Chairperson,
Distinguished Members,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. It is an honour to address the Regional Conference today to present the summary of recommendations of FAO’s Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean that Jamaica had the honour to host from 5 to 8 March 2018 in Montego Bay.

2. The Regional Conference was the first in the Caribbean region in 20 years and was also the occasion of celebrating the 40th anniversary of 15 country offices in the Latin America and the Caribbean region. At the conference, participants committed to following a path to eradicating hunger and extreme poverty in the region with the support of FAO.

3. Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, the Regional Conference considered the following policy issues important for the region:
   - Ending hunger and eradicating all forms of malnutrition in Latin America and the Caribbean
   - Towards a transformative agenda for sustainable rural development
   - Climate-resilient and sustainable agriculture

4. Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, the Regional Conference expressed appreciation for FAO’s three regional initiatives and welcomed the alignment of the FAO Strategic Objective indicators with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development indicators and recommended that FAO help accelerate national efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), reiterating the value of the Framework for Action of the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) and the goals of the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition, the United Nations Decade of Family

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1 Rescheduled from 27-29 April 2020, Managua, Nicaragua.
Farming, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the SAMOA Pathway and the adoption of the Global Action Programme on Food Security and Nutrition in Small Island Developing States, and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC (COP 24) for advancing efforts to address these challenges.

5. Chairperson, in this context and in relation to policy and regulatory matters, the Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean examined and agreed that FAO:

- Continue to support Members to improve policy instruments to end hunger, extreme poverty and vulnerability to climate change in communities and territories that are falling behind, with emphasis on rural women, indigenous peoples, disadvantaged people and vulnerable groups.

- Strengthen its assistance to Members on public policies to transform food systems, promote the human right to food, and end malnutrition in all its forms, including overweight, obesity and micronutrient deficiencies.

- Reinforce its efforts to support countries to achieve a transformative agenda for sustainable rural development, through integrated and comprehensive strategies, public policies and spaces for multisectoral dialogue and partnerships to eradicate rural poverty, enhance social protection with economic inclusion, promote family farming, small-scale artisanal fisheries and aquaculture production, and address the causes of migration from rural territories, tackling inequalities, rural youth employment and entrepreneurship for economic and social revitalization of rural territories.

- Enhance its work on enabling governments to achieve climate resilient and sustainable agriculture, forestry, fisheries and Blue Growth, by mainstreaming the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and natural resources, supporting adaptation and mitigation of climate change and disaster risk management, promoting innovative environmental policies for the socio-economic inclusion of family farmers and artisanal fishers, and assisting governments in accessing global climate and environmental funding.

- Support preparations towards the approval as soon as possible for an International Year of Fruit and Vegetables, a proposal endorsed unanimously by Members.

6. Finally, Chairperson, on behalf of the Prime Minister of Jamaica, the Most Honourable Andrew Holness, and in my capacity as Chairperson of the 35th Session of the Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean, I wish, once again, to thank Members for the trust placed in my country.

7. At the same time, I reaffirm our satisfaction with the strategic direction of FAO at global and regional levels, and the need to continue to count on the Organization for technical cooperation and the mobilization of resources needed to implement the recommendations of the Regional Conference and to achieve the proposed targets of eradicating hunger and extreme poverty and promoting sustainable natural resources management in our region.

8. Thank you.