Executive Summary

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the recommendations of the 35th Session of the Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean mandated FAO to promote the development of partnerships that mobilize the experience and capacities of the region. To achieve this, FAO has partnered with actors and organizations representing different levels of society. South-South and Triangular Cooperation are key to promoting and prioritizing successful public policies and have shown a high level of dynamism in the region. Partnerships with civil society, academia and research institutions and the private sector are essential to generate an intersectoral commitment that facilitates inclusive progress and mobilizes efforts towards a common objective. Thematic technical partnerships make it possible to focus efforts on emerging challenges in the region. Interagency partnerships are essential to ensure the comprehensiveness, efficiency and sustainability of the support provided. Finally, alliances with resource partners are crucial in the current context, in which the region faces a paradigm shift in obtaining and using resources, moving towards a resource mobilization model that incorporates investments as a strategy to achieve the SDGs.

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1 Rescheduled from 27-29 April 2020, Managua, Nicaragua.
I. Introduction

1. Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 17 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development “Partnerships to achieve the Goals” establishes that a successful sustainable development programme requires partnerships, including through South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC), between governments, the private sector, academia, and civil society. Furthermore, at the 35th Session of the Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean (LARC35), FAO received the recommendation to support public policies and spaces for dialogue between governments and civil society organizations, multisectoral collaboration, and partnerships between the public and private sectors.

2. FAO has a mandate to coordinate and mobilize, through its partnerships, the vast experience and significant capacities existing in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), in pursuit of the development of rural societies and to achieve solutions to different problems in the region. Additionally, FAO has a mandate to coordinate efforts in exploring new opportunities in SSTC partnership development, seeking new SSTC funding modalities for multistakeholder partners.

3. To promote these partnerships, FAO uses different platforms, instruments and modalities, notably South-South Cooperation (SSC) and SSTC; non-governmental partnerships (private sector, academia and research institutions, and civil society); and thematic and interagency alliances.

4. In addition, FAO partners with governments, international agencies and global funds to coordinate the mobilization of resources for regional projects and initiatives. It also forms alliances and promotes technical cooperation with financial institutions to mobilize investments towards the achievement of the SDGs. With the economic growth of LAC in recent decades, and the exit of countries in the region from their classification as recipients of resources, the region faces a paradigm shift in how resources are obtained and used, shifting from resource mobilization to a financing approach.

5. For the new biennium, the Hand-in-Hand Initiative, launched by the FAO Director-General at the United Nations General Assembly in September 2019, seeks to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs, especially those related to poverty and hunger, through an inclusive and supportive approach to lagging countries and territories, providing further space for SSC agendas and partnerships with the private sector and academia and research institutions.

II. South-South and Triangular Cooperation

6. In terms of SSTC, LAC continues to be one of the most dynamic regions in the exchange of knowledge and experiences. As reported in 2019, 1,310 initiatives were carried out, of which 79 percent corresponded to bilateral SSC projects and actions, 13 percent to SSTC, and 8 percent to regional SSC initiatives. The top ten SSC provider countries (from highest to lowest) are Mexico, Chile, Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, Uruguay, Peru, Costa Rica and Paraguay. The main SSC recipient countries were El Salvador, Colombia, Mexico, Uruguay, Argentina, Peru, Chile, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Honduras and Paraguay.

7. SSTC has been possible thanks to projects financed with voluntary contributions from countries in the region during 2018-2019, such as Brazil (four regional projects) and Mexico (one project). These regional projects have, in many cases, become focus areas for FAO’s work plans, such as school feeding projects linked to the purchase of food produced by family farming (with the cooperation of Brazil), the eradication of hunger in Mesoamerica (with Mexico), and the strengthening of sustainable and adequate food systems (with Brazil).

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2 LARC35, held in Montego Bay, Jamaica, 2018.
8. SSTC has also helped to support international cooperation mobilized by FAO in the region with partners such as Canada, European Union, Japan, Spain (Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation, AECID), and others.

9. Some of the SSTC success stories for the biennium include: (i) the school feeding network in 16 countries, based on the Brazilian experience⁴; (ii) strengthening the cotton value chain in seven countries, with the support of Brazilian institutions⁵; (iii) the Mesoamerica without Hunger Program, with the support of Mexico, which is focused on food security and rural development, with solutions for the collection and use of rainwater in the Central American Dry Corridor⁶; (iv) the Mexico-Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Initiative for adaptation and resilience to climate change in the Caribbean, which will help to increase the access of Caribbean countries to environmental and climate funds⁷; (v) a campaign to monitor fishery resources in Central American countries, with the support of Mexico⁸; (vi) capacity building and the establishment of exchange networks among LAC countries to prevent, discourage and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing⁹; (vii) the methodology for promoting territorial governance and indigenous fishing in Central America¹⁰; (viii) the exchange of experiences in agroclimatic technical round tables with the support of Colombia¹¹; (ix) the exchange of knowledge among the Parliamentary Fronts against Hunger in LAC; and (x) the generation of framework laws with the support of Brazil, Mexico and Spain¹²; among others.

10. In LAC, FAO has signed agreements to promote SSTC with ten countries (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama, Peru and Uruguay) and a multilateral organization (Fund for the Development of Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean). Five countries (Argentina, Chile, Costa Rica, Peru and Uruguay) have registered 25 public entities on the FAO SSC Gateway¹³, a corporate tool designed to promote the exchange of information about institutions and specialized knowledge existing in Latin American countries.

11. Institutions that have contributed to capacity-building processes in other countries include the ministries of agriculture and institutions related to fisheries, agriculture and forest health, forest monitoring, research and extension, school feeding, rural development, and more recently, social protection and public supply systems. The modalities of SSTC have included internships, exchanges, policy dialogue and short-term technical assistance missions, mainly with the participation of public officials from national and local institutions, but also parliamentarians, experts from civil society, producers, communicators, and other actors.

12. During the period 2020-2021, FAO will focus its efforts related to SSC on the priority areas defined by this Regional Conference, in line with the regional initiatives to be agreed. In addition, it will seek to improve the quality and availability of qualitative and quantitative information, and strengthen the management capacities of its decentralized offices.

13. FAO will continue its efforts to facilitate SSTC, both in LAC countries and in other regions. As of the date of this report, the SSTC Corporate Strategy is being updated for the new period, with greater expected collaboration of middle-income countries, Triangular Cooperation partners, the financial sector, philanthropic organizations and the private sector. The objective is to broaden the

⁸ https://www.gob.mx/inapesca/prensa/cooperacion-mexico-centroamerica-aumentara-conocimiento-de-los-mares
⁹ http://www.redpescaindnr.gob.pe/informacion_internacional
¹⁰ http://www.filac.org/wp/comunicacion/filac-informa/reunion-de-pescadores-artesanales-indigenas-y-delegados-de-gobierno-de-centroamerica-se-inicia-hoy-en-panama/
¹² http://parlamentarioscontraelhambre.org/
¹³ The FAO SSC Gateway offers: (a) information on countries’ specialized competencies and public institutions related to food security and agriculture; (b) a starting point for countries to engage with FAO on SSC; (c) an overview of the SSC initiatives facilitated by FAO.
strategic partnership base in order to promote a more catalytic role for FAO’s interventions to generate sustainable investments and partnership building.

III. Non-governmental partnerships

14. During the last biennium, collaboration with non-governmental actors was strengthened in accordance with the guidance of LARC35. Altogether, 20 formal agreements have been finalized in the region, of which nine are with the private sector (65 percent more than in the previous biennium).

1. Private sector

15. In the 2018-2019 period, efforts were mainly focused on expanding collaboration with the private sector in areas such as healthy eating, productive inclusion, food losses and waste, technological innovation for environmental sustainability, risk management and early warning mechanisms.

16. Regarding the expansion in the use of digital technology in rural areas, work has been done with Telefónica to monitor water availability in rural areas in order to support family farmers in improving the effectiveness and efficiency of water use. The partnership is developing the use of the Internet of things (IoT) with a direct application to the agricultural sector in selected crops in Colombia, El Salvador and Peru. In Ecuador, based on a project with a focus on Climate Smart Agriculture in livestock production systems, the collaboration with Telefónica is enabling the development of a smartphone application as a tool for quantifying GHG emissions and assessing climate vulnerability.

17. In terms of reducing food losses and waste, at the regional level FAO collaborates with the Consumers Goods Forum LATAM Board (CGF) and GS114 in helping retail companies and manufacturers to launch a data and information collection process that contributes to monitoring progress towards target 12.3 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The participating companies include: Cencosud, Walmart, Unilever, Danone, Nestlé, and Carrefour.

18. Additionally, FAO, together with the Inter-American Development Bank, has mobilized the private sector in the regional platform #SinDesperdicio, which was launched in October 2018, with the participation of important companies in the food and technology sector, such as The Coca-Cola Company, Nestlé, Dow Chemical, FEMSA Foundation, Grupo Bimbo, IBM, Oxxo and strategic partners such as the Global Network of Food Banks, and the World Resources Institute (WRI).

19. Within the framework of this platform, CGF and WRI have been developing work to collect information on food losses and waste throughout the production process, and reviewing corporate strategies to reduce losses. It is hoped that this will serve as an example to other companies in the sector.

20. At the country level, Argentina’s #NoTiresComida campaign stands out, with the participation of Unilever and Carrefour.

21. FAO has also signed an agreement with the Latin American Federation of Wholesale Food Markets (FLAMA), which brings together wholesale markets, food supply centres, associations and public and private institutions in the region, including more than 298 markets. The focus of FAO’s cooperation with FLAMA is to promote inclusive markets, strengthen wholesale markets and promote the prevention and reduction of food losses.

22. FAO is also seeking to promote inclusive food supply systems. Along these lines, FAO’s Country Office in Colombia and Ecopetrol signed an agreement for a project that is being developed for three years, with small and medium-sized producers in the department of Meta. This project

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14 GS1 is a non-profit organization that develops and maintains global standards for business communications, bringing efficiency and transparency to the supply chain. The best known of these standards is the barcode.
considers an investment of USD 2.58 million and will benefit 2,000 family farmers in the municipalities of Acacias, Castilla, Guamal and Villavicencio.

23. FAO has compiled a list of innovations in low-carbon meat production, monitoring practices and changes in production behaviour. This has been useful for the private sector such as the Ecuadorian company El Ordeño, which, with the support of the FAO Country Office in Ecuador, has made important changes in its production processes.

24. In order to promote healthy eating, better nutrition and reduction of obesity and overweight, and in response to the request of LARC35, FAO has developed a project to be implemented in 2020 that will raise awareness of the situation facing different countries and analyse the role played by regulations and legal frameworks. The food and beverage industry, consumer representatives, parliamentarians and governments are participating in this project. Additionally, a study is being carried out on good practices in the food and beverage industry aimed at reducing rates of obesity and overweight in the region.

25. FAO has designed a regional project (initially in Colombia, Dominican Republic and Guatemala) to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of school feeding programmes by working with chefs for the inclusion of gastronomic techniques in the preparation of food, resulting in greater acceptance and consumption of food, in addition to reducing waste.

26. In the last biennium, FAO strengthened its work with the cooperative sector. Among the most prominent members is Cooperatives of the Americas (formerly ICA-Americas), the regional representative of the International Cooperative Alliance, with which FAO has a global Memorandum of Understanding focused on matters such as productive inclusion, capacity building of the cooperative sector and awareness-raising in governments for the development of public policies.

27. Together with the Brazilian Solidarity Cooperativism Training Institute (INFOCOS), FAO has developed a regional collaboration agenda to promote inclusive territorial development, foster processes of social and technological innovation, and facilitate access to financial resources in rural areas.

2. Academia and research institutions

28. Academia and research institutions, both public and private, contribute with training, research and extension activities, generating evidence and raising awareness about topics such as technological innovation, measures to combat food insecurity and responsible management of natural resources, among others.

29. The Right to Food Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean is a multidisciplinary academic network created in 2011 with the support of FAO and AECID. It is made up of 75 universities from 17 countries in the region, which during 2018-2019 held two regional meetings and developed more than 30 research projects. In addition, the Observatory has strengthened its strategic relationship with the Parliamentary Fronts against Hunger in Latin America and the Caribbean (FPH LAC), and the Latin American and Caribbean Parliament (PARLATINO), which has allowed the network to influence multiple legislative and public policy formulation, implementation and evaluation processes related to food and nutritional security.

30. In 2018, the Special Working Group on Innovation in Food and Nutrition Security Policies, associated with the Latin American Social Sciences Council (CLACSO), and with the participation of researchers from 14 institutions in eight countries in the region, presented the “Innovation in public policies for food and nutrition security” prize. The winners participated in the 8th Latin American and Caribbean Conference on Social Sciences, which was held in Buenos Aires. The second version of this contest was held in 2019.

31. Academia and research institutions are crucial partners in disseminating knowledge, strengthening capacities and generating innovations and evidence for decision making in LAC countries. Among the success stories are the partnership with: i) Union of Universities of Latin
America and the Caribbean (UDUAL Spanish acronym) on food security and nutrition; ii) University of Chile about public health policies; iii) the Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Centre (CATIE) – to improve sustainable forest management in the context of climate change; iv) the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), to support the adaptation of tropical agriculture to the climate change.

3. Civil society

32. FAO collaborates closely with civil society organizations on issues such as natural resources, agroecology, access to land and natural resources, indigenous peoples and afrodescendants, artisanal fisheries, gender and youth, all of which frame an agenda of common interest.

33. With the support of FAO, civil society organizations representing rural areas have participated in the Latin America and the Caribbean Sustainable Development Forum, making use for the first time of the Civil Society Participation Mechanism. In this framework, they have been able to create and lead two working groups on family farming and indigenous peoples. In addition, aspects related to rural areas were included in the civil society declaration.

34. In the launch of the Decade of Family Farming in the region, organizations representing family farmers and indigenous peoples (AFCI, according to its acronym in Spanish) participated in the design of the agenda and in the actions and agreements reached. FAO will continue to promote the Decade with the participation of AFI organizations, while encouraging spaces for multistakeholder dialogue on policies at the national and subregional levels, such as the Central American and Dominican Republic Commission on Family Farming (CCAF).

35. In the Southern Common Market (Mercosur), the technical and operational support that FAO provided to the Family Farming Fund (FAF) of the Specialized Meeting on Family Farming REAF/Mercosur was successfully concluded in 2019. Opportunities for technical support and promotion of exchanges between countries of the region remain available thanks to the important contribution made by REAF/Mercosur in the design of public policies and specific instruments for family farming.

36. Regarding consumer organizations, the global agreement with Consumers International (CI) has been renewed and the work agenda updated. This agreement recognizes consumers as a force to drive change towards more sustainable, healthy and inclusive food systems. Areas of interest shared by FAO and CI include the right to food, consumer protection, nutrition and food safety.

4. Thematic partnerships

37. In the implementation of regional priorities, dialogues have been focused on achieving key results, including the first version of “Food and Agriculture Week: Future challenges for Latin America and the Caribbean” held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in 2018. This event brought together more than 1,000 people from different sectors in a space organized with the government of Argentina and co-sponsored by 32 institutions, organizations, associations and international organizations.

38. The FAO Regional Office has adopted a strategy mainly aimed at responding to the emerging challenges identified by LARC, generating expert networks that help to strengthen FAO’s actions at the regional level and increasing technical assistance in countries. These networks are made up of five regional priorities: (i) food systems, obesity and overweight; (ii) climate change and resilience; (iii) rural poverty; (iv) migration; and (v) institutionality and rural governance.

39. In order to strengthen technical assistance and promote the effective achievement of results in the field, assistance processes were implemented with the countries in their relationship with FAO on functional and practical issues: (i) public policy dialogue, aimed at improving FAO capacities;

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(ii) scaling up initiatives, programmes or policies, considering an integrated vision of national administrative and fiscal processes; and (iii) mobilization of resources, based on national priorities. These actions had a country focus and were carried out in at least 21 countries in the region.

5. Interagency partnerships

40. Considering the importance of collaboration among United Nations agencies, interagency alliances have been strengthened to achieve a more integrated vision of the problems, solutions and policies required.

41. With this focus, in 2018 and 2019 the Regional Overview of Food and Nutrition Security in LAC, developed jointly by FAO, the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), included measures to reduce overweight and obesity. FAO also has agreements with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) for the regional strengthening of school feeding programmes.

42. Through the United Nations Joint Programmes, FAO helped to implement 18 interagency cooperation projects in nine countries in the region during 2018-2019. Most of these projects were executed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), together with PAHO/WHO, WFP, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), UN Women and the United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (UN-REDD+). Other projects led by FAO include partnerships with the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF), UNICEF, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), WFP, the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR).

43. These projects mobilize resources of around USD 20 million in the region. Between them, at least seven projects will remain active during 2020-2021, with an eighth pending. For the new biennium, it is planned to continue developing interagency initiatives that allow the United Nations System to provide comprehensive support to countries.

44. FAO also supports interagency coordination efforts based on the United Nations reform, and as part of a series of new Issue-based Coalitions (IBC), for the achievement of the SDGs. In 2019, FAO and ECLAC coordinated an IBC to support Mexico’s Comprehensive Development Plan for Central America under a rural territorial development approach.

IV. Resource mobilization

1. Investment funds

45. During 2018-2019, USD 235.5 million in voluntary contributions was mobilized, an increase of USD 61 million, or 35 percent, from the previous biennium. At the end of 2019, the portfolio of projects under negotiation in the final pipeline stages amounted to USD 586 million. The main resource partners of the projects in execution at the end of the biennium were the Global Environment Facility (21 percent), Colombia (14 percent), Brazil (14 percent), the Green Climate Fund (GCF) (13 percent), the European Union (12 percent), and Mexico (5 percent).

46. In this regard, 15 of the 33 member countries will implement projects over USD 4 million, and, at the same time, at least double their annual expenditure in relation to the average of the three preceding years, with some increasing spending by up to 20 times. This growth implies

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19 Figures as of January 2020 (FPMIS).
implementation challenges, but above all it demonstrates the potential impact of FAO’s support for member countries.

47. Additionally, the strong increase in the presentation of proposals at the beginning of the biennium 2020-2021 means that the total estimated budget is equivalent to USD 919 million\(^{20}\) in voluntary contributions, or an increase of 41 percent compared to the previous biennium.

48. The 2018-2019 biennium saw increased investments from national budgets through Unilateral Trust Funds (UTF). Currently, the UTF funds portfolio in the region amounts to USD 124 million, with the main partners being Colombia (USD 70 million), Brazil (USD 37 million) and Mexico (USD 6.3 million)\(^ {21}\). In total, during this biennium, USD 62 million was mobilized in UTF. New countries also joined the mobilization of UTF funds, such as Grenada, Panama and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

49. Another important achievement in the 2018-2019 biennium was the reduction in dependency on the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP): in the previous biennium, 13 national offices were considered dependent on TCP funds. As of January 2020, eight offices had been removed from the dependency list (the Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Suriname and the Subregional Office for Mesoamerica – SLM), mobilizing voluntary contributions. However, three new countries were added to the list (Belize, Dominica and Saint Lucia) due to the completion of projects financed by voluntary contributions during the 2018-2019 biennium, bringing the total of countries with high dependence on the TCP to eight. Regarding the use of the TCP as a catalytic instrument for mobilizing resources for projects of greater impact, it is worth noting that, in the 2018-2019 biennium, USD 29 was mobilized for every USD 1 of pre-investment through the TCP\(^ {22}\), of which USD 16 is expected to be directly implemented by FAO\(^ {23}\).

2. Financing for the sustainable management of natural resources and climate change

50. During 2018-2019, FAO, together with the Designated National Authorities (DNA), had two proposals approved for the GCF, in Paraguay (total USD 90 million co-financing included, GCF USD 25 million) and El Salvador (total USD 127.7 million co-financing, GCF USD 35.8 million) and a REDD+ results-based payment proposal in Chile (USD 63.6 million). The first two were the first fully-fledged funding proposals approved by the GCF for FAO as Accredited Agency.

51. Additionally, financing proposals for GCF preparatory activities were approved in Guyana (USD 697 183), Guatemala (USD 860 000), Trinidad and Tobago (USD 260 000), as well as two proposals for Nicaragua on different topics (USD 150 000 and USD 800 000). In addition, a draft National Adaptation Plan for the forestry and agriculture sector in Chile (USD 500 000) was approved. In total, FAO managed to mobilize USD 127 667 183 in GCF resources in the region during the 2018-2019 biennium.

52. In addition, proposals totalling USD 239 million (not including co-financing) for Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Cuba, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica and Nicaragua are in design phase or under review by the GCF, as well as two results-based payment proposals in Argentina and Colombia. FAO also assists Members in designing financing for preparatory activities and national adaptation plans\(^ {24}\).

53. Working with the GCF has led to alliances with other accredited agencies. In Central America, FAO works with the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI) to support the formulation of investment proposals in Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama, for a total of approximately

\(^{20}\) Figures as of December 2019  
\(^{21}\) Figures as of January 2020 (FPMIS)  
\(^{22}\) Figures as of December 2019  
\(^{23}\) Figures as of December 2019  
\(^{24}\) With a pipeline of USD 1 million in Belize, Chile and Grenada for 2020.
USD 400 million (including co-financing25). In South America, FAO has a similar alliance with the Andean Development Corporation and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), for the design of a USD 123 million project in Ecuador. The Mexico-FAO-CARICOM and Canada-CARICOM Funds are innovative pre-investment instruments for supporting CARICOM countries in accessing climate finance. In Paraguay, the GCF has approved a USD 50 million project presented by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in conjunction with FAO and UNDP, totalling USD 72.5 million.

54. Along these same lines, FAO continues to provide support to member countries as the implementing agency of the Global Environment Facility. The approval of project profiles for USD 67 million in the Caribbean (Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Cuba, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, and Trinidad and Tobago), Central America (El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama) and South America (Plurinational State of Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador and Peru, the latter through interagency cooperation with IFAD, UNDP and UNIDO). For the next biennium, up to USD 50 million in resources will be mobilized for natural resource management initiatives to ensure food security. These countries include the small island developing states (SIDS), which are especially vulnerable to climate change.

55. In this regard, FAO has helped Members to effectively access resources to build sustainable food systems that provide nutritious and healthy food for all, while improving the conditions of the planet, conserving biodiversity and building resilience to the impacts of climate change, with the objective of contributing to the SDGs.

3. Outlook for resource mobilization

56. This picture of resource mobilization must be placed in the context of Official Development Assistance (ODA), which for more than 25 years has been distributed based on the World Bank’s categorization of countries as high income, upper-middle income, lower-middle income and low income. This methodology, while offering useful information and data for economic analyses, has hidden the inequalities within countries, as well as the comprehensive vision for development that nations require. As a result, there has been a sharp drop in ODA on issues related to FAO’s work in LAC countries, from 15 percent in 2001 to 9 percent in 2017.

57. This situation is reflected in different countries of the region. Economic growth in recent decades has left 28 countries with high or upper-middle income status, four with lower-middle income, and just one with low income. However, the idea that these countries can take control of their development through domestic financing, does not take into account the inequalities generated by the internal distribution of wealth, climatic vulnerability, political and social instability, and international economic dependency. Additionally, it is possible to identify areas of extreme poverty in each country that requires technical knowledge and financial support. It is evident that the SDGs will not be achieved without ODA, an increase in national investments and other innovative mechanisms for partnerships and collaboration.

V. Final considerations

58. In line with the LARC35 mandate, FAO has developed a strategy that involves partnering with diverse actors through different mechanisms, including through SSTC, in order to adequately represent the different levels of society and the region.

59. In terms of SSTC, FAO’s objective in LAC is to strengthen the technical assistance provided to countries, facilitating access to the knowledge and experience generated in this and other regions of the world. For the biennium 2020-2021, FAO’s strategic plan includes three main focus areas: (i) Transforming food systems for healthy diets for all; (ii) Hand in Hand towards prosperous and inclusive rural societies; and (iii) Sustainable and climate-resilient agriculture.

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25 USD 203 million from the GCF.
60. In addition, it is necessary to develop alliances with organizations of indigenous peoples and afrodescendants, as well as to strengthen cooperation with the private sector and international financial institutions in FAO’s different focus areas in LAC, in line with the objective of broadening strategic partnerships at the corporate level.

61. FAO proposes to expand collaboration between countries and with non-governmental actors and the private sector in order to form Territorial Partnerships, with a focus on helping territories that are lagging behind in progress towards the SDGs and promoting the Hand-in-Hand Initiative.

62. This effort towards partnership building is occurring within the framework of a paradigm shift, as the region moves from a focus on the mobilization of resources for development to a financing approach in line with the reform of the UN system. This requires countries to explore alternatives, such as social impact investment funds or a greater contribution from the private sector, so that development projects are sustainable over time, economically attractive and with measurable impacts. Through financial instruments that attract private investment and are aligned with the SDGs, it is possible to imagine a new virtuous relationship that incorporates different indicators of effectiveness, especially in the scaling-up of public policies.