

LARC/14/REP

REPORT

Santiago  
Chile  
6 to 9 May 2014

# Thirty-third FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION  
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

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Date and place of FAO Regional Conferences for Latin America and the Caribbean

First	Quito, Ecuador, 18-25 September 1949
Second	Montevideo, Uruguay, 1-12 December 1950
Third	Buenos Aires, Argentina, 1-10 September 1954
Fourth	Santiago, Chile, 19-30 November 1956
Fifth	San José, Costa Rica, 12-21 November 1958
Sixth	Mexico City, Mexico, 9-20 August 1960
Seventh	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 17-27 November 1962
Eighth	Viña del Mar, Chile, 13-29 March 1965
Ninth	Punta del Este, Uruguay, 5-16 December 1966
Tenth	Kingston, Jamaica, 2-13 December 1968
Eleventh	Caracas, Venezuela, 12-20 October 1970
Twelfth	Cali, Colombia, 21 August - 2 September 1972
Thirteenth	Panama City, Panama, 12-23 August 1974
Fourteenth	Lima, Peru, 21-29 April 1976
Fifteenth	Montevideo, Uruguay, 8-19 August 1978
Sixteenth	Havana, Cuba, 26 August - 6 September 1980
Seventeenth	Managua, Nicaragua, 20 August - 10 September 1982
Eighteenth	Buenos Aires, Argentina, 6-15 August 1984
Nineteenth	Bridgetown, Barbados, 5-13 August 1986
Twentieth	Recife, Brazil, 2-7 October 1988
Twenty-first	Santiago, Chile, 9-13 July 1990
Twenty-second	Montevideo, Uruguay, 28 September - 2 October 1992
Twenty-third	San Salvador, El Salvador, 29 August - 2 September 1994
Twenty-fourth	Asunción, Paraguay, 2-6 July 1996
Twenty-fifth	Nassau, Bahamas, 16-20 June 1998
Twenty-sixth	Merida, Mexico, 10-14 April 2000
Twenty-seventh	Havana, Cuba, 22-26 April 2002
Twenty-eighth	Guatemala City, Guatemala, 26-30 April 2004
Twenty-ninth	Caracas, Venezuela, 24-28 April 2006
Thirtieth	Brasilia, Brazil, 14-18 April 2008
Thirty-first	Panama City, Panama, 26-30 April 2010
Thirty-second	Buenos Aires, Argentina, 26-30 March 2012
Thirty-third	Santiago, Chile, 6-9 May 2014

**REPORT OF THE THIRTY-THIRD FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE  
FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

(Santiago, Chile, 6 - 9 May 2014)

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION  
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

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## SUMMARY OF THE MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS

### Matters for the Attention of the Council

The Council is invited to review and ratify the programmatic and budgetary issues.

#### *Programmatic issues*

- Ratify and incorporate the three regional initiatives for the period 2014-2015: (1) Support for the Hunger-Free Latin America and Caribbean Initiative; (2) Family farming and rural territorial development; and, (3) Improving national and regional food and feed systems within the Programme of Work and Budget 2014-15 and the Medium-Term Plan 2014-17 (paragraph 33).
- Maintain and strengthen the priority programme of special support for Haiti (paragraphs 33, 39, 40).
- Ensure that FAO's actions continue to focus on cross-cutting issues such as gender, rural youth and indigenous peoples (paragraphs 30, 33).
- Support the design and implementation of the Plan of Action of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) (paragraphs 18, 25, 26, 33), and reaffirm support for the 2025 Hunger-Free Latin America and Caribbean Initiative (paragraph 19).
- Support and ratify the need to continue in the strategic direction and leadership of the Organization in order to realize the full impact of the reviewed Strategic Framework (paragraph 33).
- Endorsed progress made in the area of decentralization and its importance on the ability to respond effectively to Member Nation requests, including emergencies (paragraph 35).
- Promote South-South and triangular cooperation and improve capacity to mobilize resources at the regional level to develop the work programme (paragraphs 27, 31, 33, 35, 39).
- Follow-up the recommendations of the forestry, livestock, fisheries and aquaculture sub-sectors, approved in the Regional Technical Commissions COFLAC, CODEGALAC, COPESCAALC and COPACO (paragraphs 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46).
- Ratify the Multi-year Programme of Work of the Regional Conference in its current version, including the importance of facilitating and supporting sub-regional consultation processes (paragraph 36).

#### *Budgetary issues*

- Promote the mobilization of resources through South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation involving other mechanisms, to fully implement the regional initiatives and the Country Programming Frameworks (paragraphs. 27, 31, 35, 39).
- Support the search for voluntary contributions needed to implement the Regional Programme of Work (paragraph 33).
- Consider strengthening FAO's presence in Member Nations with higher food insecurity and poverty, while encouraging support from within the Region for FAO's presence in middle and upper-middle income Member Nations (paragraph 35).
- Encourage FAO's work in partnership with civil society and the private sector (paragraph 35).

### **Matters for the Attention of the Conference**

The Conference is invited to review and ratify the global and regional policy and regulatory matters

#### ***Global and regional policy and regulatory matters***

- Ratify the intensification of actions in the legislative and public policy spheres, improving the links between policies on nutrition security and reduction in rural poverty, in particular strengthen social protection systems, promote development of family farming and improve rural labour-market conditions. (paragraph 17).
- Support the efforts of Member Nations and regional integration bodies to develop their respective policies, plans and strategies for food and nutrition security and poverty eradication, in particular the CELAC Plan of Action; and continue supporting the 2025 Hunger-Free Latin America the Caribbean Initiative, links with the Committee on World Food Security and other food and nutrition security governance mechanisms, including the Post-2015 Development Agenda process (paragraphs 18,19).
- Review FAO's suggestion, as follow-up to the 32nd Regional Conference, to continue supporting a broad and dynamic debate including civil society and academia to analyse the concept of food security, as its meaning has not yet been agreed by Member Nations of FAO or the United Nations System, taking account of background and recent experiences, including discussions held during the adoption of the Strategic Framework of the Committee on World Food Security (paragraph 34).
- Support FAO efforts to strengthen agro-environmental policies in the Region, and to simultaneously promote rural poverty reduction and food security improvements, as well as actions adapting to climate change, to include technology transfers and exchanges according to the national needs and priorities of Latin American and Caribbean Member Nations (paragraph 25).
- Support FAO's offer to provide technical support in designing and implementing regional initiatives aimed at risk prevention, reduction and management, as well as strengthening national, regional and Sub-regional humanitarian aid mechanisms, under the auspices of CELAC and other regional and sub-regional organizations (paragraph 26).
- Promote the development of more inclusive and efficient agriculture and food systems at the local, national and international levels, since they affect the availability and accessibility of varied and nutritious food, and simultaneously impact on consumer information and consumer ability to opt for healthy diets (paragraph 28).
- Support strategic actions targeting the most vulnerable groups, public policies promoting healthy food supplies, analysis of food-price volatility trends, promotion of intra-regional trade, support for family farming and the strengthening of local markets (paragraph 29).

## SUMMARY OF THE MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS

### I. Introductory Items

#### *Organization of the Regional Conference*

1. The Thirty-third Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean (LARC 33) was held in Santiago, Chile, from 6 to 9 May 2014. The Regional Conference Senior Officers' Meeting was held between 6 May and the morning session of 7 May, while the Ministerial Session was held from the afternoon session of 7 May to 9 May 2014. Representatives from 31 Member Nations attended, including Ministers, Deputy Ministers and High-level Officials as Heads of Delegation.

#### *Inaugural Ceremonies*

2. The Conference was opened by Ms. Michele Bachelet, President of the Republic of Chile, along with Mr. Graziano da Silva, Director-General of FAO. Chile was acknowledged by FAO as an example of the fight against hunger, having reducing undernourishment levels from 9% in the 1990s to less than 5% in 2011-2013.

3. The Senior Officers' Meeting was opened by Raúl Benítez, Assistant Director General and FAO Regional Representative for Latin America and the Caribbean, who thanked the Government and people of Chile for their hospitality, welcomed Member Nation Delegations and reiterated the relevance of Regional Conferences in guiding FAO's work.

#### *Election of the Chairperson, Vice-Chairpersons and Appointment of the Rapporteur*

4. The Conference unanimously elected as Conference Chairperson Mr. Carlos Furche, Minister of Agriculture of Chile, who expressed thanks for his appointment and welcomed Delegates to the meeting; and as Vice-Chairpersons Mr. Arturo Osornio, Under-Secretary of the Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development of Mexico; and Dr. Leslie Ramsammy, Minister of Agriculture of Guyana.

5. The Conference unanimously elected as Conference Rapporteur, the Minister Mr. Gustavo Infante, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Argentina to FAO. Mr. Mario Arvelo, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Dominican Republic to FAO, and Ms. Stephanie Hochstetter, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Guatemala to FAO were elected to form part of the Drafting Committee.

#### *Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable*

6. The Conference adopted the Agenda and Timetable.

7. The Conference agreed to give the floor to the spokesperson elected by Civil-Society Organizations during the Consultation preceding the Conference in the order in which the floor was requested, as an expression of the interest in the participation of Civil Society and Non-Governmental Organizations in the work of FAO and the experience of the various Regional Conferences in 2014.

#### *Statement by the Director-General of FAO*

8. In his statement to the Conference, FAO Director-General, Mr. José Graziano da Silva, highlighted the Region's progress towards achieving food security, as well as the challenges it now faced. He also highlighted the transformation being driven by the Organization to support Latin American and Caribbean efforts to combat hunger and poverty.

***Statement by the Social Area Coordinator of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC)***

9. Mr. Héctor Rodríguez Castro, Vice-President for Social Affairs of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and Social Area Coordinator of CELAC, highlighted how important it was for the Region as a whole to work together to tackle pending issues relating to food security and inclusive development.

***Statement by the FAO Independent Chairperson of the Council***

10. Mr. Wilfred J. Ngirwa, FAO Independent Chairperson of the Council, emphasized the new role of Regional Conferences as Governing Bodies that report to the FAO Council. He also encouraged delegates to play an active role in discussing the issues and challenges facing Latin America and the Caribbean.

***Statement by the Chair of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS)***

11. Mr. Gustavo Infante, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Argentina to FAO, Vice-Chairperson of the Committee on World Food Security, speaking on behalf of the Chairperson, Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Gerda Verburg, reported on the progress of CFS in the past two years and some of the main topics of discussion. He also called on the various actors to become involved in the process.

***Statement by the Chairperson of the 32nd Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean***

12. The Chairperson of the Thirty-second FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean, Mr. Carlos Casamiquela, Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries of Argentina, highlighted progress achieved in the past two years as follow-up to the agreements made during the previous Conference. This indicated that Latin America and the Caribbean was fully committed to achieving the FAO Strategic Objectives, as well as improving the Region's standing in an increasingly complex global environment.

***Statement by the Chairperson of the 33<sup>rd</sup> FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean***

13. Chile's Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Carlos Furche, welcomed all participants, gave thanks for his appointment as Chairperson of the 33rd Regional Conference, and stressed that the meeting was an expression of commitment to the development of agriculture (with an emphasis on peasant family farming). He also expressed a willingness to work constructively and contribute to developing agriculture in the rural areas of Latin American and Caribbean Member Nations.

**II. Global and Regional Policy and Regulatory Matters**

14. The Conference considered important policy issues for the Region:
- a) the eradication of hunger, food insecurity, malnutrition and extreme poverty,
  - b) the sustainable production of goods and services in agriculture, livestock, forestry and fisheries in reducing risks and in improving livelihood resilience, to threats and crises within the context of climate change, and
  - c) an enabling environment for the development of more inclusive and efficient agriculture and food systems at the local, national and international levels.

### ***Challenges for the Eradication of Hunger, Food Insecurity, Malnutrition and Extreme Poverty***

15. The Conference recognized that, despite significant progress towards eradicating hunger, millions of Latin American and Caribbean people suffered from food insecurity and malnutrition. It therefore stated the importance of accelerating efforts required for all Member Nations to achieve the first Millennium Goal target to “reduce by half the proportion of people who suffer from hunger”.

16. The Conference emphasized that in order to eliminate the fundamental causes of hunger, malnutrition and poverty, targeted actions must be promoted for the most vulnerable people affected by these scourges. At the same time, sustainable investment programmes must be driven in the medium and long-term to promote rural development, agriculture, employment and education on food and nutrition.

17. The Conference agreed on the need to intensify actions in the legislative and public policy spheres to link food and nutrition security to the reduction of rural poverty. In this regard, the Conference highlighted the strengthening of social protection systems, the development of family farming and the improvement of rural labour-market conditions. Emphasis was also placed on the need for intersectoral, interministerial and territorial coordination of actions, as well as on coordination between various levels of national Governments.

18. The Conference underlined the political commitment to the fight against hunger and the right to food voiced in various national and regional fora, and through various Governments, Parliaments, human rights ombudsmen, Civil Society, academia and the private sector. In particular, the pronouncements by Heads of State and Government at the First and Second Summits of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) (Santiago, Chile, in 2013 and Havana, Cuba, in 2014) and the 2025 Hunger-Free Latin America and the Caribbean Initiative were highlighted. In this regard, the Conference supported the 2014 CELAC Plan of Action, particularly the section on Food and Nutrition Security and the Eradication of Hunger and Poverty.

19. The Conference indicated the importance of FAO continuing to support the efforts of Member Nations and regional integration bodies to develop their respective policies, plans and strategies for food and nutrition security and poverty eradication. FAO was requested to continue supporting the 2025 Hunger-Free Latin America and the Caribbean Initiative, and to strengthen links with the Committee on World Food Security and other regional and global fora dealing with food and nutrition security governance, including the Post-2015 Development Agenda process.

20. The Conference noted that the various policies and programmes being implemented by the Region’s Member Nations comprised enough elements to eradicate hunger, malnutrition and poverty in the next few years. FAO was requested to support Member Nations in the design, strengthening and implementation of strategies and initiatives for South-South and triangular cooperation.

### ***Update on the Committee on World Food Security***

21. The Conference received a progress report on the activities of the Committee on World Food Security since the 32nd Regional Conference in Argentina in 2012. The Conference renewed its support for the CFS as an international and intergovernmental platform that enabled joint and coordinated work by many stakeholders, and supported its actions in Latin America and the Caribbean.

22. The Conference took note of the process underway to develop the CFS 2016-2017 Multi-Year Programme of Work, and called on Member Nations and sectors involved to provide suggestions regarding food and nutrition security issues that could be examined by CFS in the next biennium.

### ***Challenges for the sustainable production of goods and services in agriculture, livestock, forestry and fisheries, risk management and reduction and improving the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crisis, in a context of climate change***

23. The Conference recognized the need for Member Nations to develop national frameworks for policies and strategies designed to protect natural resources and adapt agriculture, livestock, forestry, aquaculture and fisheries to climate change, in keeping with agreements from other specific fora on these matters.

24. The Conference emphasized the importance of FAO support to Member Nations in improving the sustainable production of goods and services in agriculture, livestock, forestry and fisheries, in reducing risks and in improving livelihood resilience within the context of climate change while striking a balance between strategies increasing productivity and promoting efficient management of carbon emissions.

25. The Conference supported FAO efforts, within the framework of the CELAC Plan of Action, to strengthen the agro-environmental policies of the Region's Member Nations in simultaneously promoting rural poverty reduction and food security improvements, as well as actions adapting to climate change including technology transfers and exchanges based on the national needs and priorities of Latin American and Caribbean Member Nations.

26. The Conference welcomed the request from the CELAC Plan of Action for FAO (in coordination with the World Food Programme) to offer technical support in designing and implementing regional initiatives focussing on risk prevention, reduction and management, as well as in strengthening national, regional and sub-regional humanitarian aid mechanisms.

27. The Conference underscored the importance of facilitating South-South and triangular cooperation programmes dealing with regional information and monitoring systems; technological innovation, research and development; exchange of experts and experiences in combating pests and diseases; conservation and fair access mechanisms for genetic resources; regional early warning and disaster relief systems; and harmonization of rules based on international standards among Member Nations regarding exchanges of agriculture, livestock, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture products.

***Towards an enabling environment for the establishment of more inclusive and efficient agriculture and food systems at the local, national and international level***

28. The Conference recognized the need to promote the development of more inclusive and efficient agriculture and food systems at the local, national and international levels in impacting on availability and accessibility of varied and nutritious food, and in simultaneously impacting on consumer information and consumer ability to opt for healthy diets. The 2014-2017 Medium-Term Plan was a suitable means of achieving this goal.

29. The Conference emphasized that access to food was the Region's main challenge in achieving food and nutrition security. It, therefore, requested an intensification of actions to:

- a) target the most vulnerable groups;
- b) develop public policies promoting healthy food supplies;
- c) analyse food-price volatility trends;
- d) promote intra-regional trade;
- e) support for family farming through public purchasing programmes, promotion of social capital and partnerships; and
- f) strengthen local markets to highlight cultural identity and to promote links between local producers and consumers.

30. The Conference also underlined the importance of promoting policies enhancing the role of rural women and gender equality by providing access to production assets and to credit and finance mechanisms. It also took note of the conclusions of the Specialized Meeting on Women in the 2014 Year of Family Farming, held in Santiago, Chile, (10-11 April 2014); as well as the Document on Youth included in the Declaration of Montevideo (24-25 March 2014) in the framework of the Regional

Dialogue on Planning and Mobilization for the International Year of Family Farming (including peasant and indigenous farming).

### ***Thematic Panels***

31. During the Ministerial Meeting, five Thematic Panels were held to facilitate the exchange of national experiences and views concerning aspects covered in the relevant information documents. The List of Participants and the main conclusions are available in Appendix B. The following topics were discussed:

- Governance for Food and Nutrition Security in Latin America and the Caribbean,
- Challenges for Sustainable Development and Adaptation to Climate Change in Latin America and the Caribbean (post-2015),
- Repositioning Family Farming,
- Prospects of Production and Food Trade in Latin America and the Caribbean, and
- Strengthening South-South cooperation for Food and Agriculture in Latin America and the Caribbean.

## **III. Programme and Budget Matters**

### ***FAO Activities in the Region (2012-13) and Priorities Regarding FAO Activities in the Region 2014-17***

32. The Conference considered the report on priorities for FAO activities in Latin America and the Caribbean, covering achievements in 2012-2013 and proposals for 2014-2015 and beyond.

33. The Conference:

- a) welcomed the actions undertaken during 2012-2013 to address the regional priorities;
- b) recognized the support provided to Haiti, and recommended FAO to reinforce its efforts, including capacity development;
- c) underlined the need for continuity in the strategic direction and leadership of the Organization in order to realize the full impact of the reviewed Strategic Framework;
- d) endorsed the proposed focus areas for each of the new Strategic Objectives, as outlined in paragraph 21 of document LARC/14/5 Rev.1;
- e) supported the three regional initiatives for 2014-15: 1- Support to the Hunger-Free Latin America and the Caribbean Initiative, 2- Family Farming and Rural Territorial Development and 3- Improving national and regional food and feed systems in the Caribbean, as appropriate means to further focus FAO's work for country-level impact within the Programme of Work and Budget 2014-15 and the Medium Term Plan 2014-17;
- f) emphasized the need to mobilize resources to fully implement the Regional Initiatives and Country Programming Frameworks, noting that CPFs had been completed in 32 Member Nations, and recommended completion of the CPF in the one remaining country;
- g) recognized specific issues affecting the sub-regions, in particular the need for FAO to support Member Nations in climate change adaptation, food security, and providing special attention to vulnerable groups, and
- h) recognized the importance of the following issues in further FAO programme development:
  - i. support to the CELAC Plan of Action 2014, as appropriate;
  - ii. implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the context of national food security;

- iii. engagement of multiple stakeholders, including parliamentary alliances;
- iv. challenges related to rural youth and indigenous peoples;
- v. institutional strengthening;
- vi. follow-up to the International Year of Family Farming, and;
- vii. public purchasing from family farms and rural producers.

34. As follow-up to the 32nd Regional Conference, it was suggested that FAO continue supporting a broad and dynamic debate that involved Civil Society and academia in analysing the concept of food sovereignty, as its meaning had not yet been agreed by Member Nations of FAO or the United Nations System. This should take account of background and recent experiences, including discussions held during the adoption of the Strategic Framework of the Committee on World Food Security.

### ***Decentralization and Decentralized Offices Network***

35. The Conference considered the report on decentralization and the decentralized offices network in the Region and:

- a) highlighted the progress made in the area of decentralization and the importance that this was expected to have on the ability to respond effectively to Member Nation requirements, including emergencies;
- b) supported the measures being taken to ensure the alignment of Country Programming Frameworks, regional initiatives and Strategic Objectives;
- c) stressed the importance of strengthening the FAO's presence at the country level and working towards focusing FAO's resources in Member Nations with higher food insecurity and poverty, while encouraging support from within the Region for FAO's presence in middle and upper-middle income Member Nations;
- d) supported the expansion of South-South cooperation, and
- e) encouraged FAO's work in partnership with civil society and the private sector.

### ***Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPOW) of the Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean***

36. The Conference endorsed the MYPOW in its current form, and emphasized the importance of facilitating and supporting sub-regional consultation processes.

### ***Outcome of Sub-regional Consultations***

37. The three Sub-regions confirmed the priorities and areas of focus for the 2014-2015 biennium set out in paragraph 21 of document LARC/14/5 Rev.1, as well as their relevance in achieving development objectives. They expressed their opinions and comments on the implementation of the three regional initiatives, with the following characteristics specific to each Sub-region:

38. The Mesoamerica Sub-region:

- a) observed that regional initiatives strengthened and guided the areas of interest agreed upon by Member Nations of the Sub-region by i) helping to achieve food and nutrition security; ii) increasing the number and quality of goods and services for family farming and the household economy; iii) strengthening inclusive and sustainable management of natural resources, with special emphasis on the resilience of communities and adaptation to climate change, and promoting iv) food health and safety;

- b) highlighted inter-agency coordination, the active participation of youth and civil society and the strengthening of ties with parliamentary groups (such as the Parliamentary Front against Hunger) and other institutional structures, as appropriate mechanisms in improving the impact of regional initiatives designed to reduce hunger and poverty.
39. The South America Sub-region:
- a) underlined the need to work towards a hunger-free Latin America and the Caribbean, with an emphasis on information and communication; nutritional quality and safety of infant feeding; obesity reduction; access to food; food-price volatility analyses, and the promotion and exchange of experiences on policy best practices for food and nutrition security;
  - b) highlighted the importance of strengthening family farming (to include the value chain), by targeting actions that strengthen small-scale fishing and aquaculture, small-scale livestock and forestry, and urban and peri-urban farming; reducing asymmetries for family farming to access markets; promoting access to production factors; boosting local markets; and promoting associations and organizations;
  - c) considered the relevance of natural resource management and of irrigation management with a territorial focus through management and control of soil degradation; water management and efficient use of irrigation; sustainable forest management; management and control of fish and aquaculture resources; risk-management and risk-reduction strategies in the context of climate change; and transboundary pests and disease management;
  - d) underlined that, in order to make progress in those areas, it was vital to promote the exchange of knowledge and technology, as well as other South-South cooperation actions in the Region (with priority accorded to Haiti).
40. The Caribbean Sub-region:
- a) recommended that work in the Sub-region should be focused on i) food import bill - developing value chains for specific food and feed products; ii) implementation of a Zero Hunger Programme with emphasis on and urgency in addressing malnutrition; iii) risk management to reduce natural disaster impacts in addition to economic and other risk factors; iv) addressing public policy, management and governance and v) improved implementation of strategic plans and programmes already developed and funded, and vi) proposed that consideration be given to an annual consultation between FAO and Caribbean Member Nations (possibly during the annual Caribbean Week of Agriculture).
  - b) called for mechanisms for Haiti to implement the Agriculture and Food Security Strategy in place, and requested FAO to collaborate with national Governments within and outside of the Region to mobilize South-South cooperation support in assisting Haiti and in facilitating coordination of assistance to ensure that increased results would arise through synergies.

### ***Summary of the Recommendations of Regional Technical Commissions***

41. The Conference reaffirmed FAO's pivotal role in the technical secretariats of the various Regional Commissions, and recommended that Governments strengthen their support for the Commissions' programmes of work, as well as encouraged Senior Officer participation in their meetings.

42. The Conference supported the recommendations by LACFC, CODEGALAC, COPESCAALC and WECAFC, and highlighted the contribution of forests, livestock, fisheries and aquaculture in reducing poverty and food insecurity, as well as in sustaining population livelihoods, especially those of family farmers.

43. The Conference noted the concern expressed for forest losses in the Region, and supported the LACFC recommendation for FAO to continue cooperating with Member Nations on forestry matters, and in particular on consolidating national policies, laws, institutions and technical and institutional capacities to monitor and evaluate forest resources, and to prevent and control pests, disease and forest fires. It also endorsed the development of guidelines for the design of policies to include forests in national development programmes, with special emphasis on small-scale producers.

44. The Conference noted the challenges facing Member Nations in protecting their livestock heritage, in reducing risks associated with animal and public health and in consolidating sustainable livestock development and climate change adaptation programmes. As a result of the above, the Conference endorsed the CODEGALAC recommendation for FAO to continue supporting programmes for the control and eradication of transboundary diseases, the strengthening of family farming and the development of information systems, statistics, sectoral analysis and livestock policies. The Conference also endorsed the CODEGALAC recommendation for FAO to support the development of recovery programmes for damaged areas to improve free-range livestock production efficiency and to strengthen sustainable livestock development programmes, with a view to making progress in adapting to climate change.

45. The Conference endorsed the COPESCAALC recommendations for FAO to support the improvement of policy-making, strategic planning and sustainable management of resource-limited aquaculture, bolster aquaculture extension for small-scale farmers, and support the inclusion of fish and aquaculture products from small-scale farmers in school-feeding programmes. The Conference also supported the recommendation for FAO to continue facilitating dialogue on reaching a consensus through the International Guidelines to secure Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries.

46. The Conference supported the WECAFC recommendations for FAO to continue cooperating with it on fisheries management, capacity-building support for fisheries and aquaculture data analysis and sharing, application of the 2009 FAO Agreement on Port-State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, and the drafting of recommendations to adapt the fisheries and aquaculture sectors to climate change.

#### **IV. Other Matters**

##### ***Joint FAO/WHO Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2)***

47. The Conference noted the information provided on preparations for the said Conference that would take place from 19 -21 November 2014 at FAO Headquarters in Rome. The Conference urged Member Nations to complete national reports and case studies on nutrition, ensuring the active participation of States, parliamentarians, civil society and the private sector in the ICN2 process, and to contribute to the final document from the regional perspective.

##### ***Report of the Committee on Agriculture***

48. The Chairperson of the Committee on Agriculture (COAG), His Excellency Mario Arvelo, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Dominican Republic to FAO, discussed the Committee's accomplishments since the 23rd Session of COAG in 2012, including the adoption of the International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides, and the Global Soil Partnership. He invited the Ministers From Latin America and the Caribbean to participate in the forthcoming Session of COAG in Rome from 29 September to 3 October 2014.

##### ***Date and Place of the 34th FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean***

49. The Conference welcomed the generous offer by the Republic of Mexico to host the 34th FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean in 2016, and recommended accepting the offer. Guyana said it supported this, and also expressed interest in the FAO Regional Conference being held in a Caribbean Member Nation in the future.

***Side Event on the International Year of Family Farming***

50. Ms. Nadine Heredia, First Lady of Peru; Mr. José Graziano, FAO Director General; Ms. Carla Campos, Secretary of Rural Development and Family Farming of Argentina; Mr. Laudemir Muller, National Delegate in Brazil for the REAF; Mr. Octavio Sotomayor, Country Director for INDAP, Chile; Ms. Mirna Cunningham, Ambassador for the International Year of Family Farming; and Mr. Fernando López, Secretary General for the Confederation of Family Producers of MERCOSUR (COPROFAM) / Representative of the Alliance for Food Sovereignty of the Peoples, participated in a Side Event on the International Year of Family Farming 2014. A discussion panel was held on strategies to strengthen the sustainability of family farming, in its broadest sense, as a pillar for food and nutrition security and poverty alleviation, and also emphasized its contribution to rural territorial development.

***Signature of Agreements***

51. An Agreement was signed between the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to generate Partnerships for the Development of Sustainable Rice Production Systems in Sub-Saharan Africa.

52. A Cooperation Agreement “Mesoamérica sin Hambre” between Mexico and FAO was signed, as a South-South triangular cooperation mechanism that would contribute to the eradication of hunger in the Central American Member Nations, the Dominican Republic and Colombia.

53. A Protocol of Intent of Cooperation was signed between ITAIPU Binacional and FAO, in order to promote South-South triangular cooperation in developing socio-environmental policies on the interrelation between food, water and energy in the Regions of Latin America and the Caribbean and Africa.

***Statement from the Consultation with Social Organizations of Latin America and the Caribbean***

54. The Conference agreed to include the Statement from the Consultation with Civil Society for the 33rd FAO Regional Conference held on 4-5 May 2014 in Santiago, Chile, as an information document. (Appendix C)

***Statement from the Meeting on Women in the 2014 Year of Family Farming***

55. The Conference agreed to include the Declaration of Santiago from the Meeting on Women in the 2014 Year of Family Farming, held in Santiago, Chile, on 10-11 April 2014, as an information document. (Appendix D)

***Ministerial Declaration of Santiago***

56. At the conclusion of the Conference, Ministers and Heads of Delegation expressed their support for the Ministerial Declaration of Santiago. (Appendix A)

### **Ministerial Declaration**

We, the Ministers and Heads of Delegation attending the 33rd FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean, declare that:

Aware of the great challenges the Region faces on matters of food security and nutrition, poverty alleviation, sustainable increase in agricultural productivity and environmental protection;

Recalling the commitment of our Region in the framework of the Latin America and Caribbean without Hunger Initiative in eradicating hunger by 2025;

Reiterating our support for the "Global Zero Hunger Challenge," proposed during the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio +20), where adequate food was recognized as a basic human right;

Pleased with the significant progress made by the Region in achieving the 1<sup>st</sup> Millennium Development Goal (MDG) to reduce hunger by 2015:

Support the important transformations that have driven FAO over the past biennium, allowing it to focus and act closer to actions and needs of its Member Nations;

Welcome the new Strategic Framework of the Organization adopted during the 38<sup>th</sup> Session of the FAO Conference, which sets out five Strategic Objectives for the period 2014-2017;

Emphasize the positive results the transformation process has witnessed, as reflected at the level of the country work programmes and FAO's renewed leadership in multilateral fora;

Support the implementation of the three regional initiatives in FAO's Programme of Work for the Region: 1) Support for the Latin America and Caribbean without Hunger 2015 challenge; 2) Family Agriculture and Land Use Development in Rural Areas; and 3) Improving National and Regional Food and Agri-food Systems;

Reaffirm the important commitments made by the Heads of State and Governments during the Second Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean Member Nations, CELAC, to adopt the Caracas Action Plan to Eradicate Hunger and Poverty;

Recognize the positive results achieved in the framework of the International Year of Quinoa 2013, and appreciate the efforts made by FAO to promote the International Year of Family Agriculture 2014;

Reaffirm our commitment to work alongside FAO in eradicating hunger and malnutrition, and in the development of sustainable agriculture in Latin America and the Caribbean;

Appreciate the determination and leadership demonstrated by the Director General of FAO to assist Member Nations to fully achieve hunger eradication; and

Therefore, entrust our support for the Director General to provide continuity to the current process of changes within FAO conducive to achieving these objectives.

### Thematic Panels

The Ministerial Meeting included five Thematic Panels for countries to exchange views and experiences concerning aspects featured in the respective information documents submitted by FAO to the Conference. The main themes covered by each Panel are reported below.

a) **Panel on Governance for Food and Nutrition Security in Latin America and the Caribbean**

Mr Pablo Jacome, Secretary-General of Productive Sector Relations, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Aquaculture and Fisheries of Ecuador; Dr Leslie Ramsammy, Minister of Agriculture of Guyana; Mr Enrique González Tiburcio, Technical Secretary of the Inclusive Mexico Social Cabinet, Secretariat of Social Development of the United Mexican States; Mr Bosco Castillo, Minister of Youth, Production Coordinator of the National System of Production, Consumption and Trade of Nicaragua; Mr José Luis Berroterán, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Ministry of People's Power for Agriculture and Land of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela participated.

The panel stressed that improving governance to enforce the right to food required constant high-level political commitment, appropriate inter-agency coordination, national strategies to coordinate actions for the most vulnerable groups and an impetus to production programmes that overcame poverty. It also highlighted, in this regard, the importance of broad social participation, the need for coordinated support of international cooperation to national strategies, and the need to strengthen learning through the exchange of lessons and best practices. The Panel concluded by drawing attention to the relevance of coordinating international cooperation with national development strategies and the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

b) **Panel on Challenges for Sustainable Development and Adaptation to Climate Change in Latin America and the Caribbean (post-2015)**

Mr Carlos Klink, National Secretary for Climate Change and Environmental Quality, Ministry of the Environment of Brazil; Mr Roland Bhola, Minister of Agriculture and Environmental of Grenada; Mr Arturo Osornio Sánchez, Under-Secretary of Rural Development, Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food of the United Mexican States; Mr Enzo Benech, Acting Minister of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries of Uruguay participated.

The Panel considered the need for legal frameworks, institutions and appropriate human and financial resources, and for action to enable farmers to apply the valuable knowledge available in dealing with adaptation to climate change. Research and innovation were important, as was the inter-agency and multisectoral coordination of different national bodies. Equally relevant was farmer training in the sustainable management of natural resources essential for production, in particular soil and water. Food waste needed to be avoided to reduce input loss and pollution, and above all to feed more hungry people. Finally, the Panel stressed the importance of financial assistance and agricultural insurance for small farmers to strengthen their resilience to climate change.

c) **Panel on Repositioning Family Farming on the Latin American and Caribbean Agenda**

Mr Victor Hugo Vásquez, Deputy Minister of Rural and Agricultural Development of the Plurinational State of Bolivia; Mr Laudemir Muller, Executive Secretary of the Ministry of Agrarian Development of Brazil; Mr Elmer López, Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Food of Guatemala; Mr Roger Clarke, Minister of Agriculture of Jamaica participated.

The Panel highlighted the important role that the International Year of Family Farming was playing in reappraising the contribution of this type of farming, and of the rural world in general, in the Region's development. There was also a need to continue promoting differentiated policies and programmes to strengthen family farming in the different national and sub-regional contexts. Also

important were rural women, the creation of associations, the participation of different actors in the design and implementation of such policies and the further improvement of public mechanisms and instruments to benefit family farming.

d) **Panel on Prospects of Production and Food Trade in Latin America and the Caribbean**

Mr David Estwick, Minister of Agriculture, Food, Fisheries and Water Resource Management of Barbados; Mr Carlos Force, Minister of Agriculture of Chile; Mr César Sotomayor, Deputy Minister of Agrarian Policy, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation of Peru.

The Panel emphasized that the Region's significant capacity for production and world food trade, coupled with the diversity of its Member Nations, constituted an opportunity for increased intra-regional agri-food trade and a pillar of development for all of them. It also highlighted the opportunity that existed to broaden intra-regional food trade, pointing to the need to strengthen the legal, regulatory and institutional frameworks that would enable this, and promoting information systems that were tailored to the characteristics of the family farmers and actors involved. It recognized that different realities (importers and exporters) co-existed within the Region, requiring strategies specific to each individual Member Nation. Likewise, it was important to encourage differentiated policies to enable family farmers to benefit more from food trade opportunities available in the region, such as compliance with quality, health, safety and environmental standards, regularization of land tenure, financing, technological innovation and the generation of partnership models within and between Member Nations.

e) **Panel on Strengthening South-South Cooperation for Food and Agriculture in Latin America and the Caribbean**

Mr Michel Chancy, Secretary of State for Animal Production of the Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Rural Development of Haiti; Mr Milton Rondo Filho, General Coordinator of International Actions Against Hunger, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brazil; Mr Jorge Daccarett, Executive Director of the International Cooperation Agency of Chile, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Mr Juan Manuel Valle, Executive Director of the Mexican International Cooperation Agency, Secretariat of Foreign Affairs of Mexico; Mrs Verónica Guerrero Rodríguez, Deputy Minister for America and the Caribbean of the Ministry of People's Power for Foreign Affairs; Mr Bernardo Álvarez, Executive Secretary of ALBA-TCP and President of Petróleos de Venezuela, Caribe, S.A. (PDV Caribe) participated.

The Panel underlined the wealth of South-South Cooperation and triangular experiences and initiatives in the Region, and drew attention to the lessons that such actions were generating in the design and implementation of future programmes and projects. It also emphasized their importance for regional integration and visibility of the progress that was being made in the Member Nations concerned. It identified pending challenges, such as the closer involvement of actors of the private sector and civil society, the implementation and coordination of actions under the leadership of the Member Nations in which the initiatives were taking place, and the importance of making the projects people-oriented through greater social inclusion and a rights-based approach. It emphasized that FAO, through its strategic vision and technical capability, could contribute significantly to the development of further South-South Cooperation and triangular actions.

The Thematic Panels also made proposals that could be considered as part of future FAO work, including:

- Developing a plan of adaptation to climate change that considers the specific characteristics of the Caribbean and its high exposure to climate events;
- Promoting the exchange of public policy experiences relating to national food supply programmes; and
- Analysing finance mechanisms and options for the development of food security programmes and projects.

## **Declaration of the Social Organizations of Latin America and the Caribbean**

### **DECLARATION OF THE CIVIL SOCIETY CONSULTATION TO THE 33rd FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE**

Santiago de Chile, 6 May 2014

We, women and men, representatives of 52 organizations of family, peasant and indigenous farmers, artisanal fishers and aquaculturists, pastoralists, wage labourers and civil society, of 19 countries of all the Sub-regions of Latin America and the Caribbean, gathered in Santiago de Chile, on 4 and 5 May, at the Civil Society Consultation for the 33<sup>rd</sup> FAO Regional Conference, organized by the Alliance for Food Sovereignty of the Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean:

Reaffirm our commitment, in the fight for food sovereignty, to continue developing the small-scale production of healthy and culturally-appropriate foods, which is crucial for the eradication of hunger and poverty;

Acknowledge that hunger and poverty are two major dilemmas that humanity still needs to resolve. It has been widely demonstrated that the large-scale industrial agriculture model of food production and marketing, based on monoculture of transgenic species and use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides, and dominated by multinational corporations, has not only failed to resolve hunger and poverty, but has exacerbated these problems;

Believe that the time has come for Governments and international agencies to listen to the voice of peoples. Hunger and poverty are consequences of the lack of food sovereignty that has afflicted populations for centuries;

Believe that the 33rd FAO Regional Conference should mark a change in approach to the production of healthy foods in Latin America and the Caribbean, and reaffirm that:

Food is a basic and intrinsic human right and not a commodity for the accumulation of capital. The public goods (oceans and inland waters, land, seeds and biodiversity for life support) must be considered the heritage of the peoples and at the service of humanity.

Development of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean cannot continue to be based on large-scale agri-business and industrial extractivism, nor on the interests of the large corporations involved in these sectors. This model drives peoples from their land, triggers conflicts that have led to loss of life, contaminates and destroys the soil, seas, inland waters and air, and causes high levels of illness among rural and urban workers.

Family, peasant and indigenous farming, and artisanal fishing and aquaculture have been subjugated to a capitalist model that has sought to destroy cultures in order to promote peoples' dependency by creating unfair competition, speculation and individualism. The resistance and resilience of these populations has made, and still makes, it possible to continue producing healthy foods for the peoples of the entire world. These foods are not accessible to everyone because of the concentration of power, and of the means of production and distribution in the hands of such large agro-chemical and biotechnology corporations as Monsanto, Bayer, Dow, Du Pont/Pioneer and Syngenta that appropriate income from the work of millions of men and women workers and that deny millions of people access to food.

Our studies and other formal assessments, including those by FAO, indicate that small-scale food production is more productive and feeds at least 70% of the world's population, despite the difficulties involved and the little support received from Governments. It also serves to maintain the diversity of ancestral and traditional cultures, and to protect and conserve natural resources and biodiversity.

Governments and international agencies must never again permit attacks and violations of human rights by agri-business. The rural sector has experienced high levels of violence against women, and persecution and assassination of peasants, indigenous peoples and unionized rural workers.

**We therefore propose that:**

1. Member Nations and Governments recognize and delineate indigenous territories, where indigenous peoples can safeguard natural resources (forests, water, soil, seeds, biodiversity, spirituality) and pursue their way of life.
2. Member Nations and Governments implement comprehensive agrarian reform initiatives for territorial development that will curtail rural depopulation, with public policies for men and women's access to land, drinking water, irrigation, water infrastructures, and educational systems that promote rural for rural life, health and marketing. In other words, these initiatives promote comprehensive policies that will shield rural populations from having to migrate to reproduce their way of life.
3. For the immediate future, FAO prioritize the promotion and implementation of public policies that will strengthen the food sovereignty of peoples as a key means of eradicating hunger.
4. Governments renew their commitment to implement the Right to Food Guidelines ten years after they were adopted.
5. Enabling measures be adopted to disseminate the nutritional benefits and promote the consumption of products from artisanal fishing and aquaculture and from small-scale agricultural and livestock producers, at sustainable and national levels. In particular, these should be included in educational and school feeding programmes.
6. Governments implement policies and programmes that will support the development of small-scale food processing, as well as direct food marketing from producer to consumer, in keeping with agro-ecology and social and economic solidarity. This will require state subsidy and public purchasing programmes tailored to the different sectors and needs of the producers and consumers.
7. Priority be given to actions and the formulation of public policies for the sustainable development of artisanal marine and inland fisheries and small-scale aquaculture according to the individual needs of each Member Nation, given their relevance in enhancing food and nutrition security levels. They should also contribute to an evaluation of marine and inland fisheries in transboundary water catchments, particularly the participation of fishing communities in the state of fishery resources.
8. Governments endorse the international guidelines to secure sustainable small-scale fisheries at the next session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries COFI).
9. Policies be developed to build production and marketing capacity for women, as well as their knowledge in promoting food sovereignty. This will require the creation of a regional programme that promotes gender equality, and that guarantees women's participation in agriculture and fisheries according to the CEDAW ratified by Governments.
10. Public policies be formulated and applied for the benefit of youth, ensuring them the right to pursue their livelihoods in their own domains.
11. The establishment of legal frameworks and public policies, with the active participation of Civil Society in discussion, design, implementation and monitoring, and reflecting the diversity of non-patriarchal family, peasant and indigenous farming and artisanal fisheries and aquaculture.
12. There be guaranteed respect for the human, economic, social and cultural rights of small-scale food producers, men and women, and food-sector workers, and that policies be implemented that comply with ILO guidelines on quality work, to include the elimination of outsourcing and precarious contracts for temporary or seasonal workers and criminalization of their union association. Member Nations

should observe and enforce the international laws and commitments they have adopted, and wage campaigns against slave labour and violence in the countryside.

13. Specific policies be introduced to promote and support agro-ecology-based production, especially in the transition stage, thereby acknowledging the possibility of agro-ecology mitigating and critically impacting climate change.

14. Focus be provided on the manner in which knowledge is acquired at community levels, with knowledge gained and validated through linkages within and with the natural environment which we comprise.

15. The causes of climate change be acknowledged as stemming from a model that includes agro-industrial activities, livestock and aquaculture production based on monoculture, increased use of agro-toxic substances, transgenic or hybrid seeds, implementation of intensive forestry practices that displace communities and destroy cultures and eco-systems and their biodiversity, and other large-scale activities such as mining and large infrastructure works such as hydroelectric mega-dams.

Solutions to the climate crisis refrain from application of the sectoral/industrial approach and focus instead on the territorial/social approach, thus pursuing policies for the agro-ecology-based recovery of degraded eco-systems, including the recovery of native seeds, for the benefit of small-scale farmers, herders and fishers. We must renounce market-oriented policies in addressing climate change, because nothing is more resilient than an integral and independent community.

16. We, therefore, believe that the International Year of Family Farming should benchmark the beginning of a long-term process that will culminate in the achievement of the above-noted proposals to strengthen non-patriarchal, family, peasant and indigenous farming which, from an agro-ecological perspective, will build the foundation of the Food Sovereignty of Peoples.

17. We are part of the solution. Our commitment is to assist in eradicating hunger and poverty by building the Food Sovereignty of Peoples.

**Santiago de Chile Declaration  
Meeting on Women in the International Year of Family Farming 2014**

During the "Meeting on Women in the Year of Family Farming - 2014" in Santiago de Chile, as part of the Final Declaration of Santo Domingo on Policy for Rural Women, Economic Empowerment, Equal Rights and Fight against Hunger, of the Side Event at the XII Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in the Dominican Republic in 2013, and within the framework of the Brasilia Declaration of 2013 and those declarations issued by the sub-regional Seminars held in San José de Costa Rica (Central America) and Quito (Andean Region) the same year, Representatives of Governments and civil society met with the aim of establishing a common agenda as a framework for the 33rd Regional Conference of FAO and the preparation of the Regional Conference "Women in the International Year of Family Farming", to be held in 2014.

**CONSIDERING THAT:**

1. In Latin America and the Caribbean, the rural population totals 121 million people, and represents approximately 20% of the total population, of which, 48% are women (58 million) and nearly 20 % are indigenous peoples (24 million).
2. Rural women are responsible for more than half of food production worldwide and play an important role in the preservation of biodiversity through the conservation of seeds, the recovery of agro-ecological practices, and guarantor of sovereignty and food security through the production of healthy food.
3. Women are protagonists in the construction of national and community economies. They are producers and guarantors of native seeds, creators of the ethics of care, and carers of life in a general sense.
4. Increasingly, women organize to defend their livelihoods and rights, representing the family farming, peasant and indigenous women in all their cultural and ethnic diversity.
5. The new FAO has made significant efforts in public policies for women to attain economic empowerment and equal rights and treatment in the fight against hunger, as well as strengthened fora for dialogue between Governments and women's organizations.
6. In Latin America and the Caribbean, the most important segment in food production is family farming, and its sustainability depends on the essential contribution of women, keeping in mind that the food crises impact women differently because they are responsible for both family reproduction and production. This is why family farming should be addressed continuously with productive and technological incentives to ensure sustainability and thereby avoid negative cycles.
7. Important advances in public policies, as well as the implementation of new institutional bodies in the Member Nations and in the Region, to promote gender equality in Latin America and the Caribbean, are being recognized.
8. Despite progress achieved in recent decades, rural women live under circumstances of social and political inequality with less access to land in economic terms. Only 30% of individual land entitlements, 10 % of loans and 5 % of technical assistance have gone to women.
9. There are still structural constraints hindering the participation of rural women in rural development and inland reform programme decision-making mechanisms.
10. Rural women face impediments to access to land, natural resources, water, public resources supporting production (loans, technical assistance and technology) and such basic services as health, education, housing, and infrastructure.
11. Climate change impacts strongly on the means of production of family, peasant and indigenous farming, and increases impediments to development of rural women.
12. Further discussion on a rural development model that facilitates enforcement of gender equality in the Region is required. The current model is exclusive, and does not include the necessary framework for policy development advocating the diversity of women (indigenous peoples, Afro-descendants and others) nor does it guarantee the realization of their rights.

13. From a gender equality perspective, technical assistance is an important instrument for women's access to family, peasant and indigenous agriculture. Policy-making; the need for different approaches and methodologies is recognized.
14. Remunerated and salaried working rural women work in precarious conditions without guarantees of basic labour rights.
15. Rural women are victims of different forms of gender-based violence and need to rely on the Governments to take actions to address them, including measures supporting reproductive health-systems, and firm legal frameworks and enforcement mechanisms in Parliaments and other institutions.
16. The need for progress, designing legal frameworks in involving Parliaments and in implementing public policies upholding rights and promoting autonomy for rural women is recognized.
17. The rights of rural and indigenous women are contained in various international human rights instruments such as the Beijing Declaration, CEDAW, UNDRIP, Resolution 49/7 and CSWs 56 and 58. These commitments were ratified in MERCOSUR/CMC/REC No. 06/08, ILO Convention No. 169, and the Special Declaration on the Promotion of Equality and Empowerment of Women in the New Development Agenda Post 2015, in the second CELAC Summit.

#### **URGE THAT:**

1. Governments promote effective strategies in promoting autonomy and empowerment of rural women, and fulfilment of their rights through legislation and administrative and budgetary measures that ensure full implementation.
2. Public policies for Family, Peasant and Indigenous Agriculture acknowledge both productive and reproductive work, development of activities that promote autonomy, economic rights, and social security with other rights of rural women. The importance of Government investments facilitating care work and promotion of shared responsibilities between men and women and between citizens and Governments be emphasized.
3. Laws and public policies guarantee access to land and territory (recognition of ancestral rights, legalization and redistribution) and to natural resources, especially water resources, recognizing women, irrespective of marital status, and prioritizing those who are heads of households, thus ensuring ownership rights and incentives in conserving said resources.
4. Laws and public policies guarantee women access to working capital and financial services, especially loans (with consideration to social and economic balance), title insurance, agricultural insurance, guarantee funds, production incentives and basic financial literacy.
5. Policies be created to strengthen and recover local, regional and national rural markets, emphasizing agro-ecological production, economic solidarity for food security incentives, and inclusion mechanisms for rural women, to include mechanisms to access procurement and school feeding programmes.
6. Inter-sectorial cooperation strategies of Government institutions supporting rural development, and mechanisms for the advancement of women, with their participation, be ensured.
7. Public policies promote quality work and recognize the importance of social and union organization. Also, that they promote better working conditions for those rural women who are engaged in non-agricultural employment activities.
8. Public policies with a gender perspective, enhancing advancement of women, and Gender Units in Ministries of Agriculture, Livestock and Agrarian and/or Rural Development of Governments, be institutionalized with human resources and budgets to sustain them.
9. Governments in the Region support FAO incorporating rural women concerns, both through mainstreaming and inter-sectorial actions, as well as promote dialogues with stakeholders in so doing.
10. Life free of violence for rural women with integrated and effective efforts in prevention, treatment, punishment and anti-discrimination be guaranteed.
11. Policies encompassing the ancestral knowledge of agriculture, livestock and fishery, to include seeds, food, and medicines primarily produced mainly by women as cultural heritage be formulated.
12. Regional Capacity-Building Programme for Rural Women be developed.
13. Agricultural extension services and technical assistance be tailored to the specific needs of rural, indigenous and African-descent women and that they be implemented.

14. Statistical information with cultural and ethnic relevance to enable planning, implementation and monitoring of public policies for rural women be produced and improved.

15. A new development model in the Region, based on solidarity, sovereignty and food security, redistribution of resources in favour of rural women, with the highest possible impact in rural areas, be further discussed.

16. The Region's integration mechanisms, such as CAN, CARICOM, CELAC, MERCOSUR, SICA and UNASUR, continue to integrate policy agendas and demands of rural women, taking into account comprehensive policies promoting equality between women and men, between Governments and Parliaments, researchers, organizations and rural women's movements.

**With a view to promote and monitor this agenda the following is proposed for the next period:**

- a) Convening the Regional Conference on Women in the International Year of Family Farming in 2014.
- b) Ensuring that International organizations, especially FAO, at its 33rd Regional Conference, incorporate the recommendations contained in this statement and in ODS and post-2015 Development Agenda discussions.
- c) Ensuring equal participation of women and men in the Member Nations' Delegations and Official Committees for the 33<sup>rd</sup> Regional Conference in Santiago de Chile.
- d) Ensuring that at the next Directive Board of the Regional Conference on Women, this declaration be ratified as a monitoring tool for agreements made within the framework of the Santo Domingo Final Declaration on Policy for Rural Women, Economic Empowerment, Equal Rights and Fight against Hunger of the Side Event to the XII Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- e) Ensuring the implementation of the Agenda of the Santo Domingo Final Declaration on Policy for Rural Women, Economic Empowerment, Equal Rights and Fight against Hunger of the Side Event to the XII Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- f) Ensuring dissemination and further discussion of this Declaration in the different Governments, Parliaments and fora for social dialogue.

Finally, we would like to thank FAO and the Government of Brazil, and their efforts to carry out this debate, and ask them to continue to act as facilitators in this process.

## AGENDA

### A) SENIOR OFFICERS' MEETING

6-7 May 2014

#### Introductory Items

1. **Election of the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson(s) and Appointment of the Rapporteur(s)**
2. **Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable**

*(Please see Ministerial Meeting items from 3 to 6 on page 4)*

#### Global and Regional Policy and Regulatory Matters

### 7. **Challenges for the Eradication of Hunger, Food Insecurity, Malnutrition and Extreme Poverty**

The document indicates how, one year ahead of the deadline settled by the Millennium Development Objectives, the goal of “reducing by half the proportion of people who suffer from hunger” has been achieved in 16 of the 33 Member Nations of the Region, with 6 of these Member Nations achieving the goal of reducing by half their absolute number of hungry (World Food Summit goal). However, in order to address the root causes of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition, a political commitment coupled with a greater understanding of food insecure groups is required. Similarly, improved governance mechanisms and enhanced coordination between sectors and public policies, as well as specifically-defined policies, programmes and investments for the most vulnerable communities are also required. Rural labour markets must also be improved, school feeding programmes must be expanded and gender, social protection and family farming policies must be promoted.

### 8. **Challenges for the sustainable production of goods and services in agriculture, livestock, forestry and fisheries, reducing risks and improving the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crisis, in a context of climate change**

The document shows how the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) have increased their agricultural, forestry and fishery production at rates above the global average. However, these Member Nations also face serious problems of soil degradation, depletion, water pollution, deforestation, biodiversity loss, social, economic and environmental sustainability threats, and increased risks associated with climate change. The document also highlights how the increased vulnerability of these sectors to natural disasters and weather events such as droughts, floods, frosts and hurricanes has led to recurring emergencies threatening the livelihoods of thousands of people. It therefore focuses on the main action areas regarding policies, incentives, regulatory frameworks, and research and innovation mechanisms, coupled with the agricultural production structural changes required, to offset those trends. It also assesses the implementation of mechanisms conducive to the adaptation of the agriculture, livestock, forestry, aquaculture and fishery sectors to climate change.

## **9. Towards inclusive and efficient development of agriculture and food systems at the local, national and international level**

The document stresses that globalization, trade liberalization and commercialization have modified the way in which agricultural commodities are produced, supplied and consumed, and assesses the main implications of these changes on LAC's agricultural and food systems. Agricultural and food systems are characterized by increasingly integrated supply chains that have progressively become more science-based and capital-intensive. Rapid urbanization has led to demands for more and enhanced processed products in ready-to-use forms. Consumer expectations regarding food safety, nutrition and health have resulted in greater attention to standards at all production and distribution levels and in demands for safe, good quality and nutritious products at timely and regular intervals. Subsequently, supply chains have become more global, complex and diverse, with agricultural markets generally becoming more integrated and risky. The document illustrates how these changes have affected Member Nations and communities within them in different ways. Small Member Nations, small holders, women and youth have generally not benefited equally from the newfound globalized opportunities. Hence, it is relevant to emphasize the importance of more inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems at local, national and international levels, as recommended by FAO.

### **Programme and Budget Matters**

#### **10. Priorities for FAO Activities in the Region 2014-17**

The Regional Conference will consider how FAO activities have addressed previously-agreed regional priorities during 2012-13, and will provide guidance on regional priorities for the 2014-15 and 2016-17 biennia. The discussion will take place using the Revised Strategic Framework 2010-19, Medium-Term Plan 2014-17 and Programme of Work and Budget 2014-15, approved by the FAO Conference in June 2013 as frames of reference. The priorities and recommendations of the Regional Technical Commissions, the Country Programming Frameworks (CPFs), and the plans and priorities of such partners as the Regional Economic Organizations, CSOs and the Private Sector will also be discussed within this context.

#### **11. Decentralization and Decentralized Offices Network**

Ongoing efforts to improve and strengthen the work of the FAO Country Offices network in the Region will be reviewed, and recommendations will be formulated in enhancing the Organization's effectiveness and efficiency at country level.

#### **12. Multi-year Programme of Work for the Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean**

The implementation of the Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPOW) is a mechanism for enhancing the role of the Regional Conferences in the governance and decision-making process of FAO. It will entail a discussion on procedures, activities, working methods, indicators and targets for the Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean (LARC) as a Governing Body.

### **Other Matters**

#### **13. Date and Venue of the 34<sup>th</sup> Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean**

#### **14. Any other matters**

*INFORMATION NOTE<sup>1</sup>:*

- ***The State of Food Insecurity in the World (SOFI)***  
The most recent FAO estimates indicate that the number of people worldwide who are unable to meet their dietary energy needs has declined by 26 million since the last survey, for a total of 842 million people or 12 percent of the world population. In the developing Regions, significant progress has been made in achieving the target of the first Millennium Development Goal (MDG 1) on halving the proportion of people who suffer from hunger. In Latin America and the Caribbean, there are still 47 million people who suffer from hunger. However, this is considered to be the Region that has made the greatest progress in the world, with 16 of the 33 Member Nations concerned achieving the hunger reduction threshold.
  - ***Update on the Committee on World Food Security***  
The Committee on World Food Security (CFS) Secretariat will provide an update on the main outcomes of the CFS since the last Regional Conferences met in 2012 and on the current priority activities of the Committee: Agenda for Action for Addressing Food Insecurity in Protracted Crises Situations and Principles on responsible agricultural investment.
  - ***Joint FAO/WHO Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2)***  
The ICN2 is a positive and pro-active global policy response by FAO to tackle unacceptably high and persistent levels of malnutrition. The High-level Conference will be held at FAO Headquarters (Rome, 19-21 November 2014). This document provides Member Nations with information on the objectives and intended outcomes of the Conference.
  - ***Report on FAO Activities in the Region 2012-13***  
Information will be provided on FAO's most significant results and achievements in the Region in each of its priority areas, and in response to the demands for technical cooperation raised by different Member Nations in the respective programmes.
  - ***Summary of the Recommendations of Regional Technical Commissions***  
The conclusions and recommendations of the Regional Commissions in Latin America and the Caribbean will be assessed with regard to: (i) policy and regulatory matters and (ii) programme and budget matters. The Regional Fora include: the Latin America and Caribbean Forestry Commission (LAFC), the Commission on Livestock Development for Latin America and the Caribbean (LDAC), the Western Central Atlantic Fisheries Commission (WECAFC), and the Commission for Inland Fisheries of Latin America and the Caribbean (COPESCAALC).
- Preparation, discussion and adoption of a draft Report of the Regional Conference for consideration and adoption by the Ministerial Meeting.

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<sup>1</sup> If they so wish, delegates may comment on Information Notes under “Other Matters”.

**(B) MINISTERIAL MEETING**

7-9 May 2014

3. **Statement by the Director-General**
4. **Statement by the Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council**
5. **Statement by the Chairperson of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean**

The Statement of the Chairperson of the 32<sup>nd</sup> LARC will provide a synopsis of the outcome of deliberations at the 38<sup>th</sup> Session of the FAO Conference (Rome, 15-22 June 2013) and the 144<sup>th</sup> Session of the FAO Council (Rome, 11-15 June 2012) as they relate to the Latin America and the Caribbean Region.

6. **Statement by the Chairperson of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS)**

The CFS Chairperson will provide an overview of the main outcomes of the 39<sup>th</sup> and 40<sup>th</sup> Plenary Sessions, and will report on all activities undertaken in 2012-13.

➤ **Review and Debate on the Report of the Conference**

The draft Report of the Regional Conference, prepared by the Senior Officers Meeting, will be reviewed, discussed and subsequently endorsed. The discussion will encompass:

- I. Regional and Global Policy and Regulatory Matters
- II. Programme and Budget Matters
- III. Other Matters

The Report will be introduced by the Rapporteur.

*INFORMATION NOTES:*

- ***Panel 1: Governance for Food and Nutrition Security in Latin America and the Caribbean***

Maintaining the momentum achieved in the Region with regard to the targets established for the first Millennium Goal will necessarily entail intensification and acceleration of structural transformations impacting on income creation and redistribution. Moreover, sectoral and short-term policies contributing to poverty reduction in the Region are also expected to be strengthened to a certain extent. Similarly, the multi-dimensional character of food security will require a multi-disciplinary approach and coordination efforts substantiated by effective governance, in keeping with the principles of participation, transparency and accountability, as well as gender and social protection.

- ***Panel 2: Challenges for Sustainable Development and Adaptation to Climate Change in Latin America and the Caribbean (post-2015)***

Twenty years after the Rio Summit, Latin America finds itself in an excellent position to achieve sustainable development. The Region has witnessed unparalleled economic growth in the recent past, and has made great breakthroughs in the reduction of extreme poverty, malnutrition and hunger. Although the Member Nations of the Region have enhanced their environmental policies, natural resources and biodiversity conservation is nevertheless still an important challenge to be faced. Moreover, adaptation to climate change will be a significant factor in maintaining growth levels in tandem with development and food security objectives. The agriculture and livestock sectors are particularly vulnerable to extreme weather events affecting small family farmers. Public policies, knowledge management and sector financing will impact on the ability of these sectors to adjust to climate change variations.

- ***Panel 3: Repositioning Family Farming in LAC agenda***

The text outlines the main conclusions of the first Regional Dialogue on Family Farming, organized by FAO and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) to establish the coordination mechanisms and actions that must be addressed during the International Year of Family Farming 2014 in LAC Member Nations. The document reflects the views of 23 Member Nation Government representatives, Family Farming Organizations and International Organizations participating in the event.

- ***Panel 4: Prospects of Production and Food Trade in Latin America and the Caribbean***

After a marked recovery in 2010 and good performance in 2011, agriculture growth in Latin America and the Caribbean stagnated during 2013. It should be noted that this slowdown has been more pronounced than previous economic slowdowns. Economic conditions in 2014 are, however, expected to be conducive to the growth of regional agricultural production and trade. In this connection, policies will need to be put in place to improve agricultural competitiveness and returns overall, and to boost family farming production with its concomitant inclusion in value chains.

- ***Panel 5: Strengthening South-South Cooperation for Food and Agriculture in Latin America and the Caribbean***

In September 2013, the Corporate Programmes Monitoring Council of FAO approved a new South-South Cooperation Strategy (SCS) with the goal of enhancing knowledge, experiences, good practices, policies, technology and technical knowledge, as well as resource mobilization among developing countries. The Strategy is based on four pillars: a) to facilitate exchanges and adoption of development solutions; b) to promote platforms in establishing knowledge networks; c) to support the SCS at a political level; and d) to promote an enabling environment in the efficient use of SCS within the framework of FAO activities. The Organization is expected to facilitate coordination and foster dialogue, exchange and consensus. It will also serve as a knowledge agent for more extensive international processes in ensuring South-South Cooperation (bilateral, trilateral, multilateral), in addition to ensuring that triangular cooperation is adequately addressed during the debates on related policies and results.

## **DOCUMENTS ON THE WEB**

<http://www.fao.org/unfao/govbodies/meeting-docs/rc/larc-33/en/>

List of Delegates and Observers

## LIST OF DOCUMENTS

Number	Title
LARC/14/1	Provisional Annotated Agenda
LARC/14/2	Challenges for the eradication of hunger, food insecurity, malnutrition and extreme poverty
LARC/14/3	Challenges for the sustainable production of goods and services in agriculture, livestock, forestry and fisheries, reducing risks and improving the resilience of livelihoods to threats and crisis, in a context of climate change
LARC/14/4	Towards inclusive and efficient development of agriculture and food systems at the local, national and international level
LARC/14/5	Priorities of FAO Activities in the Region 2014-17
LARC/14/6	Multi-year Programme of Work for the Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean
LARC/14/7	Decentralization and Decentralized Offices Network
LARC/14/INF/1	Information Note
LARC/14/INF/2	Provisional Timetable
LARC/14/INF/3	Provisional List of Documents
LARC/14/INF/4	Statement by the Director-General
LARC/14/INF/5	Statement by the Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council
LARC/14/INF/6	Statement by the Chairperson of the 32nd Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean
LARC/14/INF/7	Statement by the Chairperson of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS)
LARC/14/INF/8	The State of Food Insecurity in the World (SOFI)
LARC/14/INF/9	Joint FAO/WHO Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2)
LARC/14/INF/10	Update on the Committee on World Food Security
LARC/14/INF/11	Report on FAO Activities in the Region 2012-13
LARC/14/INF/12	Summary of the Recommendations of the Regional Technical Commissions
LARC/14/INF/13	Panel 1: Governance for Food and Nutrition Security in Latin America and the Caribbean
LARC/14/INF/14	Panel 2: Challenges for Sustainable Development and Adaptation to Climate Change in Latin America and the Caribbean (post-2015)
LARC/14/INF/15	Panel 3: Repositioning Family Farming on the Latin American and Caribbean Agenda
LARC/14/INF/16	Panel 4: Prospects of Production and Food Trade in Latin America and the Caribbean
LARC/14/INF/17	Panel 5: Strengthening South-South Cooperation for Food and Agriculture in Latin America and the Caribbean
CFS 2013/40 REPORT	Final Report of the 40th Session of the Committee on Food Security