreement and the MERCOSUR Specialized Meeting on Family Farming, calling for them to be strengthened in the light of current challenges, such as climate change and pests and hazards to plant health;
- d) Urged FAO to boost its work in the area of natural resource management, in particular forest and fishery management, linking within the field of climate change: risk management associated with forests, fisheries, aquaculture and artisanal fisheries from a sustainable development and ecosystem perspective, taking a regional approach to fishery and forest governance;
- e) Reaffirmed its commitment to family, peasant and indigenous farming and urban and peri-urban agriculture, stating that prominence needed to be given to the democratization of systems and expansion of supply networks, including organic, agroecological, fishery and aquaculture production, and promoting models to improve the distribution of benefits among small-scale producers and consumers;
- f) Recommended paying attention to the excessive subsidies given by developed countries to fisheries, which lead to overfishing in the region and impairment of fishery and aquaculture resources.

Summary of the Recommendations of Regional Technical Commissions

The Regional Conference:

51. Reaffirmed FAO's role in the technical secretariats of the various regional commissions and recommended improving communication and information mechanisms for the Commissions' conclusions and recommendations, with a view to improving their national implementation. It welcomed the recommendations of the Latin American and Caribbean Forestry Commission (LACFC), the Commission on Livestock Development for Latin America and the Caribbean (CLDLAC), the Commission for Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture for Latin America and the Caribbean (COPECAALC) and the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC), and highlighted the contribution of forests, livestock, fisheries and aquaculture to reducing poverty and food insecurity, as well as to sustaining livelihoods, especially those of family farmers.
52. Acknowledged that, despite the slowing rate of forest loss in the region, deforestation and forest degradation were still one of the most important environmental problems facing Latin America and the Caribbean.
53. Endorsed the LACFC recommendation to analyse the contribution of forests (including agrosilvopastoral systems) to food security, family farming, territorial development, sustainable use of natural resources, climate change adaptation and risk management, both financially and in terms of externalities. It also requested boosting the development of cross-cutting agendas linking together agricultural, forestry and environmental issues as part of a holistic territorial approach, and recommended facilitating access to international markets for agricultural products from sustainable systems.
54. Noted the opportunities provided to the region by growing global demand for eggs, meat and dairy products, as well as the challenges that remained for ensuring that these opportunities were seized in a way that included all livestock stakeholders.
55. Welcomed the CLDLAC recommendation, Mesoamerican Chapter, to support strengthening of national governance with a view to complementing efforts to secure stronger policies in the areas of sustainable livestock development, family livestock production and programmes for the prevention, control and eradication of transboundary diseases. To this end, it encouraged support from existing bodies to be considered, including the CELAC working group on family farming, national family

farming committees and South-South cooperation mechanisms. Finally, it recommended that, together with OIRSA, OIE, IICA and other relevant organizations, mechanisms for determining the opportunity costs of controlling transboundary diseases and zoonoses be strengthened with a view to prioritizing investment and funding of programmes for the prevention, control and eradication of diseases of regional concern.

56. Took note that, despite current over-exploitation of the region's fishery resources, it was possible to increase fishery sector production and its contribution to food security, income and livelihoods by investing in regional fisheries management and aquaculture development.
57. Acknowledged the improvements in the functioning and performance of WECAFC and its increased collaboration with the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) and OSPESCA. It also took note of the potential benefits for the region if WECAFC were to be transformed into a regional fisheries management organization (RFMO), and agreed that an RFMO could develop very positive synergies among members to boost effective regional cooperation in fisheries. It requested that the sixteenth session of WECAFC consider the possibility of providing adequate resources to support the process of transforming WECAFC into an RFMO, should members so desire.
58. Noted that, to varying degrees, virtually every country in the region engaged in inland fishing and aquaculture, which played a key role in food and nutrition security, poverty eradication, job creation and boosting territorial economies.
59. Endorsed the recommendations of COPESCAALC to boost cooperation with countries in preparing and implementing fishery and aquaculture policies with a view to strengthening rural territorial development, including these sectors in the CELAC FSN Plan. It supported efforts to disseminate both the voluntary guidelines for securing sustainable small-scale fisheries and FAO guidelines for aquaculture in countries of the region. It further supported assistance with implementing the guidelines, coupled with strengthening aquaculture and fishery extension services and partnering and organization of fishers and fish farmers. Technical assistance was also requested from Member Nations on measures to combat illegal unreported and unregulated fishing. Finally, it agreed to prioritize support for strengthening: health and safety systems for fishery and aquaculture products; monitoring, control and surveillance mechanisms to ensure sustainable use of resources; and instruments to increase the resilience of fishing and fish-farming communities to climate change impacts. It also agreed to prioritize the development of national and regional strategies to increase fish and seafood consumption, with an emphasis on including these products in school feeding and public procurement programmes.

IV. Other matters

Follow-up to the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2)

60. The Conference took note of the follow-up report on the successful ICN2 held in Rome in November 2014, which adopted by acclamation the Rome Declaration on Nutrition and its companion Framework for Action. The Conference urged FAO to continue supporting Member Nations in implementing and monitoring these agreements. It also noted the follow-up action taken since ICN2 to strengthen nutrition issues in FAO bodies and structures, to ensure support from the United Nations General Assembly for ICN2 outcomes and the adoption of the Decade of Action on Nutrition, and to improve interagency coordination and collaboration on nutrition, including overweight and obesity.
61. The Regional Conference took into consideration the recommendation for partners to make voluntary contributions to support FAO's nutrition work in the region.

Date and place of the 35th Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean

62. The Regional Conference welcomed the generous offer by the Government of the Bahamas to host the 35th session of the FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean, to be held in 2018 and recommended accepting the offer.

Signature of Agreements

63. Technical cooperation framework agreement between PAHO/WHO and FAO aimed mainly at exchanging knowledge and technical cooperation on agriculture, food and health issues, as well as jointly promoting some of the ICN2 recommendations.
64. Memorandum of understanding between Consumers International and FAO to develop, promote and strengthen joint activities and projects for improving food and nutrition security, in particular working towards full realization of the right to adequate food worldwide.
65. Memorandum of understanding to promote South-South and triangular cooperation between Peru and FAO in order to contribute to capacity-building and facilitate the exchange of and access to information, knowledge, experiences, technology and services from third parties.
66. Within the framework of the meeting held for Delegates and Ministers from Central American countries a Protocol of Intentions was signed between the Organization of Fishing and Aquaculture in Central America (OSPESCA), a member of the Central American Integration System (SICA) and FAO. The aim is to cooperate and coordinate regional activities on fisheries and agriculture for SICA countries.

Special Event on Challenges for the Small Caribbean Islands: Addressing the results of the SAMOA Pathway

67. The delegates celebrated this special event at the FAO Regional Conference and took note of paragraph 61 of the SAMOA pathway road map. Delegates expressed their thanks to FAO Director-General for his renewed and strengthened commitment on the SAMOA pathway and for the leadership from FAO, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DAES) and the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, in their support to achieve food and nutrition security. They also urged FAO to continue to recognize them as small and vulnerable states in the context of the outcomes of the SAMOA pathway, COP21 and SDGs, and to develop and implement a different method of management which takes into account their uniqueness in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Side Event on the Association of FAO and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) for Food Security: Nuclear Applications with Large Impact on the Ground

68. The aim of the event which was essentially technical in nature was to exchange collaboration proposals between FAO, the IAEA and the countries participating in the Conference, on the uses and applications of nuclear instruments to support food security in the region.

Special Event on Agriculture and Public Health: Alliance for an Adequate Diet

69. High-level dialogue was promoted between PAHO/WHO and *Consumers International* to highlight and further the progress and commitments stemming from the Post-2015 Development Agenda and the International Conference on Nutrition in the areas of nutrition and agriculture, in order to tackle malnutrition in all its forms.

Launch of the International Year of Pulses

70. The Event was headed by Mr José Graziano da Silva, FAO Director-General and Mr José Calzada Roviroso, Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food of Mexico. It was stressed that the main aim of the International Year is to promote pulses and their key role in

food and nutrition security in terms of contributing to sustainable food production and providing food and income for millions of farming families.

71. The Regional Conference requested FAO to initiate consultations and formalities for establishing an International Year of artisanal fisheries and aquaculture.

Statement of the Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations Agencies for Food and Agriculture in Rome

72. Monsignor Fernando Chica Arellano delivered a message to the Regional Conference, from His Holiness Pope Francis, highlighting the crucial importance of working with the most vulnerable communities to address the challenges of hunger and poverty in the region. He stressed the need to forge a fairer and more sustainable society that is more attuned to the realities of those that are excluded.

Statement from the Consultation with Social Organizations of Latin America and the Caribbean

73. The Conference agreed to include the statement from the Consultation with Civil Society for the 34th FAO Regional Conference, held in Panama City (Panama) on 19 and 20 February 2016, as an information document. (Appendix C).

Resolution of CARICOM Ministers and Agricultural Sector Representatives in support of Haiti

74. At the end of the Conference, CARICOM Ministers and Heads of Delegation approved a Declaration to express their commitment to work together on the challenges to tackle hunger, poverty and food and nutrition insecurity of the people of Haiti, and the Conference agreed to include the Resolution in the Conference Report (Appendix B).

Recommendations of the Regional Seminar on Agro-ecology in Latin America and the Caribbean

75. The Conference agreed to include the recommendations of the Regional Seminar on Agro-ecology in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Brasilia (Brazil) from 24 to 26 June 2015, as an information document (Appendix D).

Thematic Panels

The ministerial meeting included four thematic panels to provide policy guidelines and enable countries to exchange views and experiences on the points raised in the respective discussion papers submitted by FAO to the Regional Conference. The main themes covered by each panel were as follows:

- a) Panel on *Challenges and Perspectives for Food and Nutrition Security in Latin America and the Caribbean: from the Millennium Development Goals to the Sustainable Development Goals*. Ms Samantha Marshall, Minister of Social Transformation and Human Resource Development of Antigua and Barbuda; Ms Vanessa Rubio Márquez, Deputy Minister of Social Development of the United Mexican States; Mr Valdrack Ludwig Jaentschke Whitaker, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Nicaragua; Mr José Molinas Vega, Minister and Executive Secretary of the Technical Secretariat for Economic and Social Development Planning of Paraguay.

Reaffirmed that political will was essential not only for promoting and coordinating the various initiatives to reduce poverty, hunger and malnutrition but also for facilitating the alignment between national and international efforts. It stressed the importance of prioritizing efforts for building capacity to measure indicators of multidimensional poverty and food security, one aim of which was to improve public-policy targeting, efficiency and impact. It also assessed the role that more inclusive and sustainable agriculture could play in ensuring balanced economic and social development. In this regard, it urged FAO to continue to support countries in identifying and promoting instruments that encourage coordination and linking of social protection policies and that support the productive capacities of family farming, taking an inclusive and territorial approach.

- b) Panel on *Challenges for Transforming the Rural Sector in Latin America and the Caribbean: Rural Territorial Development, Family Farming, Social and Economic Inclusion and Innovation*. Ms Marisa Bircher, Secretary of Agro-industrial Markets at the Ministry of Agro-industry of Argentina; Mr Gaspar Vega, Deputy Prime-Minister and Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries, Forestry, Environment and Sustainable Development of Belize; Mr César Hugo Cocarico Yana, Minister of Rural Development and Land of Bolivia; Mr Patrus Ananías, Minister of Agrarian Development of Brazil; Mr Orestes Ortez, Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of El Salvador.

Underlined the importance of family and smallholder farming for feeding the region, as well as its social and economic value and ability to ensure a decent standard of living for people in rural areas. It pointed to the need to develop differentiated policies to help address the major challenges facing them, such as climate change risks, poor access to training and sustainable technologies. To this end, it will continue to promote comprehensive strategies to promote access to land, adaptation to climate change, value chains and access to local and international markets, along with new initiatives such as the promotion of agro-ecology. Finally, it acknowledged the value of the FAO Regional Initiative on Family Agriculture and Territorial Rural Development in advancing the aforesaid strategies and requested that platforms for dialogue on family farming policy continue to be promoted at the national level, as well as the CELAC working group on family farming and the MERCOSUR Specialized Meeting on Family Farming.

- c) Panel on *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*. Mr Cesar Sotomayor, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation of Peru; Mr Jacobo Paz Bodden, Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of

Honduras; Mr Daniel Ortega, Minister of Environment of Ecuador; Mr Luis Felipe Arauz Cavallini, Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of Costa Rica.

The panel underlined the importance of proper use and management of natural resources within the framework of the targets set in the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development. It emphasized the need to develop comprehensive policies for the modernization and innovation of practices and methods in the use of land, forests, water and water resources in general, taking a cross-cutting climate change adaptation approach. To guide this process of innovation and efficient use of natural resources, the panel highlighted a number of existing national initiatives, which agree on the importance of joint work between governments, FAO, farmer organizations and other international organizations and international cooperation agencies. The panel stressed the need to mainstream risk management and resilience into national policies and FAO programmes, with particular emphasis on disaster response capacity. It acknowledged that, while the effects of climate change are region-wide, some countries, such as Caribbean island states, are more vulnerable and require special attention. The panel underlined the importance of South-South cooperation in research in order to achieve appropriate policy development for tackling climate change.

- d) Panel on *South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Eradication of Hunger, Rural Poverty and Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean*. The panel was divided into two sessions. The first session analysed the main initiatives and opportunities for South-South and triangular cooperation in the region and the participants were: Mr Mario Arvelo, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Dominican Republic to the Rome-based United Nations Agencies; Mr José Miguel Rodríguez de Armas, Deputy Minister of Agriculture of Cuba; and Ms Rosa Herrera, Executive Director of the Peruvian International Cooperation Agency (APCI).

The participants in the first session noted that the region was making steady progress with innovative mechanisms for South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation, in particular the food safety mechanisms promoted by Mexico, Venezuela, Brazil, Chile, Peru and others, and recognized the CELAC FNS Plan as a great opportunity for developing them further. The panel issued a special call for action to boost such cooperation in countries where there is a high percentage of the population still subject to widespread food insecurity, such as Haiti and Central America's Dry Corridor. It mentioned the possibility of establishing a regional fund with voluntary contributions from countries and other public and private partners to facilitate South-South trade. It urged the international community, the United Nations system and the private sector to step up efforts to secure public and private resources for strengthening South-South and triangular cooperation to address the challenges facing countries in the region. It confirmed the importance of South-South and triangular cooperation as a complementary mechanism to North-South cooperation, which contributes to reducing rural poverty and promoting sustainable development cooperation, and endorsed the implementation of the CELAC FNS Plan.

This was followed by the second session on South-South and triangular cooperation in Central America's Dry Corridor, where the participants were: Mr Jose Graziano Da Silva, FAO Director-General; Mr Felipe Orellana, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Food of Guatemala; Mr Miguel Ruiz-Cabañas, Undersecretary for Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights and Mr Bruno Figueroa, both from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of

Mexico; Mr Miguel Barreto, Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean at the World Food Programme; Mr Joaquín Lozano, Regional Director of the International Fund for Agricultural Development; and Ms Gloria Abraham, Representative of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) in Mexico.

The second session discussed the characteristics of this climate phenomenon, including its ecological and ecosystem aspects, with special emphasis on socio-economic and cultural consequences. The panel noted that the Dry Corridor should be made a priority issue because of its heavy impact on the food and nutrition security of the people living within it and pointed to the risk of the situation becoming even more acute. It recognized the efforts being made by countries and stressed the importance of bringing together the international community in Rome to raise its awareness of the complexity of the issue, stressing the central role and leadership of the governments of countries in the Dry Corridor, as well as the value of collaboration from: the three Rome-based international agencies, international cooperation agencies, other international organizations and countries with capabilities in this area. It stressed that any action targeted at the Dry Corridor should consider creating and building the resilience of affected populations.

APPENDIX B

Resolution of the ministers/ representatives of agriculture within CARICOM to commit to work together and unify towards addressing the issue of chronic hunger, poverty and food nutrition security to the people of Haiti

WHEREAS We the Ministers of Agriculture within **CARICOM** having attended the **FAO** Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean, thirty-fourth session held in Mexico City (Mexico), 29 February – 4 March 2016 and being cognizant of the fact that the plight of Haiti was raised with regularity during the plenary sessions, resolved to meet with the Ambassador of Haiti to Mexico H.E. Guy G. Lamothe, and deliberate with him during a frank and open debate, on the Haiti issue with a view to providing the conference with a course of action that can contribute to the alleviation of chronic hunger, poverty as well as food and nutrition insecurity of the Haitian people;

Recognizing that Haiti is a member of **CARICOM** which places responsibility on other members to assist in bringing relief to the people of Haiti to the maximum extent possible;

Recognizing that the people of Haiti must be in the vanguard and centre of arriving at homegrown solution and accepting that our collective experience has taught us that sustainable development only occurs and flourishes when all stakeholders are full partners in planning and implementation, as it creates ownership and greatly facilitates empowerment;

Further recognizing the previous multiple and ongoing efforts made by various public and private institutions including **FAO**, **CARICOM**, **IICA** and **CARDI**, and also noting the recent intervention by the Government of the Bahamas, in relation to familiarizing with and understanding the situation within Haiti, with a view to finding solutions;

Acknowledging the ongoing efforts relative to projects being undertaken, resources being transferred and the apparent lack of progress in alleviating constraints;

Recognizing the filial, cultural and historical connection among the Commonwealth of Dominica, St Lucia and Haiti which could be utilized to facilitate a greater understanding of the sociocultural issues implicit in the implementation of activities in Haiti;

Recalling significant efforts of **CARICOM** member states in the immediate aftermath of the recent devastating earthquake and recognizing that the Conference of the Heads of Government of **CARICOM** had appointed the Rt. Hon. P J Patterson, former Prime Minister of Jamaica, as Caricom Ambassador, to coordinate the assistance programs in Haiti;

Sharing the concern of Haiti as expressly repeated by the Caribbean Heads of Government and reflecting that the issue of Haiti being raised on several occasions as a critical issue by the Caribbean and Latin America delegates at the FAO 34th Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean, Mexico City, Mexico.

We **THEREFORE MOVE** to propose a course of action to bring attention to this matter with a view to assist in the alleviation of hunger, poverty and food and nutrition insecurity in Haiti appreciating fully the potential of investment opportunities in agriculture and agri-business as a fundamental aspect within the steps towards the alleviation of poverty and improvement of domestic food supply as demonstrated by the example of Jamaica Broilers Investment in Haiti; and

Recalling the severe disruption in the way of life exacerbated by regular hurricanes and compounded by three consecutive years of drought in certain parts of Haiti.

WE THE UNDERSIGNED HEREBY RESOLVE TO:

1. Bring this issue to the attention of individual Heads of Government with a view to soliciting advocacy and action as well as to precipitate discussion leading to pragmatic solutions to alleviate the situation of hunger and food insecurity in Haiti.
2. Urge the **CARICOM** Secretariat to provide information and pertinent details on the establishment, progress and performance of all **CARICOM** led initiatives in the past five years and the associated operational issue(s) that arose there from, in order, to inform future interventions.
3. Establish a committee of Caricom Agriculture Ministers to coordinate **CARICOM** action relating to the alleviation of hunger, poverty reduction and Food and Nutrition Security in alignment with the SDG's outlined in Agenda 2030. The Committee Members are to be represented by the Minister of Agriculture or their appointed nominee, of the following Caricom Member States: St. Vincent & the Grenadines (Convener), St. Lucia (Member); Dominica (Member); Antigua & Barbuda (Member) and the Bahamas (Member).
4. Mount a technical mission to Haiti, under the aegis of the Government of Haiti, to obtain first-hand information and knowledge about the socio-economic context, governance issues and policy environment regarding implementation of initiatives.
5. Engage the FAO and other key collaborating partners, to ascertain what has been their experience in the implementation of projects in Haiti.
6. Mobilize NGO's and civil society within the Caribbean through the actions of the Committee to assist with the immediate problem of relief in the alleviation of hunger and to further engage them in the elaboration of sustainable medium and long-term remedial actions.
7. Endorse the proposal from the Bahamas for the mounting of a targeted response to alleviate hunger amongst the communities of the North of Haiti, from whence most immigrants to the Bahamas originate.
8. Accept the offer from the Bahamas representative to use the Embassy of the Government of Bahamas in Haiti to serve as a focal point for the **CARICOM** interventions pertaining to hunger, poverty and Food and Nutrition Security.
9. Propose that **CARDI** be mandated to spearhead the technical mission not only by virtue of it being a **CARICOM** institution but also the fact that it is the Lead for the **CARICOM** cluster for food and nutrition security in the region.

Signed this third day of March 2016, at Mexico City, Mexico by the Ministers/ Representatives of CARICOM Member States presented in the thirty-fourth FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Statement from the Consultation with Social Organizations from Latin America and the Caribbean

STATEMENT FROM THE CONSULTATION WITH CIVIL SOCIETY TO THE 34TH FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Panama City, 19 and 20 February 2016

Unity and organization around the political principle of Food Sovereignty are now more necessary than ever in a continental and world setting.

We, as representatives of 20 countries and 14 networks connected in regional and subregional social platforms including food producers, inhabitants of *fields, coasts, highlands, islands, steppes, grasslands and mountains of Latin America and the Caribbean*, are meeting at this consultation, on the way to the 34th FAO Regional Conference, which will be held in Mexico City from 29 February to 03 March of this year.

We stand in solidarity with the people of Mexico and the struggles of the farmers' movements, and with the families of the students from the Ayotzinapa Rural Teachers' College who have disappeared. With people deprived of their freedom owing to struggles over land, natural assets and Food Sovereignty. We oppose the practices of removal of farming and indigenous families in the region as has recently happened in Mendoza province, Argentina, with the eviction of small farmers.

We welcome the progress made by some governments in the form of positive steps in favour of Food Sovereignty, incorporated in public policies in their respective countries, and we are grateful for the space they have given us, in the hope that the Member States present will consider this statement when setting the FAO agenda for the next biennium.

According to the process begun at previous consultations of social movements and platforms prior to FAO Regional Conferences, we reaffirm our commitments to the struggle to continue developing the small-scale production of healthy and culturally appropriate foods, helping to eradicate hunger and poverty within the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 development agenda, considering Regional and International Treaties and Agreements.¹ This is a meeting and action point for Indigenous Peoples, Peasant-based Agriculture, Rural Workers, Pastoralists, Environmental Advocates, and Artisanal Fisherfolk at a time when opportunities are opening up for dialogue and meetings with urban populations, workers and people in general.

At the same time our experience as continental organizations and networks, connected to the Alliance for Food Sovereignty together with other platforms, confirms that there are no inclusive public policies or actions working effectively towards the Sustainable Development Goals unless the principle of Food Sovereignty is prioritized through Agro-ecology during construction. And this new consultation before the 34th FAO Regional Conference is a confirmation of this. We will not surrender our principles and rights, the key to our identities, and based on the same principle we denounce the false solutions to

¹ The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (10 December 1948), the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (3 January 1976), the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (13.09.2007), the Declaration on the Rights of Peasants, under discussion, and the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the context of food security (11.05.2012), the Voluntary Guidelines on Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries (10 June 2014), the Declaration of the Decade of Family Farming (2015-2025) and CEDAW (18 December 1979), which helps us to eliminate all forms of violence against women. CARICOM Food and Nutrition Policy (13.09.2010), Climate Change of the Caribbean Regional Strategy for Agriculture Development Resilient to climate change (2009 – 2015), Caribbean Community Common Fisheries Policy.

hunger and rural poverty, i.e. carbon markets, the green economy, biotechnology and “climate-smart agriculture”.

We therefore question proposals that increase the dependence of food production on capitalism, exploiting populations, workers and ecosystems under the policy and strategies of commoditization and profit at odds with the right to food and Food Sovereignty as a basic human right, contributing to autonomy, peace, appropriate nutrition free from genetically-modified organisms for a dignified life for rural and urban populations.

The Paris agreement does not represent a landmark for us in the fight against climate change. This agreement is not mandatory, it merely presents an adaptation and does not address the real causes of worsening climate change. It is presented as a success when in reality it was a backward step, as it removed the binding nature of the Kyoto Protocol which called on the most polluting countries to reduce their emissions; it was replaced by a system of compensation based on the carbon market linked to monocultures and forest plantations.

These mechanisms are false solutions to climate change. We therefore reject the introduction of the concept of climate-smart agriculture and the FAO’s definition of forests and its UN-REDD programme as the solution to the problem of climate change. The large-scale agrifood system is currently responsible for between 41 and 54% of greenhouse gases.

We therefore propose that:

The role of small-scale fisheries and aquaculture is recognized in the consumption of fishery products to guarantee food security and sovereignty in the communities of the world. States should encourage public policies to safeguard and regulate responsible, sustainable fisheries, including the consumption of our resources for nutrition, providing funding and infrastructure, access to markets, social security and incentives to improve production development, with the participation of the fishing industry worldwide as we are an important addition to family culture.

We ask for recognition, strengthening and support from governments and the international organizations of the FAO and IFAD for national committees which took part in actions in response to the 2014 International Year of Family Farming IYFF, such as national discussion fora and exchanges between family farmers, peasants and indigenous peoples, small-scale fisheries and pastoralists with governments, particularly in the light of the global commitment to the Decade of Family Farming IYFF+10.

Regarding challenges to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, we note that the extractive industries are having negative impacts on indigenous peoples, a situation which has worsened in recent decades. Companies have the same duties and responsibilities to protect people’s rights and to respect our basic rights such as Free, Prior and Informed Consent, as an unprecedented framework to protect women, young people and adults from these negative impacts that affect women more as a result of extractivism and predation of natural resources in affected ancestral territories. Militarization and forced displacement must also be eliminated.²

As regards education, we propose and demand that investment and access to land focus specifically on the inclusion of young people so that they can remain in rural villages and indigenous territories, promoting incentives for appropriate technologies with research, participatory action and respect for the knowledge of different generations in territories for new generations in the field, through the agroecological production of food.

As pastoral communities, we ask for the inclusion of means of participatory consultation according to the isolation of our communities and the environments in which our families live. Ensuring the presence of differentiated policies for land tenure, development programmes and access to services.

We understand and defend agro-ecology as a key form of resistance to an economic system which puts profit before life. Our various forms of small-scale food production based on agro-ecology generate

² Political position document and plan of action of the world’s indigenous women, Lima, 2013.

local knowledge, promote social justice, nurture identity and culture, and strengthen the economic viability of rural areas. The 2015 Nyéléni Declaration, Mali.

We propose to assess the impact that the Paris Agreement will have on small-scale agriculture in view of its emphasis on the commoditization of the climate. The role of small-scale food producers and family farming must be recognized not as vulnerable populations or as one more interested party, but as the holders of rights and key players in cooling the planet. If States propose mechanisms for adapting to and mitigating climate change, they should be constructed on the basis of traditional and ancestral knowledge.

We urge States and the FAO to continue moving forward to build dialogues with the participation of social platforms and movements.

Agro-ecology is a right of all peoples. For Food Sovereignty NOW!

Panama City

19 and 20 February 2016.

Final Recommendations of the Regional Seminar on Agroecology in Latin America and the Caribbean - 24-26 June 2015, Brasilia, Brazil

Agroecology in the region has been carried out in practice for decades; by social movements of small-holder farmers, rural groups, traditional communities, indigenous peoples, artisanal fisher folk, herders, and gatherers. It has a strong scientific base and is increasingly receiving support from governments through new public policies. The practices and elements of agroecology ensure food security and sovereignty, as well as strengthen family farming.

As a result of the International Symposium on Agroecology for Food Security, held in September 2014 by FAO within the framework of the International Year of Family Farming; the Regional Seminar on Agroecology in Latin America and the Caribbean was held in Brazil from 24 to 26 June 2015.

Within the framework of the Plan of Action 2015 of the ad hoc Working Group on Family Farming and Rural Development of CELAC and the Ministerial Declaration of CELAC on Family Farming, approved in November of 2014 in Brasilia, Brazil, and ratified in the Third Summit of Heads of State and Government (San Jose, Costa Rica- January 2015); declared “support for the convening of a regional event on agroecology to encourage the exchange of experiences and to promote policies of sustainable development.”

Within the framework of REAF, in the XX Specialized Meeting on Family Farming of MERCOSUR (Caracas, Venezuela, December 2013), the theme of agroecology was incorporated into the agenda of the Working Group on Climate Change Adaption and Risk Management.

Taking into account the Declaration of Nyeleni-Mali on Agroecology created by the social movements of small-holder farmers, rural groups, traditional communities, indigenous peoples, artisanal fisher folk, herders, gatherers, and youth;

The participants of the seminar; from social movements, the academic sector, representatives of public entities of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean and guests from other regions, gathered in this Seminar, call upon the governments of the region, along with CELAC, FAO, REAF/MERCOSUR, and other relevant intergovernmental and international organizations to:

1. Promote public policies which boost agroecology and food sovereignty; defined, implemented and monitored with active participation of social movements and civil society groups, assuring the necessary budget for its implementation.
2. Formulate and implement legal frameworks and regulations which are favourable to agroecology, in order to achieve food sovereignty.
3. Assure the social role of land and water through agrarian reforms, land policies, and the guarantee of land rights of indigenous and native peoples and traditional communities.
4. Promote the production of healthy, adequate food as well as the food sovereignty of the region through agroecology; recognizing that those systems have a more sustainable approach to land, water and energy.
5. Recognize and value ancestral knowledge, traditions, local wisdom and cultural identities as a pillar of agroecology. Additionally, the public research institutions should respect and value the traditional knowledge, promoting a knowledge dialogue in their participatory research programs.

6. Foster territorial dynamics of social innovation and technology by creating and/or strengthening the pillars of agroecology and in institutions of an interdisciplinary and intersectoral nature; with capacity to articulate processes of education, research and learning.
7. Develop specific policies which promote the productive organization of women; supporting their agroecological initiatives, strengthening their abilities to overcome the obstacles that they face, the heavy workload, the decriminalization; recognizing their historic role in agroecology and food sovereignty.
8. Recognize and encourage the active role of families and communities, including women and youth, as guardians of biodiversity; especially seeds and genetic resources. In addition, ensure that genetic resources are restored by public germplasm banks, together with social movements; connecting the discussion on food sovereignty with the discussion on seed protection.
9. Create a regional network in Latin America (a shared platform between the governments and social movements) for the exchange of best practices and information regarding agroecology, which complements the dialogue between the academic sector, governments and social movements.
10. Create mechanisms which enable the reciprocity of participatory guarantee systems among the countries of the Latin American region by promoting the link between the producer and consumer.
11. Include agroecology as a permanent topic in the agenda of the working group on Family Farming and Rural Development of CELAC; expanding the participation of social movements and civil society and academic groups in the working group, with the support of FAO.
12. Create a program of exchange for agroecology and seeds, based on the working group of Family Farming and Rural Development of CELAC.
13. Recommend the creation of a specific working group in the REAF focused on agroecology and expanding the discussion on specific instances in which family farming includes agroecology.
14. Create conditions which restrict the practice of monoculture, the use of agro chemicals, and the concentration of land; in order to foster the increase of agroecological production by rural small-holder farmers in the region of Latin America and the Caribbean.
15. Support initiatives of formal and informal education, such as rural agroecological schools; increasing the level of education in rural areas through professional training of rural youth.
16. Recognize the multifunctional role that rural small-holder agroecology plays in preserving soils, water, biodiversity, as well as other ecological functions; guaranteeing environmental preservation in a socially inclusive and economically just manner.
17. Ensure that the agroecological systems are more resilient to climate change and request that resources are set aside for the development of agroecology, as part of climate policies that guarantee food sovereignty for the people.
18. Create mechanisms to promote South-South Cooperation regarding the topic of agroecology, in collaboration with FAO, REAF, and other international and sub-regional organizations.

We wish to thank the organizing committee of this event, especially the Alliance of the People for Food Sovereignty in Latin America and the Caribbean, the FAO, CELAC, REAF, and the government of Brazil for their efforts to hold this discussion and we appreciate the efforts of FAO in carrying out the regional seminar in Africa and Asia. We request that the participation of those from social movements, governments, and the academic sector in Latin America and the Caribbean is included.

We also applaud the initiative of CELAC in carrying out a second seminar on agroecology during the Bolivian pro tempore presidency, with support from FAO and REAF.

We would like to inform you that Nicaragua and Costa Rica intend to hold seminars in the region and ask for FAO's support.

PROGRAMME

(A) SENIOR OFFICERS' MEETING

29 February-1 March 2016 (morning)

Introductory Items

1. Election of the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson(s) and Appointment of the Rapporteur(s)
2. Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable

(Please see Ministerial Meeting items from 3 to 6 on page 5)

Regional and Global Policy and Regulatory Matters

8. 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)

During 2015, the Latin America and Caribbean region has fulfilled both the MDG and the World Food Summit (WFS) targets by, respectively, reducing by half the proportion and the number of persons suffering from hunger. This is chiefly as a result of the high political commitment in the region; the positive results from a combination of economic growth and strengthened social protection systems; the formulation and implementation of diverse and articulated public policies, with complex but participatory mechanisms of governance; and the solidarity among countries of the region expressed through South-South Cooperation actions. The agenda set by the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) recognizes these advances and signals new challenges to achieve the different dimensions of food insecurity (availability, access, utilization and stability) for the region: the total eradication of hunger (the region still has 34 million people suffering from hunger); confronting themes of obesity and others related to poor nutrition; strengthening the formulation of healthy habits with political initiatives; ensuring sustainability in the habits of production and consumption of foods; promoting initiatives for assuring food safety and quality, and reducing food losses and waste; and innovation in systems for monitoring food and nutrition security, among others. Regarding poverty, the developing world still recognizes that more than 1,200 million people are still under the poverty line, almost 80 percent of whom are in rural areas. In Latin America 52 percent of the rural population is poor, and although the overall regional poverty indicators have declined over the past 20 years, due to the combination of factors described above, high inequality still persists among and within countries. The 34th FAO Regional Conference will look to create a balance for the next steps in the fight against hunger and rural poverty.

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

In Latin American and Caribbean countries more than half of rural people live in poverty, therefore, sustainable rural transformations that go beyond agricultural development are needed. Rural poverty and food insecurity are closely intertwined problems that need to be tackled through holistic approaches for rural territorial development including institutional, social and technological innovation. Multi-sectorial policy approaches need to be implemented to dynamize and diversify the rural economies. Articulating agricultural, social, economic and environmental policies at territorial level may allow to deal with poverty, hunger and food insecurity more efficiently. Strengthening rural organizations, local value chains and food systems, as well as improving family farmer access to productive resources, infrastructure, finance and markets combined with access to social protection

and non-agriculture employment opportunities, is a key strategy. Finding better ways for family farmers to prevent, manage and overcome environmental and social risks is of paramount importance to improve livelihoods resilience. Addressing the gap in access to productive resources, services and economic opportunities for rural women, youth and indigenous peoples is essential to achieve food security, rural poverty eradication and sustainable rural territorial development.

10. 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 presence of disasters caused by natural phenomena, transboundary diseases of animals and plants, and socio-economic crisis are factors that threaten food security and nutrition, even with the presence of climate change which increases and diversifies the magnitude and impacts of these factors. In particular for the dimension of stability, those are issues of high relevance for food security. Taking concrete actions to reduce the fragility of current food production systems and their vulnerability to disasters is already an important part of the regional and global political agenda and dialogue for improving sustainable development, facing the new commitments of the countries in a global post-2015 agenda. Special attention will be paid in the discussion to the small islands in the Caribbean (SAMOA Pathway).

Programme and Budget Matters

11. Results and Priorities for FAO in the Latin America and Caribbean Region and Regional Strategic Review

The Regional Conference will consider the results of FAO's work in the region, including how FAO Regional Initiatives have addressed previously agreed regional priorities (LARC/16/1 Rev.3.3) during 2014-15, and will provide guidance on regional priorities for the 2016-17 biennium and preparation of the Medium Term Plan 2018-21. The discussion will be informed by results of FAO's work at Outcome level (extract from the Programme Implementation Report 2014-15), the Medium Term Plan 2014-17 (Reviewed) and Programme of Work and Budget 2016-17, approved by the FAO Conference in June 2015, and a Regional Strategic Review encompassing the major trends, challenges and development objectives for food and agriculture, also taking into account the priorities and recommendations of the Regional Technical Commissions, the Country Programming Frameworks (CPFs) and Regional Initiatives.

12. Decentralization and Decentralized Offices Network

Ongoing efforts to improve and strengthen the work of the FAO Country Offices network in the region will be reviewed, and recommendations will be formulated in enhancing the Organization's effectiveness and efficiency at country level.

13. Multi-year Programme of Work for the Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean

The implementation of the Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPOW) is a mechanism for enhancing the role of the Regional Conferences in the governance and decision-making process of FAO. It will entail a discussion on procedures, activities, working methods, indicators and targets for the Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean (LARC) as a Governing Body.

Other Matters

14. Date and Venue of the 35th Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean

15. Any other matters

INFORMATION NOTES¹:

- ***The State of Food Insecurity in the World (SOFI) 2015***

The most recent FAO estimates indicate that the number of people worldwide who are unable to meet their dietary energy needs has declined to a total of 795 million people, representing 216 million people fewer than in 1990-92, or just over one person in every nine, in terms of the world population (almost 11 percent). In the developing regions, significant progress has been made in achieving the target of the first Millennium Development Goal (MDG 1) on halving the proportion of people who suffer from hunger. In Latin America and the Caribbean, there are still 34.3 million people who suffer from hunger. However, this is considered as the region that has made the greatest progress in the world, with 17 of the 33 countries concerned achieving the hunger reduction threshold, and the proportion of hungry people in Latin America and the Caribbean falling from 14.7 percent to 5.5 percent since 1990.

- ***Follow-up to the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2)***

The Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) was a high-level intergovernmental meeting that focused global attention on addressing malnutrition in all its forms. Participants were from governments, civil society and the business community. In addition to plenary sessions, several pre-conference events for parliamentarians, civil society and the private sector, provided a forum for participants to delve deeper into specific nutrition issues. The two main outcome documents – Rome Declaration on Nutrition and Framework for Action – were endorsed by participating governments at the Conference, committing world leaders to establishing national policies aimed at eradicating malnutrition and transforming food systems to make nutritious diets available to all.

- ***Report on FAO Activities in the Region 2014-15***

Information will be provided on FAO's most significant results and achievements in the region in each of its priority areas, and in response to the demands for technical cooperation raised by different Member Nations in the respective programmes.

- ***Summary of the Recommendations of Regional Technical Commissions***

The conclusions and recommendations of the Regional Commissions in Latin America and the Caribbean will be assessed with regard to: (i) policy and regulatory matters and (ii) programme and budget matters. The Regional Fora include: the Latin America and Caribbean Forestry Commission (LACFC), the Commission on Livestock Development for Latin America and the Caribbean (CLDLAC), the Western Central Atlantic Fisheries Commission (WECAFC), and the Commission for Inland Fisheries of Latin America and the Caribbean (COPESCAALC).

- ***Outcomes of the Regional Meeting on Agroecology in Latin America and the Caribbean***

Seeking to gain better understanding of the role that agroecology can play in achieving an end to hunger and malnutrition, FAO organized the International Symposium on Agroecology for Food Security and Nutrition² in September 2014 in Rome, Italy. The Symposium brought together 400 scientists, policy makers, farmers' organizations, the private sector and NGO representatives. Following its recommendations, a regional meeting was held in Brasilia, Brazil with over 130 participants from governments, civil society, regional organizations, academia and research institutions from 14 countries. The Regional Conference is invited to take into account its outcomes and recommendations.

- ***Update on the Committee on World Food Security (CFS)***

This information note will present the outcomes of the CFS, as well as initiatives related to Responsible Agricultural Investment and the Agenda for Action in countries in protracted crises.

- Preparation, discussion and adoption of a draft Report of the Regional Conference for consideration and adoption by the Ministerial Meeting.

¹ If they so wish, delegates may comment on Information Notes under “Any other matters”.

² The final report of the International Symposium on Agroecology for Food Security and Nutrition is available at:
<http://www.fao.org/3/a-i4327e.pdf>

(B) MINISTERIAL MEETING

1 March (afternoon) -3 March 2016

3. Statement by the Director-General

4. Statement by the Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council

5. Statement by the Chairperson of the 33rd Session of the Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean

The Statement of the Chairperson of the 33rd LARC will provide a synopsis of the outcome of deliberations at the 39th Session of the FAO Conference (Rome, June 2015) and the 153rd Session of the FAO Council (Rome, November-December 2015) as they relate to the Latin America and the Caribbean region.

6. Statement by the Chairperson of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS)

An overview will be provided of the main outcomes of the 41st and 42nd Plenary Sessions, and a report on all activities undertaken in 2014-15.

7. Statement by the Spokesperson of the Civil Society Consultation

The spokesperson of the Civil Society consultation will present the statement/declaration of the outcome of the consultation

➤ Review and Debate on the Report of the Conference

The draft Report of the Regional Conference, prepared by the Senior Officers Meeting, will be reviewed, discussed and subsequently endorsed. The discussion will encompass:

- I. Regional and Global Policy and Regulatory Matters
- II. Programme and Budget Matters
- III. Other Matters

The Report will be introduced by the Rapporteur.

PANEL DOCUMENTATION:

- ***Panel 1: 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 Ministerial Panel will set out for discussion the experience of the countries regarding public policy strategies for confronting poor nutrition in all its dimensions: hunger, obesity, food safety and respective regulatory frameworks. Experiences that are complemented by measures of health, education, environment and agriculture policies will be prioritized. The Panel will discuss document LARC/16/2.

- ***Panel 2: Challenges for Transforming the Rural Sector in Latin America and the Caribbean: Rural Territorial Development, Family Farming, Social and Economic Inclusion and Innovation***

The ministerial panel will discuss challenges and innovative approaches to aligning agricultural and food security policies with broader territorial development strategies to eradicate rural poverty and achieve sustainable rural development. Key institutional and policy issues for sustainable development of rural territories, including, policies and strategies to improve rural infrastructure and local value chains and food systems; policies to facilitate access of family farmers to productive resources, rural services and markets; promotion of social protection and employment opportunities for rural women and youth, and policies for risk management and resilience, among others, will be discussed. The Panel will discuss document LARC/16/3.

- ***Panel 3: 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***

Each year, the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean are affected by natural disasters, such as droughts, floods, hurricanes, landslides, volcanic eruptions, in addition to epidemics and transboundary diseases of animals and plants, and socio-economic crisis. These events result in loss of lives, property and livelihoods, and therefore weaken the food and nutritional security of the most vulnerable populations. Risk management, climate change adaptation and promotion of sustainable use of natural resources and sustainable development are the major challenges of the LAC countries for ensuring food security. The Panel will discuss document LARC/16/4.

- ***Panel 4: South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Eradication of Hunger, Rural Poverty and Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean***

In recent years the flow of South-South and Triangular cooperation among countries in the region has been expanded. However, the exchange of knowledge and experiences in areas related to hunger eradication, poverty reduction and sustainable development are still insufficient to contribute to strengthening capacities and processes on priority countries. The ministerial panel will discuss innovative experiences to promote the South-South Cooperation (SSC) [bilateral, triangular and with other partners]; regional and subregional mechanisms for better coordination and complementarity of actions that allow the increase of the SSC, including funding. The Panel will discuss document LARC/16/INF/12.

DOCUMENTS ON THE WEB

Available at: http://www.fao.org/about/meetings/regional_conferences/larc34/documents/en/

List of Delegates and Observers

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

| Number | Title |
|---------------------|---|
| LARC/16/1 Rev.3 | Provisional Annotated Agenda |
| LARC/16/2 | 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) |
| LARC/16/3 | Challenges for Transforming the Rural Sector in Latin America and the Caribbean: Rural Territorial Development, Family Farming, Social and Economic Inclusion and Innovation |
| LARC/16/4 | 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 |
| LARC/16/5 Rev.1 | Results and Priorities for FAO in the Latin America and Caribbean Region and Regional Strategic Review |
| LARC/16/6 | Decentralization and Decentralized Offices Network |
| LARC/16/7 | Multi-year Programme of Work for the Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean |
| LARC/16/INF/1 | Information Note |
| LARC/16/INF/2 Rev.3 | Provisional Timetable |
| LARC/16/INF/3 Rev.2 | Provisional List of Documents |
| LARC/16/INF/4 | Statement by the Director-General |
| LARC/16/INF/5 | Statement by the Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council |
| LARC/16/INF/6 | Statement by the Chairperson of the 33 rd Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean |
| LARC/16/INF/7 | Update on the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) |
| LARC/16/INF/8 | The State of Food Insecurity in the World (SOFI) |
| LARC/16/INF/9 | Follow-up to the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) |
| LARC/16/INF/10 | Report on FAO Activities in the Region 2014-15 |
| LARC/16/INF/11 | Summary of the Recommendations of Regional Technical Commissions |
| LARC/16/INF/12 | South-South and Triangular Cooperation for Eradication of Hunger, Rural Poverty and Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean) |
| LARC/16/INF/13 | Outcomes of the Regional Meeting on Agroecology in Latin America and the Caribbean |