CONFERENCE

Forty-first Session

Rome, 22-29 June 2019

International Year of Fruits and Vegetables
(Draft Resolution)

Executive Summary

The Government of the Republic of Chile, supported by the Latin America and the Caribbean Group (GRULAC), proposed the establishment of an International Year of Fruits and Vegetables in 2021 in an effort to raise awareness of the nutrition and health benefits of fruit and vegetable consumption, advocate for healthy diets through increased consumption of fruits and vegetables and to promote international efforts to boost fruit and vegetable production in a sustainable way and reduce losses and waste in their supply chains, from production to consumption. This aligns with the United Nations General Assembly Resolution proclaiming the Decade of Action on Nutrition 2016-2025, and the need to implement sustainable food systems that promote healthy diets, which include a variety of foods and the abundance of the consumption of fruits and vegetables.

Extract from the Report of the 160th Council Session (3-7 December 2018):

19. The Council [...] endorsed:
   a) the draft Conference resolution submitted by the 26th Session of COAG on the observance by the UN System of an “International Year of Fruits and Vegetables” in 2021.

Suggested action by the Conference

The Conference may wish to approve the draft resolution in Annex and to request the Director-General to transmit it to the Secretary-General of the United Nations with a view to having the General Assembly of the United Nations consider, at its next session, declaring the year 2021 as the International Year of Fruits and Vegetables.

Queries on the substantive content of this document may be addressed to:

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an FAO initiative to minimize its environmental impact and promote greener communications.
Other documents can be consulted at www.fao.org
Annex

Resolution ../2019

International Year of Fruits and Vegetables

THE CONFERENCE,

Considering the urgent need to raise awareness of the nutritional and health benefits of fruit and vegetable consumption and to advocate for healthy diets through the increased sustainable production and consumption of fruits and vegetables;

Recalling the UN General Assembly resolution proclaiming the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition 2016-2025, and the need to implement sustainable food systems that promote healthy diets, which include a variety of foods and the abundance of the consumption of fruits and vegetables;

Recalling recommendation 10 of the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN-2) that establishes, inter alia, the promotion of crop diversification and increased fruit and vegetable production;

Recognizing the important contribution of fruits and vegetables in the prevention of non-communicable chronic diseases, especially cardiovascular and cancer, obesity and diabetes;

Noting the importance of sustainable farming and production practices to the livelihoods of millions of rural farm families and small family farmers around the world;

Cognizant of the important contribution of fruits and vegetables, and particularly indigenous crops, to food security, nutrition, livelihoods and incomes of family farmers especially small family farmers;

Concerned about the high levels of losses and waste in the fruit and vegetable supply/value chains, and the negative economic, environmental and social impacts of these losses and waste;

Recognizing the need to empower women through education, to assure the quality of family diets;

Recognizing that the observance of an International Year of Fruits and Vegetables in 2021 by the international community would contribute significantly to raising awareness of the nutritional and health benefits of fruit and vegetable consumption and promote global attention to increasing healthy diets and lifestyles through fruit and vegetable consumption, while directing policy attention to addressing production issues and losses and waste;

Stressing that costs for implementation of the Year and FAO involvement will be covered by extra-budgetary resources to be identified;

Requests the Director-General to transmit this Resolution to the Secretary-General of the United Nations with a view to having the General Assembly of the United Nations consider, at its next session, declaring 2021 as the International Year of Fruits and Vegetables.

(Adopted on … June 2019)