Country	Brazil
Institution (s)	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Type	Government

Regarding the collaboration and partnerships with the private sector envisaged in many of the documents, it is necessary to clarify the proposals in order to assess possible conflicts of interests. In this regard, we request FAO to adopt in its new Private Sector Strategy measures to avoid conflicts of interests and private sector financing of the organization's normative work, such as the WHO Framework of Engagement with Non-State Actors (FENSA).

LARC/20/2

Transforming food systems for healthy diets for all

The Conference is invited to reaffirm that "urgent transformation of food systems is required to ensure access to healthy diets". Brazil would like to remember that Latin America is a region with diversified food systems, with several examples of sustainable practices. Greater access to healthy diets dos not necessarily requires urgent transformation of food systems in Latin American countries. Public policies in favor of food security and nutrition have proven to be a more successful way to grant access to healthy diets, such as promoting public purchases from family farming, promotion of healthy food amongst the population, ensuring healthy school meals, promoting breastfeeding, among many others, including measures to increase income of the population.

It is not clear in the document if the recommendations to the regional Conference were requests made by the countries or a list proposed by FAO itself. In this regard, Brazil would like to emphasize the importance to take into consideration the diversities of the region and its different needs and realities. A bottom-up approach in the elaboration of FAO's actions and priorities in the region would be highly appreciated.

On para 1, in the "basic foods" list, Brazil suggests the inclusion of meat;

On para 8, there is an opposition between concepts of food systems that are not opposed: "highly capitalized and integrated into global marketing chains" and "based on minimally processed and local food products". Both realities can coexist and be reinforced one by the other.

On para 11. b), which proposes to evaluate the use of commercial policy measures in promoting security food and nutrition. We would like to have more clarification on this proposal. The creation of trade barriers should be avoided.

On para 15, first item, we would like to seek clarification on the term "nutrition-sensitive" (also on para 40, first item). Brazil requests FAO to avoid using terms and expressions that were not agreed multilaterally.

On para 15, third item, which supports the prohibition of growth promoters. Brazil recalls that the use of growth promoters is permitted by the science based and multilaterally agreed rules of Codex Alimentarius Comission (CAC), and request FAO to avoid making recommendations which are not science and evidence based in its documents.

On para 15, fifth bullet, we would like to receive clarification on the promotion of dialogue and knowledge sharing about "new artificially produced or functional type food products".

On para 18, third bullet, it would be useful to highlight the importance to understand how social and local dynamics influence access to healthy food.

LARC/20/3

Hand-in-Hand towards prosperous and inclusive rural societies

On para 2, the document points out that 39.3% of the population of the region lives in urbanrural territories, and that poverty affects 50% of the region's rural populations and extreme poverty 20%. It is not clear if the poverty rate affects 39.9% (rural-urban) or 19%, which is the rate for the rural population, according to the footnote in the document. Brazil would like to recall that to have clear data is paramount to decision making.

Brazil praises the urban-rural approach and the proposal to strengthen the connections between these areas. Many of the challenges to food and nutrition security in the region take place in rural-urban contexts.

On paras 13 and 14, regarding climate change, Brazil would like to note that the data presented represent only one of the possible projected scenarios and, thus, should not be presented as certainty. Brazil suggests to privilege IPCC reports as a source of reference on climate change.

Brazil also stresses that Latin America as a whole is highly susceptible to suffer the negative consequences of climate change, including the northeast of Brazil and the center of South America, as it is recognized in the study mentioned in the document (see note 27). It is inaccurate, therefore, to consider only the sustainable management of resources as the main challenge for South America, as mentioned in para 14. The population of South America, as well as the ones from the Caribbean and Central American countries, are also highly vulnerable to climate change.

Brazil noted in this particular document a great reliance on digitization and access to communication services to overcome rural poverty in the region. Clarification on how FAO intends to support this process would be appreciated. More specifically, Brazil would like to receive more information on the proposed implementation of "infrastructure packages" of information and communication technologies, and its relation to the FAO mandate.

LARC/20/4

Sustainable and climate resilient agriculture

Recently, FAO has been promoting a "food systems approach" towards the fulfillment of the SDGs, putting food systems at the core of actions that should be accelerated along this decade. Although useful, this approach has significant limitations and entails a distorted treatment of certain topics, such as climate change.

While 65% of global GHG emissions come from the use of fossil fuels and industrial processes, only about 23% originate from agriculture, forests and other land uses (AFOLU).

Therefore, it is misleading to affirm or suggest, as FAO sometimes does, that lowering carbon emission in the agriculture sector is essential to achieve the global climate goals.

Furthermore, in accordance with the Paris Agreement, it is up to each country to decide how to implement their GHG reduction efforts, and in which areas to focus, according to national priorities and circumstances. Finally, while acknowledging that the proportion of total emissions coming from the AFOLU sector is higher in Latin America and the Caribbean when compared to the rest of the world, it is also key to note the economic and social weight of the agricultural sector for the countries in our region.

Taking into account all the above mentioned, Brazil encourages FAO to avoid statements such as agriculture "is also an important source of greenhouse gases". We believe it would be more clear and transparent, in such occasions, to cite the specific statistics of GHG emissions from AFOLU and other sector, based on IPCC data.

On para 15, third bullet, on Recarbonization of soils. The document states that this "is one of the most cost-efficient strategies for climate change mitigation". Brazil considers that soils should not be responsible for the absorption of greenhouse gas emissions emitted by other sectors. To seek effective soil conservation is already a

great challenge to the sustainability of the agricultural sector. Soils are essential to reduce the vulnerability of production systems and maintain their capacity. Thus, we encourage FAO to better balance soil responsibility in climate change mitigation, for instance by considering the recarbonization of soils as aneffective strategy to neutr alize emissions in the agricultural sector and its overall contribution to the global mitigation efforts.

Regarding the first recommendation, Brazil suggests the following text:

"Reaffirm that scaling-up practices that enhance productivity, sustainability and resilience in agriculture can contribute to the fulfillment of many SDGs, especially SDG 2 ("zero hunger"), not only in the region but also in consumer countries abroad."

Regarding the second recommendation, we suggest the following:

"Considering the commitments made by countries in the framework of the 2030 Agenda, including different environmental agreements, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and, in particular, the Paris Agreement and the importance of agriculture ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION in the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) OF LAC COUNTRIES, there is a clear OPPORTUNITY to FURTHER PROMOTE THE RESILIENCE AND SUSTAINABILITY of agriculture IN THE REGION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH NATIONAL PRIORITIES, with an integrated and multidisciplinary vision, while generating an enabling environment for this purpose."

Regarding the third recommendation, we suggest to eliminate the word "transformation", as not all actions supported by FAO need necessarily to include transformation strategies.

On the third recommendation, item "f", we suggest replacing the reference to DRANIBA with the following: "in line with FAO's Strategy and plan of action for the Mainstreaming of Biodiversity in the Agricultural Sectors".

LARC/20/5

Results and priorities for FAO in the Latin America and the Caribbean Region

On para 11, Brazil support alignment with UNSDCF and recall the importance that FAO Country Programming Frameworks (CPFs) remain "country-led" and "country-owned".

On para 61, Brazil requests clarification on the term "nutritional transition".

On para 69, FAO is proposing "(iii) international food trade agreements that contribute to healthier diets". We would like to receive clarification on this regard.

LARC/20/8

Improving FAO's capacities to serve member countries in Latin America and the Caribbean

Brazil welcomes the process of reforms that seeks to align FAO with the repositioning of the development system of the United Nations, according to UNGA resolution 72/279. Brazil would like to receive further information on the reforms that the Regional Conference is invited to endorse, in particular its financial impacts and effects on FAO presence in the countries.

LARC/20/9

Innovation and Digital Agriculture

Regarding document LARC/20/9, Brazil highlights the importance of access to technologies and digital inclusion. Even though the document mention the challenges in this area, it does not elaborate on how FAO will contribute to making the digitization of agriculture inclusive. Data protection was not mentioned in the document, and Brazil suggests that considerations in this regard be included in the decision on this agenda item.

On para 4 of the document, which mentions "as well as maintaining its significant role as a provider of global environmental services such as biodiversity, water, soils,

forests and other ecosystem services". The statement seems to consider that the region would have a responsibility to play in the world as a provider of ecosystem services, which goes against the sovereignty of each country in deciding on how to use its natural resources and on how to comply with the sustainable development agenda according to its own priorities. Brazil requests that a more appropriate way to recognize the importance of this particularity of the region be used in future FAO documents. Replacing the sentence above with "as well as its rich biodiversity, water resources, soils, forests and other ecosystem services" would be more suitable, for instance.

LARC/20/10

COVID-19 update and adjustments to FAO's regional priorities to address impact on food security and nutrition, and food systems

Regarding para 29, second bullet, Brazil considers that FAO can also support initiatives that articulate policies to guarantee (a) access to water for human consumption and food production; (B) fostering social and productive inclusion as a strategy of food production for self-consumption and /or for provision of healthy food in rural communities; and (c) encouraging the organization / expansion of training programs on public purchases from family farming for generation of employment / income and expansion of supply/consumption of healthy and adequate food.

On para 38, fourth bullet, as a way to contribute to the development of competences and mechanisms to overcome challenges, Brazil notes that National governments' policies to ensure the human right to adequate food have proven to be not sufficient to ensure the reduction of the impacts of Covid-19 and the effects of the economic crisis on the access to adequate food for the most vulnerable populations.

The data made available by specialized agencies that inform FAO's priorities for Latin America and Caribbean Region (LAC) point to the need for the articulation of different strategies to fight food and nutrition insecurity and the urgent construction of a favorable environment to guarantee food and nutrition security. This work requires necessarily the combined efforts of national and subnational governments.

Build agreements and coordinate actions between different spheres of government would help developing governance and management capacity of public food security and nutrition policies in Member countries. This is of particular importance in critical periods like the one the world is facing due to the COVID-19 pandemic, when the emergency situation generate disconnected actions and reinforce the segmented culture of public policies.

In this perspective, FAO can deepen support, with allocation of resources, technical staff and innovation technologies, to the development and/or strengthening of internal agreements in each of the Member countries, for the construction of National Security Systems for Food and Nutrition Security. FAO could also broker south-south trilateral cooperation in this area, taking into consideration the successful experiences available in the region.