



联合国
粮食及
农业组织

Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Organisation des Nations
Unies pour l'alimentation
et l'agriculture

Продовольственная и
сельскохозяйственная организация
Объединенных Наций

Organización de las
Naciones Unidas para la
Alimentación y la Agricultura

منظمة
الغذية والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN FORESTRY COMMISSION

THIRTY-FIRST SESSION

Montevideo, Uruguay, 2 - 6 September 2019

6. Priority issues for the 36th Session of the Regional Conference (Nicaragua, 2020)

Secretariat Note

I. Introduction

1. The 35th session of the Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean was held in Montego Bay (Jamaica), from 5 to 8 March 2018. Representatives of 33 Member Nations attended, including 40 ministers and deputy ministers, high-level officials as heads of delegations, and observers and representatives of civil society¹, NGOs, the private sector and inter-governmental organizations. This note provides a summary of discussions and a starting point for consideration by the Commission for drafting recommendations for the Conference's 36th session.

2. In his statement to the Regional Conference, the Director-General of FAO, Mr José Graziano da Silva, stressed that putting the fight against hunger back on track is FAO's highest priority for 2018-2019. He also highlighted some important challenges still faced by Latin America and the Caribbean, such as the need to revitalize territories that are lagging behind in the eradication of poverty, and to implement more sustainable strategies to address challenges such as climate change. He emphasized that the eradication of all forms of malnutrition was feasible and urged countries in the region to be beacons for the first generation free of hunger.

3. The Conference considered the following important policy issues for the region:

¹ See summary of the Statement from the Consultation with Civil Society in Annex 1.

- 1) Ending hunger and eradicating all forms of malnutrition in Latin America and the Caribbean
- 2) Towards a transformative agenda for sustainable rural development.
- 3) Climate-resilient and sustainable agriculture.

II. Ending hunger and eradicating all forms of malnutrition in Latin America and the Caribbean

A. The Regional Conference:

4. Acknowledged that, despite having made progress in recent decades, the region has been experiencing a reversal in reducing food insecurity as well as an alarming increase in overweight and obesity, and persistent micronutrient deficiencies. It highlighted the role of governments and societies as a whole to address this triple challenge.

5. Expressed appreciation for FAO's support in designing and implementing policies and allocating resources for food security and nutrition, including: a) national school feeding programmes linked to family farming; b) nutrition education; c) capacity-building for monitoring SDG indicators; d) legal frameworks for food security and nutrition; e) support to Parliamentary Fronts Against Hunger; f) progress in implementing the SAMOA Pathway and the adoption of the Global Action Programme on Food Security and Nutrition in Small Island Developing States; g) progress achieved in gender and indigenous peoples; and h) support to the 2025 CELAC Plan for Food and Nutrition Security and the Eradication of Hunger (CELAC FNS Plan).

B. The Regional Conference recommended that FAO:

6. Support Members in developing a policy approach for territories with a prevalence of hunger, extreme poverty and vulnerability to climate change, in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 2025 CELAC FNS Plan.

7. Help governments, with the collaboration of other UN Agencies, to improve their policy instruments to achieve substantive progress in food security and nutrition of communities that are falling behind, with emphasis on rural women, indigenous peoples, disadvantaged people of African descent and other vulnerable groups.

8. Assist governments with the identification, development and implementation of public policies, including those related to the promotion of the human right to food, to influence the transformation of food systems in order to address malnutrition, including overweight and obesity and micronutrient deficiencies in the region.

9. Support follow-up on the implementation of the Framework for Action of the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) and support regional networks and initiatives to achieve the goals of the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition.

10. Support strengthening institutional and legal frameworks and information systems related to food security and nutrition, in order to develop capacities for resource mobilization and the effective implementation of policies.

11. Promote nutritious diets including through the consumption of fish, meat and fresh products, in order to contribute to the improvement of food security and nutrition.

12. Support the drafting and adoption of a voluntary international code of conduct to prevent and reduce food loss and waste.

III. Towards a transformative agenda for sustainable rural development

A. The Regional Conference:

13. Noted persisting poverty and inequality in rural areas.
14. Stressed the economic, social, environmental and cultural value of family farming.
15. Welcomed the adoption of the United Nations Decade of Family Farming 2019-2028.
16. Welcomed also the proclamation of 2022 as the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture and 2024 as the International Year of Camelids.

B. The Regional Conference recommended that FAO:

17. Support governments in developing and strengthening integrated strategies to eradicate rural poverty, enhance social protection with economic inclusion, address gender and ethnic inequalities in particular, and generate employment and entrepreneurship among rural youth for economic and social revitalization of rural territories.
18. Help governments to address the causes of migration from rural territories due to limited opportunities, food insecurity, rural poverty, limited access to resources and services, violence, and exposure to environmental risks.
19. Assist governments in strengthening comprehensive policies for family farming, in the framework of the United Nations Decade of Family Farming, paying special attention to their potential for safeguarding biodiversity, sustainably managing natural resources and thus providing a favorable environment for reducing rural poverty, hunger and malnutrition as well as promoting a business model for generating income.
20. Support the role of fisheries and aquaculture, particularly artisanal, small-scale fisheries and aquaculture producers, in the eradication of poverty, hunger and malnutrition.
21. Support the design and implementation of public policies as well as spaces for dialogue between governments and civil society organizations, multisectoral collaboration and public-private partnerships, including the promotion of producer associations, to enable agrifood systems to generate properly balanced nutritional, social, environmental and economic benefits, increasing opportunities for family farmers as well as youth and the rural poor, commercially viable production, and rural small and medium enterprises.
22. Support knowledge exchange for agricultural innovation, including agroecology, biotechnologies and other technologies, to enhance sustainable rural development.
23. Support the identification of Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS).
24. Support countries to benefit from an open, fair and transparent international agricultural trading system with a view to facilitating market access and trade of agricultural products, so that family farmers and small-scale producers can also benefit from it.
25. Provide technical support to relevant bodies to counter fisheries subsidies that have led to overfishing and overcapacity, including illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing.
26. Support the implementation of a comprehensive strategy to prevent, discourage and eliminate IUU fishing in the region, including through the implementation of the Agreement on Port State Measures and other supplementary international instruments.

27. Promote the dissemination of the Voluntary Guidelines for agro-environmental policies in Latin America and the Caribbean and their implementation upon request, as well as the mobilization of financial resources to this end.

IV. Climate resilient and sustainable agriculture

A. The Regional Conference:

28. Encouraged Members to strengthen cooperation and coordination to mainstream conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in agriculture, including in the development of climate change adaptation and mitigation measures.

29. Welcomed the signing of the Letter of Intent between Mexico and FAO to strengthen the capacity of Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS) that are members of CARICOM to access climate change financing, integrating this proposal to South-South and Triangular Cooperation.

B. The Regional Conference recommended that FAO:

30. Support governments in strengthening and preparing national, regional and global programmes and initiatives related to the sustainable use of biodiversity and natural resources; adaptation and mitigation of climate change and disaster risk management for the agricultural sector, including fisheries, and the development of innovative environmental policies for the socioeconomic inclusion of family farmers.

31. Assist countries in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), in particular in the preparation and implementation of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and national adaptation plans (NAPs), as requested.

32. Assist governments in accessing global climate and environmental funding by developing capacities and facilitating international cooperation.

33. Organize a regional dialogue with relevant stakeholders as follow-up to the Multi-stakeholder Dialogue on Mainstreaming Biodiversity, held in May 2018, with the aim of contributing to the drafting of an FAO Biodiversity Strategy.

34. Support the drafting and implementation of a regional Blue Growth Initiative for food security, poverty reduction and sustainable management of aquatic resources, taking into account the results of the High-Level Meeting on the Blue Growth Initiative for Latin America and Caribbean, held in November 2017.

35. Support the sustainable management, conservation, production and trade of fish products, as well as efforts to address the negative effects of climate change in the sector.

36. Support the development of strategies and policies for the conservation and recovery of degraded forests and soils by encouraging countries to invest in national initiatives on agro-forestry, agroecological and organic production systems, as well as biotechnologies that protect and preserve biodiversity, especially for family farmers, and support experience exchange initiatives at global and regional levels.

37. Encourage FAO to strengthen cooperation and coordination amongst countries in order to exchange experiences in water resources management and social technologies, supporting the development of national and regional programmes and initiatives to fight drought, soil degradation and desertification, particularly in the Central American Dry Corridor.

V. Remarks about forests from the Regional Conference

A. The Regional Conference:

38. Reaffirmed FAO's role in the technical secretariats of regional commissions. It also supported the recommendations of the Latin American and Caribbean Forestry Commission (LACFC), the Commission on Livestock Development for Latin America and the Caribbean (CLDLAC), the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC), the Commission for Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture for Latin America and the Caribbean (COPESCAALC), and the Working Group on Agricultural and Livestock Statistics for Latin America and the Caribbean (FAO-OAS/CIE-IICA).

39. Supported the need to facilitate spaces for cross-sectoral coordination, particularly of the forest, agriculture and environment sectors, regarding its importance as a dialogue mechanism and to strengthen FAO's role as an implementing agency of the Green Climate Fund.

40. Promoted the inclusion of trees in family farms as mechanisms for income generation, soil conservation and protection of water resources, and their contribution to increasing resilience to climate change in rural areas.

41. Highlighted that achieving the global challenge of zero net deforestation requires the efforts and cooperation of all production and environment sectors, as well as the commitment of countries.

42. Acknowledged that, despite the slowing rate of forest loss in the region, deforestation and forest degradation are still among the greatest environmental problems facing Latin America and the Caribbean, and that these problems are the likely result of the many agendas and needs of different sectors, and that cross-sectoral dialogue and joint, coordinated public policy action are therefore necessary to resolve them.

43. Recommended that the "Sustainable forestry for food security and nutrition" report prepared by the High-Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (GANESAN) be disseminated to underscore the contribution of forests to food and nutritional security.

VI. A view to the future

A. The challenges ahead for Latin America and the Caribbean are related to:

44. The economic and trade slowdown, the risk of a new financial crisis, including reduced international funding for middle-income countries. Inequality persists in the region, making it difficult to comply with the 2030 Agenda. Furthermore, issues related to climate change are directly affecting agriculture in all its forms.

45. The 2030 Agenda is a global framework for integrating key environmental, social and economic aspects and addressing challenges related to technological innovation, its impacts and challenges. The Agenda helps generate opportunities for creating new jobs and developing capacities, and to tackle aspects related to climate change adaptation and mitigation, strengthening rural-urban links.

B. In this context, FAO seeks to address the challenges of:

46. Eradicating hunger and all forms of malnutrition, and eliminating extreme poverty, recognizing the intrinsic relationship that exists between them, applying a rural land development approach, reassessing the value of the environmental and cultural attributes of rural areas.

47. Working towards sustainable and resilient agriculture to ensure healthy food for the growing population, which contributes to income generation for communities providing appropriate employment conditions.

48. Supporting countries in their efforts to reduce deforestation, forest and soil degradation, and the emissions of greenhouse gases, and continuing the work on the implementation of appropriate practices to prevent the loss of biodiversity, improve watershed, marine coastal, oceans and sea management.

49. Acknowledging that agricultural livelihoods are vulnerable to natural disasters, health problems, invasive species, and social and environmental conflicts. Mechanisms should therefore be established for reducing disaster risks and losses in the region's agriculture sectors, as well as ways to rehabilitate systems applying resilience criteria, with a view to transitioning from emergency to development.

50. Sustainability requires an integrated approach between good practices, appropriate governance mechanisms and resilience to meet national and global commitments. Gathering data, systematizing experiences and generating information are crucial for proper decision-making on sustainable land management.

VII. Points for consideration

51. The Commission may wish to:

- Discuss the contributions of forests to the policy issues identified by the Regional Conference and make proposals for the future.
- Identify ways to draw greater attention at the political level to the contribution of forests to the process of rural transformations focusing on social and economic inclusion and innovation for family farming, disaster risk reduction and increasing resilience of livelihoods.
- Discuss experiences in designing national and regional forestry programmes, focusing also on the scope of food and nutrition security, rural land development, risk management and adaptation to climate change.
- Consider the outcome of these discussions when developing its recommendations under Agenda item 9.2.

Annex 1:**Statement from the Consultation with Civil Society to the 35th Session of the FAO Regional Conference**

52. Representatives of 22 regional and sub-regional movements and social organizations of indigenous peoples, peasants, family farmers, artisanal fishermen, women, afro-descendants, youth, rural workers, consumers, environmentalists and human rights activists in Latin America and the Caribbean gathered in Panama from 31 January to 3 February 2018 for consultations prior to the 35th FAO Regional Conference. Regional officers of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) were also invited to participate.

53. Civil society acknowledged the steps taken by the region in the past decade in realizing the first dimension of the Human Right to Adequate Food, reducing hunger, poverty and malnutrition. However, they are also deeply concerned that the recent political, social and economic changes in several countries are reversing the social achievements of the past decade, as shown in the finding of the 2017 FAO in its reports on *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2018* and *Panorama of Food and Nutrition Security in Latin America and the Caribbean*.

54. They understand that the main challenges facing the peoples of Latin America and Caribbean to develop a region with social, environmental and gender justice are: the concentration of wealth and political, economic and communicational power in the hands of a few; the hegemonic system of the production, commercialization and consumption of food; the violation of Human Rights; the unsustainable and destructive use of Water, Land and Territories with their severe environmental and social impacts, as well as the threat these pose to the biocultural heritage of our peoples; the rising rates of criminalization and violence as instruments to contain social protest; the high rates of overweight and obesity that affect the health of our peoples and increase public spending on health; the absence of relevant participation of social organizations and movements throughout the public policy cycle; and the lack of public policies that promote and ensure sustainable production and access to healthy foods. And that the above has an especially significant impact on the most vulnerable sectors of the population, namely women, youth, indigenous peoples, afro-descendants, artisanal fishermen and impoverished rural and urban communities.

55. They believe in the centrality of the State and its public policies, and in investing for building fair and sustainable societies. Therefore, they call on States to respect, protect and promote their rights in an inter-sector and coordinated manner.

56. They reject the use of violence and the criminalization of social protest and demand an end to the murders of social activists and persecution of social movements and organizations. In this regard, they demand that States urgently implement effective policies to protect the women and men working to protect human and land rights.

57. They defend and promote the central role of family farming, peasant and indigenous agriculture and artisanal fishing to end hunger and eradicate all forms of malnutrition, as well as sustainable rural development and climate resilience that will help to achieve food sovereignty and security in the region and protect the biocultural heritage of its peoples. For this reason, they highlight the strategic importance of the region's active and coordinated involvement in the implementation of the Decade of Family Farming (2019-2028), approved by the United Nations General Assembly.

58. They also defend the right of indigenous peoples to Free, Prior and Informed consent and promote the extension of this right to other traditional actors of the territories.

59. They affirm, based on their experience, traditional knowledge and research endorsed by UN organizations, that agroecology is the most suitable and practical model for food production and proper nutrition. States that are truly committed to ensuring the right to food must support and promote

agroecology to drive the necessary and pressing changes in the food production, marketing and consumption model.

60. They demand that States prioritize public policies that recognize the role of women in both creating and caring for life, in order to break out of the vicious circle of poverty that affects them to a greater degree.

61. They understand the importance of inter-sectoral policies that facilitate the basic rights of historically and systematically vulnerable groups, namely peasants, family farmers, indigenous peoples and other traditional groups, afro-descendants and impoverished rural and urban communities, guaranteeing their engagement in the development, implementation and monitoring of these policies.

62. They promote the implementation of adequate and relevant public policies, to recover and preserve biodiversity and the right of to enjoy its benefits.

63. Finally, they acknowledge and recognize the leadership of FAO Director-General, Mr. José Graziano Da Silva, in promoting greater participation of social movements and organizations within the FAO agenda and regional and other conferences, as well as the support in the reform of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and the Civil Society mechanism that permitted recognizing that currently the CFS is the UN's the most participatory and inclusive space. Therefore:

- It is important to effectively preserve this level of engagement and ensure that there are no qualitative or quantitative setbacks.
- They will continue to defend the realization of the Human Right to Adequate and Healthy Food, resisting the privatization, commoditization and financialization of life, water and food.
- Their desire is that States and their governments are up to the challenges of the current regional and global context for the protection of Food Sovereignty and Security in Latin America and the Caribbean, and continue to keep their commitments assumed in the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations.