

## 43rd Session of the Conference

### **Introduction to Item 11.6: Report of the Seventh Informal Regional Conference for North America (United States of America, 12-14 April 2022)**

The North America Region supports FAO in facing significant challenges in its work to support global food security, achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) especially ending hunger (SDG 2), and to ensure productive and sustainable agriculture, fisheries, aquaculture and forestry sectors. The Report of the Seventh Informal Regional Conference for North America (INARC) highlights negative trends to be addressed in global food security exacerbated by the increasing impacts of climate change, COVID-19, declining global agricultural productivity growth, conflict, and Russia's unjustified and illegal war in Ukraine. It specifically addresses Russian attacks targeting critical agricultural infrastructure in Ukraine, as well as Russian actions detrimental to the vital shipments of Ukrainian grains and other food exports. At this time of increasing crisis, the North America Region believes the world needs FAO to be a strong advocate for evidence-based efforts to increase sustainable productivity growth, increase social inclusion, improve sustainability and enable all actors in food systems – countries, producers, civil society, the private sector and consumers – to collaborate to find solutions to our common problems. This will require effective and transparent governance.

The Seventh INARC addressed the critical role North America played in tFAO's creation and policy direction, celebrating past successes, implementation of North American recommendations since the last INARC, and laying out perspectives on the imminent challenges ahead for global food security. These problems include climate change and variability, protracted conflicts, effective humanitarian responses and creating more resilient and inclusive agrifood systems. The North America Region agreed on the need for agricultural innovation and technologies to increase sustainable productivity, while also addressing the large environmental footprint of global agriculture. The North America Region emphasized FAO's enduring added value supporting normative work and standard-setting bodies, underpinned by science and called on FAO to focus on implementation of ambitious climate change and science and innovation strategies. We unequivocally denounced Russia's ongoing war in Ukraine and its devastating effects on global food supply chains and food security. The North America Region also called on FAO to demonstrate leadership within the UN system on the short-, medium-, and long-term response in Ukraine and beyond, prioritizing efforts to relieve the effects on the most vulnerable states, while continuing to aspire for best in class management practices.

*Ms Michelle Sison, Chairperson of the Seventh Informal Regional Conference for North America*