

# THE CELAC PLAN FOR FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY AND THE ERADICATION OF HUNGER 2025

## Executive Summary

# BACKGROUND

Latin America is the sub-region that has made the most progress, achieving both the Millennium Development Goal target to reduce the prevalence of under-nourishment from 14.4% in 1990/92 to 5.1% in 2012/14, and also the more ambitious goal of the World Food Summit (WFS) of 1996, by reducing the total number of people suffering from hunger, from 60.3 million to 29.5 million in the same period. These achievements reflect the commitment of the countries of the region to the implementation of policies aimed at reducing poverty and inequality, within the framework of a human rights approach.

Political commitment at the national and regional level for the eradication of hunger, became the basis for the implementation of institutional frameworks, governance mechanisms and public policies for food and nutrition security, which permit short and long-term interventions to be carried out (“twin-track” approach)<sup>1</sup>.

In this regard, the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) is committed to ensuring Food and Nutrition Security through a strategy of eradication of hunger and poverty in its Member States. Political will has been directed towards generating effective mechanisms to achieve this goal by the year 2025, in a region that has shown significant progress in this field, with the implementation of sectoral policies that promote the well-being of populations, increase resilience and promote best practices. This commitment, which was acquired by the countries of the region in the year 2005 through the Hunger Free Latin America and Caribbean Initiative, remains in effect as outlined in the two Declarations of the Heads of State and Government of the CELAC (2013 and 2014).

Taking into account the scope, diversity and differences among the social, economic and political projects of the region, the present document elaborated by Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Latin American Integration Association (ALADI) and Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)<sup>2</sup> is based on the following conceptual and strategic guidelines: i) the declarations of the former Summits, which aim to reduce the asymmetries in terms of development between countries of the region, ii) the efforts to strengthen regional integration projects and the political commitment to the fight against hunger and extreme poverty, iii) a fundamental Human Rights perspective, iv) the Directives emanated from CELAC regarding social matters, orienting the proposals according to the four pillars of Food Security and Nutrition: availability, access, utilization and stability; v) best practices from various public policies that governments are currently implementing with great positive impacts on vulnerable families and; vi) **gender issues, indigenous peoples and strengthening civil society, organizations and social movements**, considered as all-encompassing guidelines for all actions.

## OBJECTIVE

Contribute to “achieving concrete results that translate into significant improvements in the quality of life of our peoples, aimed at the eradication of poverty, especially extreme poverty, guaranteeing food and nutrition security, with gender mainstreaming and respect for the diversity of food habits, tackling the challenges of food and nutrition security with a view to the eradication of hunger and the enjoyment of the Right to Food, especially by vulnerable sectors”<sup>3</sup>.

# LINES OF ACTION

A political approach to the fight against hunger was used to establish the lines of action. This has been endorsed in several multilateral forums and has led to the promotion of a common agenda on food and nutrition security; This is also based on the belief that the eradication of hunger can be achieved through the strengthening and articulation of policies that countries are already implementing, while recognizing the specific characteristics and processes carried out by each of the countries, incorporating an integrating vision consistent with the diversity of conditions in Latin America and the Caribbean and the internal dynamics of each country, and based on the pillars defined in the Latin American and Caribbean Programme for the Eradication of Hunger and Poverty.<sup>4</sup>

CELAC PILLARS	LINES OF ACTION	PROPOSED MEASURES
<b>Pillar 1</b>  Coordinated food security strategies through the formulation of national and regional public policies to face the challenges of food security, with a gender approach and incorporating a human rights perspective, in particular the Human Right to Food	Line of Action 1: Strengthening institutional frameworks for Food Security and Nutrition (FSN)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Raise the Human Right to Food to the highest legal status in the countries;</li> <li>• Encourage countries to establish or strengthen the legal policy framework for achieving the Right to Food;</li> <li>• Strengthen the implementation of legislative FNS initiatives through effective resource mobilization and give visibility to the mobility of available resources aimed at FNS within the associated institutions;</li> <li>• Encourage countries to establish or strengthen greater and more inclusive governance on FNS and poverty eradication;</li> <li>• Promote the exchange of successful experiences and legal frameworks which allow for complementarity and solidarity in the exchange of food, production inputs, technologies and knowledge among CELAC member countries;</li> <li>• Encourage and reinforce social participation in the development, monitoring and evaluation of public policies of FNS;</li> <li>• Create or strengthen intersectoral committees at the national level for monitoring and permanent evaluation of policies, programs and actions carried out.</li> </ul>
	Line of Action 2: Facilitating Intraregional Food Trade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthen knowledge and create conditions for overcoming the obstacles and/or restrictions to intra-regional trade: tariffs (negotiation margins); non-tariff measures (exchange and harmonization of national rules to stimulate production, phytosanitary measures, food safety, technical standards,</li> </ul>

CELAC PILLARS	LINES OF ACTION	PROPOSED MEASURES
<b>Pillar 1</b>		<p>etc.) and operational measures (funding, infrastructure, transportation, logistics, private/public administration, etc.), so that the commercial exchanges between the states and the operators is fluid and facilitates the creation of trade flows;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthen intraregional trading of inputs, particularly seeds and fertilizers;</li> <li>• Promote the flow of information concerning the supply and demand of foods that are key to the FNS strategies implemented by the countries of CELAC;</li> <li>• Encourage purchases between countries as well as between countries and family farming organizations;</li> <li>• Agree on regional priorities about food needs by surveying distribution chain protocols and the sale of food, to implement guidelines to eradicate hunger.</li> </ul>
	Line of Action 3: Food Waste and Losses (FWL)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Generate information and communication campaigns to raise the awareness of each of the actors in the food chain and consumers regarding best practices to avoid food losses and waste, improving the clarity of labeling in terms of expiration date and storage; the proper application of best agricultural and veterinary practices during the primary phase of production and best manufacturing and hygienic practices in food processing, as well as any other practice or action to help prevent or reverse FWL;</li> <li>• Development and training in processes and strategies for the conservation of harvest products, particularly small-scale agriculture for personal consumption or for sale; taking into account the different forms of usage and non- traditional consumption of products;</li> <li>• Promote policies and programs that strengthen the safety and quality of food produced by family farmers;</li> <li>• Promote reduction of FWL, which generally involves the improvement of infrastructure, particularly transport, energy and market facilities; generating actions to raise awareness in these sectors;</li> </ul>

CELAC PILLARS	LINES OF ACTION	PROPOSED MEASURES
<b>Pillar 1</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote the development of and facilitate access to equipment, new technology and innovation that contribute to reducing food losses in every at all stages of the food chain;</li> <li>• Include the issue of FNS and how to avoid food losses in all education levels, especially for those directly involved with food;</li> <li>• Encourage South-South Cooperation in the aforementioned items.</li> </ul>
	Line of Action 4: Food Supply Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthen the link between public food procurement in the member countries and family farming;</li> <li>• Strengthen national food supply companies and centers as mechanisms for providing access to food for the general population and which strengthen family farming;</li> <li>• Promote cooperation and exchange among countries which have supply strategies in place, such as the aforementioned supply companies and centers;</li> <li>• Improve national systems linked to logistics and better sanitary practices in food processing.</li> </ul>
<b>Pillar 2</b>  Timely and sustainable access to safe, adequate, sufficient, culturally relevant nutritious food for all people, especially the most vulnerable, in order for them to develop and fully maintain their physical and mental faculties	Line of Action 1: Conditional Transfer Programs (CTP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage countries to seek universal coverage of CTPs for the poor as well as the extremely poor, linked to other systems of social protection;</li> <li>• Encourage South-South Cooperation in this field and promote the exchange of policies, experiences and best practices to strengthen these programs;</li> <li>• Continue refining the CTPs, seeking to strengthen processes that advance the inclusion of the most vulnerable populations;</li> <li>• Promote dialogue among states to exchange experiences regarding national social programs related to the eradication of hunger and poverty, especially extreme poverty;</li> <li>• Improve mechanisms for monitoring national and regional policies through the South - South Cooperation platform.</li> </ul>

CELAC PILLARS	LINES OF ACTION	PROPOSED MEASURES
<b>Pillar 2</b>	Line of action 2: Labour market	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promoting policies to strengthen decent labor and reduce informality in labor relations, fostering access to social security through improved contractual conditions, especially in rural areas;</li> <li>• Help improve mechanisms to comply with the labor laws of each country;</li> <li>• Promote intergenerational incentive schemes for incorporating youth into the rural labor market to strengthen family agriculture;</li> <li>• Strengthen the training and formal technical and agricultural education and trades; either at the higher education or tertiary level.</li> </ul>
	Line of Action 3: Family Farming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support the implementation of the CELAC 2014 Action Plan, in the specific section on Family Farming (second point of the CELAC 2014 Action Plan);</li> <li>• Strengthen and/or develop national policies and programs of government purchases within family farming according to the characteristics of each country;</li> <li>• Strengthen and/or develop national and regional policies and programs for the development and promotion of local and regional products, encouraging short circuits.</li> <li>• Promote communication and education campaigns to support products from family farming, at regional, national and local levels.</li> <li>• Promote cooperation projects and the exchange of ideas in the development, design, implementation and monitoring of public policies in support of family farming with REAF: financing, insurance, rural extension, promoting organizations (cooperatives and the development of social economy enterprises), added source value, market access, access to strategic inputs (quality seeds, fertilizers, etc.), technological innovation, rural housing; based on the initiatives undertaken by the Member States;</li> <li>• Training and continuous extension services for family farmers related to food handling, safety and nutrition;</li> </ul>

CELAC PILLARS	LINES OF ACTION	PROPOSED MEASURES
<b>Pillar 2</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop programs of public awareness and education about the alternatives to disinfecting water for human consumption, garden use and in the food supply chain. At the same time, develop programs of technical assistance to improve water quality and the treatment of wastewater;</li> <li>• Promote the construction of infrastructure to facilitate access to water, to contribute to food security, the eradication of poverty and to development;</li> <li>• Conduct capacity building programs to secure access and improve water management. Increase awareness and education on the sustainable use of surface and ground water, water harvesting and the use of recycled water in agriculture; aimed at producers, farmers, women, youth and their organizations, ensuring that they take into account the various production systems.</li> </ul>
<b>Pillar 3</b> Nutritional wellbeing and assurance of nutrients for all vulnerable groups, respecting the diversity of eating habits	Line of Action 1: School Feeding Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Universalize School Nutrition Programs;</li> <li>• Link School Feeding Programs to the Public Procurement System of Family Farming;</li> <li>• Promote healthy food environments within schools;</li> <li>• Incorporate nutrition education into school curriculums;</li> <li>• Establish healthy, varied menus within school feeding programs.</li> </ul>
	Line of Action 2: Nutritional wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthen policies and programs to combat malnutrition related to FNS, throughout the life cycle of individuals, with an emphasis on women of childbearing age, malnourished children (under 5 year of age and schoolchildren) and the elderly;</li> <li>• Promote campaigns at the regional, national and local levels aimed at promoting healthy habits, encouraging the consolidation of healthy food environments in different areas such as schools and the community;</li> <li>• Encourage policies focused on promoting healthy eating environments through information campaigns;</li> </ul>

CELAC PILLARS	LINES OF ACTION	PROPOSED MEASURES
<b>Pillar 3</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limit or control advertising of ultra-processed food products, usually of low nutritional quality, especially those directed at children, adolescents and the elderly;</li> <li>• Ensure nutritional labeling on the front of packaged food products; which respect the guidelines of the Codex Alimentarius;</li> <li>• Strengthen and support local producers so that consumers have access to healthy, fresh, nutritious products, recovering traditional ancestral foods with cultural relevance.</li> </ul>
<b>Pillar 4</b>  Stable production and timely attention to socio-natural disasters that can affect food availability	Line of Action 1: Emergencies and natural disasters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create a Latin American and Caribbean program of food reserves and supplies to face sociocultural disasters;</li> <li>• Provide public institutions in charge of public food stockpiles with the necessary legal frameworks and human and financial resources to consolidate them within the state apparatus;</li> <li>• Promote the construction of infrastructure to enable the creation and maintenance of food reserves at national and local levels in order to cope with emergencies and natural disasters;</li> <li>• Take advantage of the complementarities in the region in order to facilitate the establishment of technical assistance agreements and mutual cooperation, to ensure the availability of food reserves in times of need;</li> <li>• Implement prevention and risk management programs as well as disaster management to face events that could affect food security;</li> <li>• Establish a regional information system that complements existing sub-regional early warning systems for disasters of socio-natural origin that may affect food availability, which can also enable follow up on all issues related to malnutrition.</li> </ul>



**1** The “twin-track” approach, promoted by FAO worldwide for the eradication of hunger and extreme poverty, consists in the State implementation of policies to deal with complex social situations through immediate and emergency interventions coupled with long-term strategies that require structural changes to succeed. Thus it is intended to alleviate hunger and extreme poverty while also addressing their root causes and thereby eradicate these scourges in a consistent and lasting manner.

**2** CELAC Action Plan (2014). Paragraph 1: Food and Nutrition Security, 2. Continue working together with FAO to develop concrete actions at all levels in the interests of the eradication of hunger and to seek for this purpose the collaboration of countries, groups of countries, organizations and other CELAC partners. In this context, reiterate to FAO, the request that in collaboration with ALADI and ECLAC, it present to the CELAC a draft Plan for food and nutrition security and the eradication of hunger, which would be considered at a technical meeting of government representatives for submission to the II Meeting of Ministers of Social Development and the Eradication of Hunger and Poverty.

**3** Ibid. Paragraph 1: Food and Nutrition Security, Introduction.

**4** The Latin American and Caribbean Programme for the Eradication of Hunger and Poverty is one of the components of the CELAC Action Plan for Public Policies which was agreed at CELAC’s First Meeting of Ministers of Social Development (Caracas, July 2014) and endorsed by the Presidents and Heads of State and Government at the 2nd CELAC Summit in Havana (January 2014). This programme proposes the revision of national policies with a regional outlook from the perspective of the four pillars, which have been considered as a baseline for generating lines of action in the CELAC Plan for Food and Nutrition Security and the Eradication of Hunger, prepared by FAO with the support of ECLAC and ALADI.

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### **PLATFORM OF FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION (PFSN)**

The Platform gathers and showcases the latest information on the progress of hunger and poverty eradication, the nutritional status of the population as well as the key economic indicators that the region faces.

Its users can study the institutional frameworks, policies, strategies and successful programs that countries are implementing, as well as the regional offer of training and educational courses in all areas related to nutrition and the fight against hunger.

**<http://www.plataformacelac.org/en>**