1. The Civil Society Organizations of Latin America and the Caribbean met at the Regional Consultation of the 36th FAO Conference, held virtually on October 6 and 7, 2020. The Organizations recognize and value the importance of this dialogue space for the construction of alliances and proposals to advance towards food sovereignty and the sustainable development of our region.

2. We recognize and value the efforts of the Alliance for the Sovereignty of the Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean that arose from a historical process of fight against hunger and malnutrition in our region, with the commitment to unite the voices and proposals of organizations and social movements of peasants, family farmers, rural workers, artisanal fishermen and women, consumers, indigenous and native peoples, Afro-descendants, men, women, youth and persons with disabilities in the struggle for food sovereignty. The recognition of the Alliance for Food Sovereignty and of the Agriculture Alliance of the Caribbean (AACARI) by FAO and governments resulted in the strengthening of dialogue with organizations and social movements and achieved good results in policy proposals and joint actions to combat hunger and poverty in Latin America and the Caribbean, encouraging us to join forces in the fight for food sovereignty and better living conditions for our peoples.

3. Considering that the COVID-19 pandemic has profoundly affected family and peasant agriculture, artisanal fishing and indigenous and native peoples, preventing their access to productive inputs, basic assets for artisanal production, family consumer goods and traditional markets for access to and availability of healthy food for consumers.

4. Considering that government policies on agriculture have not been adequate or have emphasized production for export through plantations, monocultures and indiscriminate use of agrochemicals, affecting the family food systems of indigenous and peasant peoples and biodiversity.

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1 Rescheduled from 27-29 April 2020, Managua, Nicaragua.
Few governments show any desire or determination to promote food and nutrition security and sovereignty.

5. Considering that the effects of the pandemic, added to the advance of land grabbing, the concentration of natural assets, environmental degradation and the withdrawal of acquired rights have increased social vulnerability, food insecurity, criminalization of the action of organizations and social movements, and the eviction of traditional populations that inhabit the countryside, the forest and the waters.

6. Considering that, despite the commitments and obligations of States to implement the collective and individual rights of women and indigenous peoples enshrined in instruments such as the 2030 Agenda, the Beijing Platform for Action, the Montevideo Consensus, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention 169, from the north to the south of our continent, we still do not have genuine access to relevant public policies, programmes, services and resources, because the States refuse to acknowledge our knowledge, expertise, practices, experiences and contributions in the search for solutions to global crises and to support our expressions of self-determination.

7. Considering that the policy measures adopted in isolation by the governments of Latin America and the Caribbean to overcome historical challenges for the peoples and new challenges imposed by the pandemic have been insufficient to stop the advance of hunger, social inequalities and even the spread of COVID-19 in our territories.

8. And considering that the pandemic affected all sectors and that it has highlighted our interdependence and taught us that the health and well-being of others affects us all, and that none of us is safe until we all are.

9. We, the CSOs present at this FAO Regional Consultation, declare that we will continue to fight for food sovereignty and for the guarantee of rights and welfare of the peoples in our territories, for which we urge the United Nations and the governments of the region to:

- Include organizations and social movements in decision-making on measures to combat the effects of COVID-19, and expand the beneficiaries to include rural, forest and water peoples on an urgent basis so that they can effectively access the benefits of these measures, including programmes for access to financial assistance, healthy food, medicines, and other comprehensive and/or complementary health items, family and/or community care for indigenous peoples, Afro-descendants, peasants, family farmers, rural workers, artisanal fishermen and women, indigenous and native peoples, men, women, youth and persons with disabilities, clusters of overcrowding and others facing challenges compounded by the pandemic.

- Define a joint response strategy on the effects of COVID-19 and the ongoing crises, including the food crisis in our territories that is affecting the food sovereignty of our peoples.

- Strengthen social participation in all decision-making processes regarding health and promoting welfare of family farmers, peasants, rural workers, Afro-descendants, indigenous and native peoples, artisanal fishermen and women, consumers, men, women, youth and persons with disabilities.

- Guarantee Free, Prior and Informed Consent as a collective human right to be observed in the political decision-making processes that impact on Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, and safeguard our rights and territories in free trade agreements and/or instruments of economic expansion of private initiative.

- Define concrete actions and an adequate budget, in conjunction with civil society organizations, to more effectively implement action plans of the Declaration on the Rights of Peasants, the United Nations Decade of Family Farming and the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda.
- Provide economic support and make visible the initiatives of indigenous and peasant communities on production that are related to food sovereignty, conservation of biodiversity and preservation of traditional knowledge.

- Strengthen international cooperation processes for development, as well as the role of United Nations agencies and mechanisms to facilitate the participation of civil society in spaces for dialogue and formulation of policies that promote the recovery and transformation of healthy food systems and move towards a new development model based on the principles of equity, equality, justice, care and protection of mother earth and international solidarity.

- Guarantee in all decision-making processes the empowerment of female family farmers, peasants, artisanal fisherwomen, indigenous and native peoples, Afro-descendants, rural workers, youth, consumers and women with disabilities, as well as ensuring the empowerment of the young people that are part of our people, communities and territories.

- Respect and support the initiatives of indigenous women and youth in caring for the members of their communities, by spiritual, emotional, nutritional or medicinal means, using traditional practices or their own methods. The pandemic exposed the scale of the obstacles that we must overcome and lockdown inflamed the gender violence that we suffer, making it necessary to guarantee our resilience and economic, social and political autonomy.

- Strengthen the role of youth from all sectors, define concrete responses that implement the demands of urban and rural youth and adopt measures that strengthen their actions and guarantee their rights to: quality education appropriate to the different contexts and sectors of youth; access to natural goods and basic community services; access to decent work and job opportunities that promote their socio-economic development with dignity; and access to recreational spaces and infrastructure for the development of socio-cultural activities.

- Safeguard the rights of indigenous and native peoples and recognize the value of their tradition in the defence and care of their peoples, especially during the pandemic. Their cultures and ancestral knowledge were decisive in combating the proliferation of the pandemic in their territories and in guaranteeing the survival of their peoples, given that they did not receive due attention from the current governments or the benefits of the measures adopted by those governments.

- Build a joint and effective strategy to confront climate change, aligned with measures and instruments that preserve our environment and promote agroecology as a sustainable way of life, production and consumption. It is necessary to promote and drive agroecology policies as a mechanism for protection of biodiversity and a sustainable system resilient to climate change, so that FAO can raise awareness and provide the necessary technical assistance to member states for them to use as an intelligent system aimed at sustainable development.

- Promote programmes and policies aimed at the restoration of natural spaces and ecosystems, such as forests, that are affected by extractive activity. Policies to address climate change must be implemented with the participation of all citizens and the allocation of sufficient budgets to achieve the objectives.

- Support the construction of a “right to grow healthy food”, which recognizes the contributions of ancestral knowledge to achieve the transformation of food systems, based on healthy diets provided by sustainable and climate-resilient agriculture. In particular, FAO can support us in protecting traditional knowledge by promoting synergies between the work of FAO and the United Nations conventions on chemicals through the creation of a mechanism for sustained regional interaction between indigenous communities and family, peasant and indigenous farming, where innovative ways of pesticide-free agriculture, the use of clean water and sustainable development can be exchanged.

- And democratize digital technologies and guarantee the inclusion of all the sectors and peoples represented here in decision-making spaces on the production of knowledge on the digitization of agriculture, with adequate investment of resources to promote permanent
training processes and technological innovations that recognize agroecology and traditional and ancestral knowledge in the production and dissemination of knowledge based on the use of these digital technologies. To date these technologies have not been available to everyone and unfortunately the digitization of agriculture has been exclusive and aligned with the bid for a new industrial revolution, which substitutes ancestral knowledge for disposable goods.

10. The CSOs support FAO's regional initiatives and propose their implementation with concrete actions, budget and adequate social participation to help us stop the neoliberal advance in the continent, which is an obstacle to implementing the rural development proposal outlined in the documents. It is time to recognize the central work of the organizations to guarantee food sovereignty and security and to strengthen it in the FAO work plan.

11. However, it is necessary to make explicit in the regional initiatives the commitment to the implementation of the Plan of Action of the United Nations Decade of Family Farming, the Declaration on the Rights of Peasants, and the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests. Other documents, such as the Encyclical of Pope Francis, can support our struggles and contribute to the development of concrete actions to overcome poverty and hunger.

12. The Civil Society Organizations express our thanks to FAO for the support and efforts undertaken to carry out this Regional Consultation in a broad, inclusive and participatory manner. But it is also necessary to broaden social participation and the voices of the peoples in the Regional Conferences to guarantee direct dialogue with representatives of governments of our region.

13. We reaffirm our commitment to continue collaborating in the construction of instruments of political response that guarantee the rights of the peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean and preserve our territories and natural assets with concrete actions for the reduction and elimination of hunger and existing inequalities in our region.