E

March 2011

	منظمة الأغذية والزراعة للأمم المتحدة	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 Agricultura y la Alimentación

CONFERENCE

Thirty-seventh Session

Rome, 25 June - 2 July 2011

Report of the 31st Session of the Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean (Panama City, Panama, 26 – 30 April 2010)

LARC/10/REP

REPORT

Panama City,
Panama,
26 to 30 April 2010

Thirty-first FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

FAO Member Nations serviced by the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean

Antigua and Barbuda
Argentina
Bahamas
Barbados
Belize
Bolivia
Brazil
Colombia
Costa Rica
Cuba
Chile
Dominica
Dominican Republic
Ecuador
El Salvador
Grenada
Guatemala
Guyana
Haiti
Honduras
Jamaica
Mexico
Nicaragua
Panama
Paraguay
Peru
Saint Kitts and Nevis
Saint Lucia
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Suriname
Trinidad and Tobago
Uruguay
Venezuela

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

LARC/10/REP

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

(Panama City, Panama, 26-30 April 2010)

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

The designations employed and the presentation of material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area, or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

CONTENTS

REPORT OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

FINAL ITEMS

APPENDIXES

SUMMARY OF THE MAIN CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Matters arising from the World Summit on Food Security and the 36th Session of the FAO Conference, notably implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action (IPA), including the Decentralized Offices Network

Towards a new vision of the Decentralized Offices Network

For the attention of the Member Nations in the region

The Conference:

1. Took note of the proposal made that the plenary meetings of the Latin American and the Caribbean Group (GRULAC) have the possibility to establish direct contacts with the Regional Representative and the Subregional Representatives, through videoconferencing or other appropriate mechanisms, when deemed convenient by the presidency of GRULAC.

For the attention of the Conference of FAO

The Conference:

2. Expressed its agreement with the actions considered in the Immediate Plan of Action and with the corresponding changes to the terms of reference and responsibilities of the decentralized offices. However, it drew attention to the possible consequences of indiscriminate application of the eight streamlining criteria set out in Action 3.84 of the Immediate Plan of Action. In this regard, it recalled that a theoretical exercise involving the possible application of five of these eight criteria had produced the alarming result that 94 percent of FAO country offices in the world would be eliminated.

3. Stressed that the criteria of cost reduction and administrative efficiency, as narrowly interpreted, were clearly insufficient to guide decisions on the decentralization process. It emphasized the importance of having an FAO presence in the countries of the region and underlined that almost all the FAO decentralized offices, especially those implementing its Field Programme and providing technical assistance, were in the developing countries.

4. Stated that before taking decisions on the decentralization process based exclusively on the criteria of cost reduction and savings, the actual performance of the decentralized offices needed to be assessed, for which the requirements deriving from their new role needed to be satisfied.

5. Stressed that decisions on the decentralization process also needed to take into account the contributions of Governments for the functioning of national, subregional and regional offices, including contributions in infrastructure, local staff, security, equipment and other goods and services.

6. Underlined that if FAO was to achieve its noble aims, it had to be able to count on a solid network of decentralized offices, with high-calibre personnel, linkages with headquarters and close ties with national governments and other multilateral bodies.

7. Emphasized the importance of maintaining FAO's presence in all the countries of the region and of reinforcing the professional teams and technical capacities of the Regional Office and the Subregional Offices.

8. Urged that the streamlining process consider all elements relevant to the Organization's objectives, beyond mere consideration of reduced costs. It considered it vital that there be better formulation and clarification of the flexibility approach to determining the size and composition of the decentralized offices, and spoke out in defence of FAO's presence in countries, whenever necessary and requested by the Government in question.

9. Considered relevant a more in-depth appraisal of the option of sharing offices with other programmes and agencies. It stressed that this option should not affect the Organization's mandate nor the programmes approved by its Governing Bodies.

10. Indicated that for the following period of two years leading up to the next Regional Conference, two Vice-Chairpersons should also consider themselves appointed, besides the already designated Chairperson and Rapporteur: the Minister or Representative of the country that hosted the previous Conference, Brazil, and the Minister or Representative of the country that will host the next Conference, Argentina.

Establishment of one global Shared Services Centre

For the attention of the Conference of FAO

The Conference:

11. Considered that the process of evaluation of changes in the shared services centres (SSCs) required further reflection and the incorporation of criteria additional to cost-related factors. In particular, the services currently provided by the SSC Hub in Santiago showed good results in terms of competency profile of the existing team, languages, local knowledge and time differences. They could however be enhanced by considering a separation of human resource services from administrative and travel services, ensuring flexibility and coherence in the activities of both spheres.

Reform of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS)

For the attention of the Member Nations in the region and the Conference of FAO

The Conference:

12. Suggested that the Hunger-Free Latin America and the Caribbean 2025 Initiative could support communication between the region and the Committee on World Food Security during the intersessional periods, providing the basis for a process of participation of different regional stakeholders within the reformed Committee, which was also multisectoral in nature and had a plurality of agents. It would thus serve as an important channel of communication to achieve the participation of the more vulnerable countries with major food insecurity problems, especially the small island states of the Caribbean.

For the attention of the Conference of FAO

The Conference:

13. Agreed with the importance of reinforcing the Committee on World Food Security and its relationship with the Regional Conferences. It indicated that the conclusions and recommendations of the Regional Conferences should be conveyed to the Committee on World Food Security for consideration in its decisions. However, it did not consider it necessary to create a special steering group to provide such contact, which could be provided by bodies internal to the Regional

Conferences. The Conference also supported the participation of representatives of the Regional Conferences in the sessions of the Committee on World Food Security in order to facilitate reciprocal feedback on their work.

Report on FAO activities (2008-2009) in the region and actions taken on the main recommendations of the 30th Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean

For the attention of the Member Nations in the region and the FAO Council

The Conference:

14. Took note of the main challenges ahead, in particular the disjunction that existed between growth in production and elimination of poverty. Accelerated sectoral growth had not been reflected in better living conditions for the rural poor. Despite positive rates of sectoral economic growth, rural poverty had not diminished in the same proportion. Among the structural causes of this disjunction were wage labour conditions in the rural sector. The FAO Regional Office is conducting studies in this thematic area, with a special focus on employment conditions of casual workers.

15. Indicated that the price of inputs, especially fertilizers, often represented serious constraints to increased food production and the achievement of profitability in farming. The situation was particularly severe in the small island countries that did not produce fertilizers. It recommended that FAO should look into the formulation of policies to address this situation.

For the attention of the FAO Council

The Conference:

16. Recommended the strengthening of FAO's communication mechanisms in the region and suggested in particular that the Regional Office's web page be improved with, above all, a broader dissemination of reports and publications to better capitalize on the significant technical advances that the Organization had made.

17. Reiterated the need for documents for the Regional Conference to be made available sufficiently in advance to permit their study and facilitate discussion.

Latin American and Caribbean Forestry Commission (LACFC), Commission on Livestock Development for Latin America and the Caribbean (CODEGALAC), Western Central Atlantic Fisheries Commission (WECAFC) and Commission for Inland Fisheries of Latin America (COPESCAL)

For the attention of the Member Nations in the region and the FAO Council

The Conference:

18. Expressed its appreciation for the work carried out in the Commissions (LACFC, CODEGALAC, WECAFC and COPESCAL) and highlighted the top priority of their respective discussion topics and the relevance of their conclusions. It noted that the work of the Commissions should receive more support from countries and be given greater visibility. It proposed that the Commissions should conduct their work in greater depth and detail and should submit recommendations on courses of action to the Regional Conference.

19. Suggested that the Commissions could play an advisory role for the Regional Conferences and could serve to promote South-South cooperation.

20. Endorsed the decisions adopted at the last session of LACFC, particularly as regards sustainable forest management and the development of sustainable agroforestry systems. It also supported the guidelines to reverse the loss of forest area and the efforts to incorporate the valuation of environmental assets into national accounts.

21. Supported the guidelines and recommendations of COPESCAL and COPACO. It recommended that these commissions should intensify cooperation between countries of the region for the sustainable management and use of transboundary river basins. It underlined the strategic potential of aquaculture for enhancing food and nutritional security and for helping combat poverty in a socially responsible and environmentally sustainable manner. It urged greater support to the small-scale, resource-poor aquaculture sector and requested that COPESCAL and COPACO liaise more actively and continuously with the countries of the region.

For the attention of the FAO Council

The Conference:

22. Supported the efforts of CODEGALAC to enhance the efficiency of the livestock sector and its association with environmental sustainability, through sustainable production systems and the measurement and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. The Conference also agreed on the need to give due recognition to the importance of the livestock sector in economic and social development, the strategy for poverty eradication and the achievement of food and nutritional security. In this connection, it called on FAO to pay greater attention to livestock development.

The situation in Haiti and the process of reconstruction: considerations on food security and agriculture for future programming

For the attention of the Member Nations in the region

The Conference:

23. Expressed its satisfaction with the collaborative activities with Haiti that had been undertaken by various countries of the region and with existing plans to step up such acts of solidarity and assistance. In this connection, an intervention was expected from CARICOM that would focus on selected critical areas, including seed production, land rehabilitation, water management, post-harvest activities and other crucial interventions included in the action plan.

24. Recommended the assurance of effective coordination so that assistance, cooperation and contributions in cash and kind could be delivered in a timely manner to those in need and so that they contributed to the achievement of their intended objectives. Such actions should include participation not only of governments and multilateral organizations, but also of civil society organizations and the private sector.

For the attention of the FAO Council

The Conference:

25. Welcomed the report on FAO's cooperation with Haiti and on progress in dealing with the emergency and promoting the long-term reconstruction of Haiti's agriculture. It stressed the fundamental importance of supporting the Haitian authorities in finding ready solutions to

problems that included a lack of quality seed, the rebuilding of food distribution chains, the transparent and efficient management of funds, the strengthening of ongoing cooperation actions and the realization of investments needed for agricultural recovery.

26. Recognized the exceptional gravity of the situation in Haiti caused by the earthquake and its resulting natural, economic and social complications and by the pre-existing unfavourable context. It expressed its appreciation of the prompt response and efficient collaboration of FAO with IFAD and WFP, and the establishment of their tripartite task force.

27. Endorsed FAO's integrated cooperation approach to deal with the emergency, restore the agricultural sector and promote long-term structural measures.

Food and nutritional security: The human right to food

For the attention of the Member Nations in the region

The Conference:

28. Indicated that, where appropriate, public waters should be made available for aquaculture.

29. Noted with satisfaction the establishment of the Aquaculture Network for the Americas which promotes cooperation between countries of the region. It also noted with satisfaction a first contribution of one million dollars for this network.

For the attention of the FAO Council

The Conference:

30. Agreed with the contents of the report that was presented, noting that it summarized the current problems of agricultural development in the countries of the region. It expressed its satisfaction with the approach and commended FAO for the quality and depth of its analysis.

31. Recommended that the analysis should consider the impact of the highly distortional, concentrated and unjust international commodity markets that constituted a serious impediment to agricultural and rural development in the countries of the region.

32. Recommended that FAO should give priority to cooperation for staple food production in family farming, placing an emphasis on the problems of market entry, high transaction costs and equitable participation of family farmers in value chains.

33. Requested that artisanal aquaculture be included in the analysis of development of small-scale production. It urged that the contribution of social organizations, artisanal fishers and family aquaculturists be taken into account.

34. Recognized the need to move forward in compiling the glossary in order to harmonize concepts of relevance to the region, particularly regarding food sovereignty, its terminology and implications.

Follow-up to the Hunger-Free Latin America and the Caribbean 2025 Initiative

For the attention of the Member Nations of the region and the Conference of FAO

The Conference:

35. Reiterated its support for the Hunger-Free Latin America and the Caribbean 2025 Initiative, underlining its potential role in the international mobilization of resources for food and nutritional security. It recommended that this initiative should serve as a preferential interface between the Committee on World Food Security and the Regional Conference.

Implementation of the Programme of Work and Budget 2010-11 and Areas of Priority Action for the region in the following biennium

For the attention of the FAO Council

The Conference:

36. Recognized the importance of conducting a first complete cycle of planning within the framework of results-based management and pledged to contribute to the process.

Presentation of reports and proposals for the subregions of the Caribbean, Central America and South America

For the attention of the FAO Council

The Conference:

37. Recognized that group discussions to identify the priorities of each subregion contributed significantly to FAO's plan of work for the region. The complete texts of priorities identified in each subregion are given in Appendixes C, D and E.

38. The Subregion of the Caribbean identified the following priorities:

- Risk management
- Food and nutritional security
- Certified quality seeds
- Health and safety
- Climate change
- Transboundary diseases

It also identified other issues that needed to be considered:

- Agricultural insurance
- Agricultural credit
- South-South cooperation
- FAO support in accessing existing funds for food security.

Finally it stressed the need for FAO to devote a specific programme of technical assistance to Haiti.

39. The Subregion of Central America, Mexico and the Dominican Republic identified the following priorities:

- Family farming
- Territorial rural development

- Integrated water management
- Plant and animal health and food safety
- Sustainable development of livestock with a focus on small-scale production
- Linkages between small producers and the market

It also identified cross-cutting topics that needed to be considered within FAO cooperation in the region:

- Integrated development of human resources associated with agriculture.
- Institutional strengthening to enhance government capacity of response.
- Review of agricultural policy in the region.
- Strengthening of capacity for research and technological innovation, knowledge management and access to information, with the creation of regional institutional linkages.
- Strengthening of extension, training and technology transfer to small producers.
- Discussion and agreement on concepts relating to family farming.
- Strengthening of institutional capacities for climate change mitigation and adaptation as related to agriculture.
- Development of institutional capacity for the management of financial alternatives.

40. The Subregion of South America identified the following priorities:

- Right to adequate food
- Family farming
- Rural development
- Social technologies
- Quality and safety
- Climate change
- Biodiversity

It also identified two cross-cutting themes:

- Gender
- Youth

For the attention of the Conference of FAO

41. The Subregion of Central America, Mexico and Dominican Republic requested the inclusion of Mexico in the Subregion and that this become known as the Mesoamerica Subregion.

42. It also requested that the FAO Office in Guatemala be given Permanent Representation status.

43. The countries of the Subregion of South America agreed that they preferred to maintain direct contact with the Regional Office in Santiago, Chile, in order to avoid duplication of effort and to make best use of available human and financial resources. They also emphasized the need to strengthen the FAO Regional Office and the Subregional Offices for Central America and the Caribbean, through human resources, facilities, infrastructure and financial resources.

44. With regard to the changes requested in the proposals of the subregional groups, which were approved by the Regional Conference, the Conference understands that the Subregional Office for Central America will include Mexico and will become the Subregional Office for Mesoamerica; and that Cuba and the Dominican Republic will participate in the meetings of this Subregion when they consider it appropriate. The Conference also understands that the Regional Office in Santiago, Chile, will only have one multidisciplinary team which will incorporate the multidisciplinary team

for South America. The functions of the Deputy Regional Representative will be revised and will only amount to those of the FAO Representative in Chile.

Global and regional emergency issues: Risk management and responses to emergencies in the agricultural, forestry and fisheries sectors in Latin America and the Caribbean

For the attention of the Member Nations in the region and the FAO Council

The Conference:

45. Expressed its concern about risks deriving from zoonoses and other transboundary diseases, the degradation of natural resources, the impact of climate change and the increasing frequency of natural disasters, which affected agriculture in particular and impacted on the state of food and nutritional security of the population.

46. Recognized the need for integrated actions that would concurrently permit the evaluation and installation of early warning systems to reduce risks and the broadening of capacity of response to social and natural disasters and emergencies.

47. Noted the relevance of the integrated dual approach strategy to address both emergencies and structural causes. It stressed the importance that both approaches should be based on rights in order to foster equitable access to natural resources and their sustainable utilization.

48. Stated that, in addition to the human and environmental costs of disasters, it was essential to consider their economic impact. It also signalled the need to significantly broaden the system of agricultural insurance and requested FAO support for its development, especially in the countries of the Caribbean and in other highly vulnerable areas.

49. Considered that FAO support was needed to help identify methods of measuring the effects of greenhouse gases. It firmly believed that financial assistance from the industrialized countries could be supplemented by market instruments based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.

For the attention of the FAO Council

The Conference:

50. Expressed its appreciation of FAO's actions in support of Haiti. It urged the Organization to intensify such actions in coordination with the countries of the region in order to reduce vulnerability and to restore Haiti's agriculture sector. It considered that the Organization's cooperation with Haiti should assume a special dimension to include technical support for problems other than the earthquake, such as water resource management and the need to attend to the displaced population and land rehabilitation.

51. Called for greater FAO support in the use of technologies for the prevention and reduction of risk, specifying in particular the role of the Regional Office and the need to establish cooperation mechanisms between countries of the region.

52. Emphasized the need for integrated FAO action in the region, with the inclusion of technical support for the assessment and prevention of risk, response to emergencies and long-term development actions.

53. Indicated that the effects of natural disasters were frequently exacerbated by trade barriers and restricted market access. It requested FAO support to instigate the modernization of the agricultural sector, including the reduction and better management of risk and the strengthening of production and trade capacity to bolster economic development.

54. Indicated the need for greater conceptual clarity over the system of payment for environmental services, in order to avoid adverse implications for trade.

Promoting synergies and collaboration between the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Commission on Genetic Resources of FAO and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA)

For the attention of the Member Nations in the region

The Conference:

55. Stressed the importance of biodiversity for food production and for improving the state of food and nutritional security of the population.

56. Emphasized that the exchange of genetic resources should take the certification of origin into account to ensure a fair and equitable sharing of benefits from their utilization. It was also in favour of establishing cooperation agreements to combat biopiracy.

57. Reiterated its concern about the increase in hunger and poverty, and about the pressure that higher demand for food was exerting on natural resources. The production potential of genetic resources should be appraised in the light of their capacity to achieve the Millennium Goals in an environmentally sustainable manner.

For the attention of the FAO Council

The Conference:

58. Expressed its concern that the high price of improved seeds could deny small producers access to genetic materials resistant to adverse climatic events, such as drought. It requested that FAO support the strengthening of biotechnology research centres and the training of specialized personnel in the countries of the region.

59. Indicated the need for FAO technical cooperation to establish synergies in capacity building for improvement of the agricultural sector, the environment and trade

60. Stated that the development of genetic engineering should not cause the destruction or contamination of traditional production systems, and called on FAO to support the development of small-scale production, with consideration given to the adjustments and adaptations that were relevant to each specific case.

61. Recommended that FAO should support the development of infrastructure for the preservation and provision of genetic resources and should intensify technical cooperation in certified seed production programmes.

Climate change and its impact on agricultural, forestry and fisheries production in Latin America and the Caribbean

For the attention of the Member Nations in the region

The Conference:

62. Recognized the existence of evidence of the seriousness of climate change, and of the strong impact of its effects on the agricultural sector and the high vulnerability of the poorest countries. Although some temperate areas might benefit, yields in tropical areas would tend to decline and in dry areas the impact from greater salinization and desertification would be extremely serious. Fisheries would also be severely affected.

63. Noted that the development of biofuels should be considered as an option for reducing carbon emissions within a broad framework of measures to avoid exacerbating climate change, on the basis of the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. The countries of the region were not among the main perpetrators of this problem.

64. Considered it necessary to identify particularly vulnerable zones and systems in order to achieve greater precision in determining mitigation and adaptation measures, reflecting the conditions and priorities of each country.

65. Indicated that the strategy to deal with the effects of climate change should be based on the principles of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective country capacities, and drew attention to the historical responsibilities of the developed countries for the problem of climate change and the need to respect principles of equity and of food and nutritional security in the developing countries.

For the attention of the Member Nations in the region and the FAO Council

The Conference:

66. Stressed the need to prioritize activities of adaptation to climate change and to intensify practices to facilitate mitigation. It requested that FAO look into the possibility and merit of establishing a system of monitoring the impacts of climate change on agriculture, fisheries and forestry.

67. Stressed that FAO's action on climate change should consider vulnerability deriving from poverty and natural conditions. In particular, it highlighted the serious effects of climate change on coastal areas and fishing communities, and the need to consider the appropriate utilization of water.

For the attention of the FAO Council

The Conference:

68. Noted the extreme vulnerability of the countries of the region to the effects of climate change, especially the small island Caribbean states, many coastal areas and areas exposed to extreme events. This situation posed a challenge for the achievement of the Millennium Goals and should serve to guide FAO's action in the region.

69. Underlined the need for efficient FAO cooperation to support the rapid recovery of agriculture as a complement to measures of response to natural disasters. It also requested the Organization to address the food and nutritional security of communities displaced by such events.

70. Requested FAO cooperation in promoting, as a strategic thrust against climate change, the development of greater efficiency in agricultural production rather than just considering quantitative reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.

Rural territorial development and its institutional implications in Latin America and the Caribbean

For the attention of the Member Nations in the region

The Conference:

71. Recognized the strong socioeconomic and territorial heterogeneity of rural development in the region, stemming from differences in access to production assets and markets. It identified the need for rural development policies with a territorial approach to foster greater equity.

72. Underlined the importance of family farming both for food and nutritional security and for the alleviation of poverty, economic growth and environmental sustainability, for which it deserved a strategic role in development policy.

73. Indicated that the development of family farming required not only advance in primary production but also its integration into production chains, and support for financing and marketing. Rural development should be integrated into socioeconomic development and should facilitate the diversification of agricultural production, the expansion of periurban agriculture and the promotion of rural off-farm activities.

For the attention of the FAO Council

The Conference:

74. Stressed that FAO's cooperation agenda in the countries of the region should encourage follow-up to the commitments agreed at the International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ICARRD).

75. Acknowledged FAO's actions to promote the right to food and suggested promoting the right to land in order to foster greater equity in its distribution.

76. Requested that FAO continue to promote food and nutritional security programmes in the region, facilitating technological development in food production, marketing, processing and consumption, and the exchange of experiences to optimize production resources.

77. Urged FAO to support the development of family farming with a focus on the recovery of traditional know-how and the incorporation of good practices to ensure social, economic and environmental sustainability.

Report on the CODEX Alimentarius and food safety in the region

For the attention of the FAO Council

The Conference:

78. Stressed that the CODEX was a topic of primary interest to all the countries. However, it expressed its concern about the limited participation of countries of the region in Codex meetings.

It pointed out that this was due to the geographic spread of meetings, the shortage of funds for participation and the poor dissemination of information.

79. In this regard, it recognized the importance of the trust fund, but emphasized the need for additional resources and for a review of the classification criteria determining eligibility to the benefits of the fund.

80. Proposed that thought be given to the possibility of creating a supplementary regional fund to foster greater participation of the countries of the region.

Other matters

For the attention of the Member Nations in the region

The Conference:

81. Indicated the importance of the forthcoming appointment of the new Director-General of FAO and in this connection recalled that Latin America and the Caribbean was the only region that had never provided a Director-General of the Organization. It recommended that GRULAC should initiate informal consultations for the purpose of securing regional support for a single candidate for the post of Director-General of FAO.

For the attention of the Member Nations in the region and the Conference of FAO

The Conference:

82. Recommended that delegations accredited to future biennial meetings should include the different ministries and bodies associated with the various spheres of competence of FAO's mandate, including agriculture, livestock, fisheries, forestry, water and the environment, rural and social development, together with at least one civil society representative from one of these sectors.

For the attention of the Conference of FAO

The Conference:

83. Expressed the gratitude of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean to the Director-General for his services to the Organization and to the Region throughout his mandate, during which he had worked tirelessly to place food security as a top priority and had vigorously supported the efforts of governments, regional institutions and civil society to combat the scourge of hunger and poverty in an effective and sustainable manner.

84. Recommended that henceforth the Technical Committee should be allowed to hold subregional meetings earlier in advance of the Regional Conference.

85. Proposed that the Final Report of the Conference be translated into all the official languages of FAO and then be distributed to the Member Countries without delay.

86. Noted with satisfaction the offer of the Delegation of Argentina to host the Thirty-second FAO Regional Conference, to be held in 2012. The offer was unanimously endorsed by the delegations present.

REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE

Inaugural Ceremony of the Plenary Session

87. The Conference was inaugurated by His Excellency Mr Ricardo Alberto Martinelli Berrocal, President of the Republic of Panama. The President was accompanied by the First Lady of the Republic of Panama, Mrs Marta Linares de Martinelli, the Vice-President and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Juan Carlos Varela, and the Minister for Agricultural Development, Mr Víctor Manuel Pérez Batista. The inauguration was also attended by the Director-General of FAO, Mr Jacques Diouf.

88. The Director-General of FAO, speaking on behalf of the Organization, the Independent Chairperson of the Council and all the participating Delegations, thanked the President of the Republic of Panama for his presence and the Government and the people of Panama for their hospitality.

89. The President of the Republic of Panama thanked the Director-General of FAO for having established the FAO Subregional Office for Central America. He expressed his appreciation to FAO for its support to priority programmes for the agricultural and rural development of the country, including the "Project for community and school vegetable gardens and poultry farms"; the seeds programme for "Strengthening staple grain seed production in support of family farming for food security in the member countries of the Central American Agricultural Council", and technical assistance in sustainable agricultural development policies. He mentioned the importance of water for development and the need for this crucial and increasingly scarce resource to be used rationally. He ended by welcoming the participating Delegations and wishing them success in the work of the Conference.

Election of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons and appointment of the Rapporteur

90. The Conference unanimously elected the Conference Officers: Chairperson Mr Víctor Manual Pérez (Panama), Vice-Chairpersons Messrs Pedro Pablo Peña (Dominican Republic) and Altemir Gregolim (Brazil), and Rapporteur Mr Milton Rondó (Brazil), who are featured in Appendix K.

Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable

91. The Conference adopted the Agenda and Timetable (see Agenda in Appendix I)

Statement of the Director-General

(The full text of the statement is in Appendix A)

92. The Director-General thanked the President of the Republic, the Government and the people of Panama for their generous hospitality and the organization of the Conference. He expressed his regret that only five years before the deadline that the World Food Summit of 1996 and the Millennium Development Goals had set for halving hunger and extreme poverty, its achievement had become more remote on account of the escalation of international food prices and the economic crisis that had wiped out the progress made in the previous ten years. The number of people suffering from hunger had risen in the world and in Latin America and the Caribbean. However, he stressed the renewed commitment that the Heads of State and Government had expressed in the Declaration of the World Summit on Food Security in November 2009 to achieve this target and the Millennium Development Goals, and to eradicate hunger in the world at the earliest possible date. He also emphasized the political support that the Summit of Latin America and the Caribbean

on Integration and Development had given to the Hunger-Free Latin America and the Caribbean 2025 Initiative.

93. The Director-General underlined the importance of agriculture in Latin America and the Caribbean, and noted the paradox that a region with an ample food surplus should have 53 million hungry people. This was due to insufficient production in some countries and to the difficulties that a large proportion of the region's poor had in accessing food.

94. The Director-General urged delegates to participate in the new policy guidelines for FAO activities, the definition of priorities in the region, the implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action, the establishment of the network of decentralized offices and the reform of the Committee on World Food Security.

95. The Director-General mentioned FAO's cooperation with Haiti and indicated that the earthquake had caused a rethinking of the Organization's activities, which were now three-stranded i) the current agricultural season to produce greater supply and higher local availability of food; ii) medium and long-term actions to secure the investments needed in production infrastructure, watershed management and reforestation; and iii) a reshaping of agriculture, with a closer focus on food crops, better marketing and institutional strengthening.

Statement of the Independent Chairperson of the Council

96. The Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council, Mr Luc Guyau, thanked the Government of the Republic of Panama for organizing the Conference and the people of Panama for their generosity and warmth of welcome. He expressed his solidarity with the peoples of Haiti and Chile and paid homage to the victims of the earthquakes that had struck both countries.

97. The Independent Chairperson of the Council reported on the progress of his work, advances in the plan of reform of the Organization and the outlook for the decentralization process and for reform of the Committee on World Food Security. He indicated that implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action was a collective responsibility that required a conflation of effort by the countries, FAO headquarters in Rome and the decentralized offices. He stated that the Programme Committee had recommended that he take measures, with support from the FAO bodies, for the Regional Conferences to be able to forward recommendations on regional priority issues to the Council. He emphasized the importance of the Regional Conferences which this year were taking place at a historical moment in the institutional life of the Organization, with the next sessions of the Finance and Programme Committees specifically considering the recommendations of these Regional Conferences on issues relating to programme and budget.

Matters arising from the World Summit on Food Security and the 36th Session of the FAO Conference, notably implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action (IPA), including the Decentralized Offices Network. Towards a new vision of the Decentralized Offices Network

98. The Conference was informed of the outcome of the World Summit on Food Security and the FAO Conference that had taken place in November 2009, implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action and progress in the decentralization process. More specifically, it was briefed on the Declaration of the World Summit and on the strategic objectives and principles agreed at the FAO Conference on the adoption of the Strategic Framework 2010-19, the Medium-Term Plan 2010-13 and the Programme of Work and Budget 2010-11, which for the first time incorporated Regular Programme and extrabudgetary funds.

99. The Conference was also informed of the new role assigned to the Regional Conferences, especially regarding their recommendations on matters of programme and budget, which would be

relayed to the FAO Council through the Programme and Finance Committees, and on issues of policy and regulation, which would be directed to the FAO Conference in Rome. The Conference was briefed in detail on progress made on the Immediate Plan of Action and the decentralization process. The background situation was explained, as was the current lack of consensus in discussions on the decentralization process.

100. The Conference underlined that if FAO was to achieve its noble aims, it had to be able to count on a solid network of decentralized offices, with high-calibre personnel, linkages with headquarters and close ties with national governments and other multilateral bodies.

101. The Conference expressed its agreement with the actions considered in the Immediate Plan of Action and with the corresponding changes to the terms of reference and responsibilities of the decentralized offices. However, it drew attention to the possible consequences of indiscriminate application of the eight streamlining criteria set out in Action 3.84 of the Immediate Plan of Action. In this regard, it recalled that a theoretical exercise involving the possible application of five of these eight criteria had produced the alarming result that 94 percent of FAO country offices in the world would be eliminated.

102. The Conference emphasized the importance of maintaining FAO's presence in all the countries of the region and of reinforcing the professional teams and technical capacities of the Regional Office and the Subregional Offices.

103. The Conference stressed that the criteria of cost reduction and administrative efficiency, as narrowly interpreted, were clearly insufficient to guide decisions on the decentralization process. It emphasized the importance of having an FAO presence in the countries of the region and underlined that almost all the FAO decentralized offices, especially those implementing its Field Programme and providing technical assistance, were in the developing countries.

104. The Conference stated that before taking decisions on the decentralization process based exclusively on the criteria of cost reduction and savings, the actual performance of the decentralized offices needed to be assessed, for which the requirements deriving from their new role needed to be satisfied.

105. The Conference stressed that decisions on the decentralization process also needed to take into account the contributions of Governments for the functioning of national, subregional and regional offices, including contributions in infrastructure, local staff, security, equipment and other goods and services.

106. The Conference urged that the streamlining process consider all elements relevant to the Organization's objectives, beyond mere consideration of reduced costs. It considered it vital that there be better formulation and clarification of the flexibility approach to determining the size and composition of the decentralized offices, and spoke out in defence of FAO's presence in countries, whenever necessary and requested by the Government in question.

107. The Conference considered relevant a more in-depth appraisal of the option of sharing offices with other programmes and agencies. It stressed that this option should not affect the Organization's mandate nor the programmes approved by its Governing Bodies.

108. The Conference requested the opinion of the FAO Regional Representative for Latin America and the Caribbean, who stated that progress had been noted in six of the fifteen IPA actions. He therefore emphasized the need to advance more quickly in the decentralization process. He stated that the technical capacities of the Country and Sub-Regional Representations were insufficient to meet the requirements of the Field Programme. The FAO Regional Representative also mentioned

that despite the contribution of the TCP-Facility, the Country Representations continued to depend heavily on the Regional and Subregional Offices, which however also had constraints in providing the required support.

109. With regard to the decentralized offices, the Regional Representative recalled that country needs and capacities for training and human resource development were not entirely uniform, and that there were regional characteristics that needed to be taken into account. He expressed his concern about a culture of centralization in the functioning of the Organization, and the existence of control mechanisms that annihilated flexibility. He considered it essential for decentralization to be accompanied by greater flexibility and less bureaucracy.

Establishment of one global Shared Services Centre

110. The Conference was informed of progress in the multi-staged reorganization of administrative services in recent years. In the last review process, included in the Immediate Plan of Action, additional services were identified for offshoring, together with necessary technical team levels and reporting lines, and an evaluation of the present structure in the three administrative service hubs. Corresponding estimates of possible savings were also given.

111. The Conference considered that the process of evaluation of changes in the shared services centres (SSCs) required further reflection and the incorporation of criteria additional to cost-related factors. In particular, the services currently provided by the SSC Hub in Santiago showed good results in terms of competency profile of the existing team, languages, local knowledge and time differences. They could however be enhanced by considering a separation of human resource services from administrative and travel services, ensuring flexibility and coherence in the activities of both spheres.

Reform of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS)

112. The Conference was informed of progress on reform of the Committee on World Food Security. Reform constituted a key process in securing coherence of efforts to reduce food insecurity and in converting the CFS into the world's leading platform for the achievement of food security. The success of reform depended directly on the commitment of countries and regions.

113. The Conference took note of the existence of the Advisory Group made up of representatives of International Fund for Agricultural Development, the World Food Programme and other international agencies, NGOs and CSOs, international agricultural research institutes, financial institutions, the private sector and philanthropic foundations. The reformed Committee would also establish a High-Level Panel of Experts.

114. The Conference agreed with the importance of reinforcing the Committee on World Food Security and its relationship with the Regional Conferences. It indicated that the conclusions and recommendations of the Regional Conferences should be conveyed to the Committee on World Food Security for consideration in its decisions. However, it did not consider it necessary to create a special steering group to provide such contact, which could be provided by bodies internal to the Regional Conferences. The Conference also supported the participation of representatives of the Regional Conferences in the sessions of the Committee on World Food Security in order to facilitate reciprocal feedback on their work.

115. The Conference suggested that the Hunger-Free Latin America and the Caribbean 2025 Initiative could support communication between the region and the Committee on World Food Security during the intersessional periods, providing the basis for a process of participation of different regional stakeholders within the reformed Committee, which was also multisectoral in

nature and had a plurality of agents. It would thus serve as an important channel of communication to achieve the participation of the more vulnerable countries with major food insecurity problems, especially the small island states of the Caribbean.

Report on FAO activities in the region (2008-2009) and actions taken on the main recommendations of the 30th Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean

116. The Conference was informed of the activities that FAO had implemented in follow-up to the recommendations and priorities of the 30th FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean. It took note of the main challenges ahead, in particular the disjunction that existed between growth in production and elimination of poverty. Accelerated sectoral growth had not been reflected in better living conditions for the rural poor. Despite positive rates of sectoral economic growth, rural poverty had not diminished in the same proportion. Among the structural causes of this disjunction were wage labour conditions in the rural sector. The FAO Regional Office is conducting studies in this thematic area, with a special focus on employment conditions of casual workers.

117. The Conference expressed its satisfaction with FAO's response to the recommendations and priorities of the 30th Regional Conference and with the quality of its resulting activities.

118. The Conference recommended the strengthening of FAO's communication mechanisms in the region and suggested in particular that the Regional Office's web page be improved with, above all, a broader dissemination of reports and publications to better capitalize on the significant technical advances that the Organization had made.

119. The Conference reiterated the need for documents for the Regional Conference to be made available sufficiently in advance to permit their study and facilitate discussion.

120. The Conference indicated that the price of inputs, especially fertilizers, often represented serious constraints to increased food production and the achievement of profitability in farming. The situation was particularly severe in the small island countries that did not produce fertilizers. It recommended that FAO should look into the formulation of policies to address this situation.

Latin American and Caribbean Forestry Commission (LACFC), Commission on Livestock Development for Latin America and the Caribbean (CODEGALAC), Western Central Atlantic Fisheries Commission (WECAFC) and Commission for Inland Fisheries of Latin America (COPESCAL)

121. The Conference expressed its appreciation for the work carried out in the Commissions (LACFC, CODEGALAC, WECAFC and COPESCAL) and highlighted the top priority of their respective discussion topics and the relevance of their conclusions. It noted that the work of the Commissions should receive more support from countries and be given greater visibility. It proposed that the Commissions should conduct their work in greater depth and detail and should submit recommendations on courses of action to the Regional Conference.

122. The Conference suggested that the Commissions could play an advisory role for the Regional Conferences and could serve to promote South-South cooperation.

123. The Conference endorsed the decisions adopted at the last session of LACFC, particularly as regards sustainable forest management and the development of sustainable agroforestry systems. It also supported the guidelines to reverse the loss of forest area and the efforts to incorporate the valuation of environmental assets into national accounts.

124. The Conference supported the efforts of CODEGALAC to enhance the efficiency of the livestock sector and its association with environmental sustainability, through sustainable production systems and the measurement and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. The Conference also agreed on the need to give due recognition to the importance of the livestock sector in economic and social development, the strategy for poverty eradication and the achievement of food and nutritional security. In this connection, it called on FAO to pay greater attention to livestock development.

125. The Conference supported the guidelines and recommendations of COPESCAL and COPACO. It recommended that these commissions should intensify cooperation between countries of the region for the sustainable management and use of transboundary river basins. It underlined the strategic potential of aquaculture for enhancing food and nutritional security and for helping combat poverty in a socially responsible and environmentally sustainable manner. It urged greater support to the small-scale, resource-poor aquaculture sector and requested that COPESCAL and COPACO liaise more actively and continuously with the countries of the region.

The situation in Haiti and the process of reconstruction: considerations on food security and agriculture for future programming

126. The Conference welcomed the report on FAO's cooperation with Haiti and on progress in dealing with the emergency and promoting the long-term reconstruction of Haiti's agriculture. It stressed the fundamental importance of supporting the Haitian authorities in finding ready solutions to problems that included a lack of quality seed, the rebuilding of food distribution chains, the transparent and efficient management of funds, the strengthening of ongoing cooperation actions and the realization of investments needed for agricultural recovery.

127. The Conference recognized the exceptional gravity of the situation in Haiti caused by the earthquake and its resulting natural, economic and social complications and by the pre-existing unfavourable context. It expressed its appreciation of the prompt response and efficient collaboration of FAO with IFAD and WFP, and the establishment of their tripartite task force.

128. The Conference endorsed FAO's integrated cooperation approach to deal with the emergency, restore the agricultural sector and promote long-term structural measures.

129. The Conference expressed its satisfaction with the collaborative activities with Haiti that had been undertaken by various countries of the region and with existing plans to step up such acts of solidarity and assistance. In this connection, an intervention was expected from CARICOM that would focus on selected critical areas, including seed production, land rehabilitation, water management, post-harvest activities and other crucial interventions included in the action plan.

130. The Conference recommended the assurance of effective coordination so that assistance, cooperation and contributions in cash and kind could be delivered in a timely manner to those in need and so that they contributed to the achievement of their intended objectives. Such actions should include participation not only of governments and multilateral organizations, but also of civil society organizations and the private sector.

131. The Conference welcomed the message from the Minister of Agriculture of Haiti who thanked the countries of the region, FAO and other agencies and institutions for their solidarity and timely assistance. He explained the current situation, mentioning the difficult conditions that existed before 12 January 2010, the impact of the earthquake and the Ministry of Agriculture's response under its strategy to address the emergency. He stated that the disaster and its serious consequences also represented a challenge in plotting the rehabilitation of the country's rural and agricultural sector.

Food and nutritional security: The Human Right to Food

132. The Conference agreed with the contents of the report that was presented, noting that it summarized the current problems of agricultural development in the countries of the region. It expressed its satisfaction with the approach and commended FAO for the quality and depth of its analysis.

133. The Conference recommended that the analysis should consider the impact of the highly distortional, concentrated and unjust international commodity markets that constituted a serious impediment to agricultural and rural development in the countries of the region.

134. The Conference recommended that FAO should give priority to cooperation for staple food production in family farming, placing an emphasis on the problems of market entry, high transaction costs and equitable participation of family farmers in value chains.

135. The Conference requested that artisanal aquaculture be included in the analysis of development of small-scale production. It urged that the contribution of social organizations, artisanal fishers and family aquaculturists be taken into account.

136. The Conference indicated that, where appropriate, public waters should be made available for aquaculture.

137. The Conference noted with satisfaction the establishment of the Aquaculture Network for the Americas which promotes cooperation between countries of the region. It also noted with satisfaction a first contribution of one million dollars for this network.
138. The Conference recognized the need to move forward in compiling the glossary in order to harmonize concepts of relevance to the region, particularly regarding food sovereignty, its terminology and implications.

Follow-up to the Hunger-Free Latin America and the Caribbean 2025 Initiative

139. The Conference welcomed the report on the activities of the Hunger-Free Latin America and the Caribbean 2025 Initiative and congratulated the Secretariat on progress made.

140. The Conference reiterated its support for the Hunger-Free Latin America and the Caribbean 2025 Initiative, underlining its potential role in the international mobilization of resources for food and nutritional security. It recommended that this initiative should serve as a preferential interface between the Committee on World Food Security and the Regional Conference.

Implementation of the Programme of Work and Budget 2010-11 and Areas of Priority Action for the region in the following biennium

141. The Conference endorsed the report on implementation of the Programme of Work and Budget 2010-11 and on suggested areas of priority action of FAO in the region during the 2012-13 biennium (Food and Nutritional Security; Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability; Transboundary Diseases; Promotion of Small-scale Agriculture/Family Farming) .

142. The Conference recognized the importance of conducting a first complete cycle of planning within the framework of results-based management and pledged to contribute to the process.

Presentation of reports and proposals for the subregions of the Caribbean, Central America and South America

143. The Conference recognized that group discussions to identify the priorities of each subregion contributed significantly to FAO's plan of work for the region. The complete texts of priorities identified in each subregion are given in Appendixes C, D and E.

144. The Subregion of the Caribbean identified the following priorities:

- Risk management
- Food and nutritional security
- Certified quality seeds
- Health and safety
- Climate change
- Transboundary diseases

It also identified other issues that needed to be considered:

- Agricultural insurance
- Agricultural credit
- South-South cooperation
- FAO support in accessing existing funds for food security.

Finally it stressed the need for FAO to devote a specific programme of technical assistance to Haiti.

145. The Subregion of Central America, Mexico and the Dominican Republic identified the following priorities:

- Family farming
- Territorial rural development
- Integrated water management
- Plant and animal health and food safety
- Sustainable development of livestock with a focus on small-scale production
- Linkages between small producers and the market

It also identified cross-cutting topics that needed to be considered within FAO cooperation in the region:

- Integrated development of human resources associated with agriculture.
- Institutional strengthening to enhance government capacity of response.
- Review of agricultural policy in the region.
- Strengthening of capacity for research and technological innovation, knowledge management and access to information, with the creation of regional institutional linkages.
- Strengthening of extension, training and technology transfer to small producers.
- Discussion and agreement on concepts relating to family farming.
- Strengthening of institutional capacities for climate change mitigation and adaptation as related to agriculture.
- Development of institutional capacity for the management of financial alternatives.

The Subregion of Central America, Mexico and the Dominican Republic requested the inclusion of Mexico in the Subregion and that this become known as the Mesoamerica Subregion. Finally, it requested that the FAO Office in Guatemala be given Permanent Representation status.

146. The Subregion of South America identified the following priorities:

- Right to adequate food

- Family farming
- Rural development
- Social technologies
- Quality and safety
- Climate change
- Biodiversity

It also identified two cross-cutting themes:

- Gender
- Youth

The countries of the subregion agreed that they preferred to maintain direct contact with the Regional Office in Santiago, Chile, in order to avoid duplication of effort and to make best use of available human and financial resources. They therefore rejected the creation of the Multidisciplinary Group for South America. They also emphasized the need to strengthen the FAO Regional Office and the Subregional Offices for Central America and the Caribbean, through human resources, facilities, infrastructure and financial resources.

Other matters

147. The Conference took note of the proposal made that the plenary meetings of the Latin American and the Caribbean Group (GRULAC) have the possibility to establish direct contacts with the Regional Representative and the Subregional Representatives, through videoconferencing or other appropriate mechanisms, when deemed convenient by the presidency of GRULAC.

148. The Conference indicated that for the following period of two years leading up to the next Regional Conference, two Vice-Chairpersons should also consider themselves appointed, besides the already designated Chairperson and Rapporteur: the Minister or Representative of the country that hosted the previous Conference, Brazil, and the Minister or Representative of the country that will host the next Conference, Argentina.

149. With regard to the changes requested in the proposals of the subregional groups, which were approved by the Regional Conference, the Conference understands that the Subregional Office for Central America will include Mexico and will become the Subregional Office for Mesoamerica; and that Cuba and the Dominican Republic will participate in the meetings of this Subregion when they consider appropriate. The Conference also understands that the Regional Office in Santiago, Chile, will only have one multidisciplinary team which will incorporate the multidisciplinary team for South America. The functions of the Deputy Regional Representative will be revised and will only be those of the FAO Representative in Chile.

150. The Conference recommended that delegations accredited to future biennial meetings should include the different ministries and bodies associated with the various spheres of competence of FAO's mandate, including agriculture, livestock, fisheries, forestry, water and the environment, rural and social development, together with at least one civil society representative from one of these sectors.

151. The Conference recommended that henceforth the Technical Committee should be allowed to hold subregional meetings earlier in advance of the Regional Conference

152. The Conference indicated the importance of the forthcoming appointment of the new Director-General of FAO and in this connection recalled that Latin America and the Caribbean was the only region that had never provided a Director-General of the Organization. It recommended

that GRULAC should initiate informal consultations for the purpose of securing regional support for a single candidate for the post of Director-General of FAO.

153. The Conference proposed that the Final Report of the Conference be translated into all the official languages of FAO and then be distributed to the Member Countries without delay.

154. The Conference expressed the gratitude of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean to the Director-General for his services to the Organization and to the Region throughout his mandate, during which he had worked tirelessly to place food security as a top priority and had vigorously supported the efforts of governments, regional institutions and civil society to combat the scourge of hunger and poverty in an effective and sustainable manner.

155. The Conference received with appreciation the statements of Civil Society (the statement is given in Appendix F), of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and the World Organisation for animal health (OIE) (the corresponding statements are in Appendix G and H respectively).

REPORT OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Opening of the Technical Committee meeting

156. The Assistant Director-General and Regional Representative of FAO opened the Technical Committee meeting. He welcomed delegates and observers and thanked the Government and people of the Republic of Panama for organizing the event.

Election of the Technical Committee Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson and appointment of the Rapporteur

157. The Committee unanimously elected the Technical Committee Officers listed in Appendix K.

Adoption of the Technical Committee Agenda and Timetable

158. The Committee adopted the Agenda and Timetable of the Technical Committee as set out in documents LARC/10/1 and LARC/10/INF/2 (see Agenda in Appendix I).

159. The Committee suggested a re-examination of the order of "Agriculture" and "Food" in the Spanish title for FAO, given that "Food" appeared first in the other official languages.

Global and regional emergency issues: Risk management and responses to emergencies in the agricultural, forestry and fisheries sectors in Latin America and the Caribbean.

160. The Committee expressed its concern about risks deriving from zoonoses and other transboundary diseases, the degradation of natural resources, the impact of climate change and the increasing frequency of natural disasters, which affected agriculture in particular and impacted on the state of food and nutritional security of the population.

161. The Committee noted the relevance of the integrated dual approach strategy to address both emergencies and structural causes. It stressed the importance that both approaches should be based on rights in order to foster equitable access to natural resources and their sustainable utilization.

162. The Committee recognized the need for integrated actions that would concurrently permit the evaluation and installation of early warning systems to reduce risks and the broadening of capacity of response to social and natural disasters and emergencies.

163. The Committee expressed its appreciation of FAO's actions in support of Haiti. It urged the Organization to intensify such actions in coordination with the countries of the region in order to reduce vulnerability and to restore Haiti's agriculture sector. It considered that the Organization's cooperation with Haiti should assume a special dimension to include technical support for problems other than the earthquake, such as water resource management and the need to attend to the displaced population and land rehabilitation.

164. The Committee called for greater FAO support in the use of technologies for the prevention and reduction of risk, specifying in particular the role of the Regional Office and the need to establish cooperation mechanisms between countries of the region.

165. The Committee emphasized the need for integrated FAO action in the region, with the inclusion of technical support for the assessment and prevention of risk, response to emergencies and long-term development actions.

166. The Committee stated that, in addition to the human and environmental costs of disasters, it was essential to consider their economic impact. It also signalled the need to significantly broaden the system of agricultural insurance and requested FAO support for its development, especially in the countries of the Caribbean and in other highly vulnerable areas.

167. The Committee indicated that the effects of natural disasters were frequently exacerbated by trade barriers and restricted market access. It requested FAO support to instigate the modernization of the agricultural sector, including the reduction and better management of risk and the strengthening of production and trade capacity to bolster economic development.

168. The Committee indicated the need for greater conceptual clarity over the system of payment for environmental services, in order to avoid adverse implications for trade.

169. The Committee considered that FAO support was needed to help identify methods of measuring the effects of greenhouse gases. It firmly believed that financial assistance from the industrialized countries could be supplemented by market instruments based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.

Promoting synergies and collaboration between the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Commission on Genetic Resources of FAO and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA)

170. The Committee stressed the importance of biodiversity for food production and for improving the state of food and nutritional security of the population.

171. The Committee emphasized that the exchange of genetic resources should take the certification of origin into account to ensure a fair and equitable sharing of benefits from their utilization. It was also in favour of establishing cooperation agreements to combat biopiracy.

172. The Committee expressed its concern that the high price of improved seeds could deny small producers access to genetic materials resistant to adverse climatic events, such as drought. It requested that FAO support the strengthening of biotechnology research centres and the training of specialized personnel in the countries of the region.

173. The Committee indicated the need for FAO technical cooperation to establish synergies in capacity building for improvement of the agricultural sector, the environment and trade.

174. The Committee stated that the development of genetic engineering should not cause the destruction or contamination of traditional production systems, and called on FAO to support the development of small-scale production, with consideration given to the adjustments and adaptations that were relevant to each specific case.

175. The Committee reiterated its concern about the increase in hunger and poverty, and about the pressure that higher demand for food was exerting on natural resources. The production potential of genetic resources should be appraised in the light of their capacity to achieve the Millennium Goals in an environmentally sustainable manner.

176. The Committee recommended that FAO should support the development of infrastructure for the preservation and provision of genetic resources and should intensify technical cooperation in certified seed production programmes.

Climate change and its impact on agricultural, forestry and fisheries production in Latin America and the Caribbean

177. The Committee recognized the existence of evidence of the seriousness of climate change, and of the strong impact of its effects on the agricultural sector and the high vulnerability of the poorest countries. Although some temperate areas might benefit, yields in tropical areas would tend to decline and in dry areas the impact from greater salinization and desertification would be extremely serious. Fisheries would also be severely affected.

178. The Committee noted the extreme vulnerability of the countries of the region to the effects of climate change, especially the small island Caribbean states, many coastal areas and areas exposed to extreme events. This situation posed a challenge for the achievement of the Millennium Goals and should serve to guide FAO's action in the region.

179. The Committee underlined the need for efficient FAO cooperation to support the rapid recovery of agriculture as a complement to measures of response to natural disasters. It also asked the Organization to address the food and nutritional security of communities displaced by such events.

180. The Committee stressed the need to prioritize activities of adaptation to climate change and to intensify practices to facilitate mitigation. It requested that FAO look into the possibility and merit of establishing a system of monitoring the impacts of climate change on agriculture, fisheries and forestry.

181. The Committee noted that the development of biofuels should be considered as an option for reducing carbon emissions within a broad framework of measures to avoid exacerbating climate change, on the basis of the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. The countries of the region were not among the main perpetrators of this problem.

182. The Committee considered it necessary to identify particularly vulnerable zones and systems in order to achieve greater precision in determining mitigation and adaptation measures, reflecting the conditions and priorities of each country.

183. The Committee stressed that FAO’s action on climate change should consider vulnerability deriving from poverty and natural conditions. In particular, it highlighted the serious effects of climate change on coastal areas and fishing communities, and the need to consider the appropriate utilization of water.

184. The Committee requested FAO cooperation in promoting, as a strategic thrust against climate change, the development of greater efficiency in agricultural production rather than just considering quantitative reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.

185. The Committee indicated that the strategy to deal with the effects of climate change should be based on the principles of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective country capacities, and drew attention to the historical responsibilities of the developed countries for the problem of climate change and the need to respect principles of equity and of food and nutritional security in the developing countries.

Rural territorial development and its institutional implications in Latin America and the Caribbean

186. The Committee recognized the strong socioeconomic and territorial heterogeneity of rural development in the region, stemming from differences in access to production assets and markets.

It identified the need for rural development policies with a territorial approach to foster greater equity.

187. The Committee underlined the importance of family farming both for food and nutritional security and for the alleviation of poverty, economic growth and environmental sustainability, for which it deserved a strategic role in development policy.

188. The Committee indicated that the development of family farming required not only advance in primary production but also its integration into production chains, and support for financing and marketing. Rural development should be integrated into socioeconomic development and should facilitate the diversification of agricultural production, the expansion of periurban agriculture and the promotion of rural off-farm activities.

189. The Committee stressed that FAO's cooperation agenda in the countries of the region should encourage follow-up to the commitments agreed at the International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ICARRD).

190. The Committee acknowledged FAO's actions to promote the right to food and suggested promoting the right to land in order to foster greater equity in its distribution.

191. The Committee requested that FAO continue to promote food and nutritional security programmes in the region, facilitating technological development in food production, marketing, processing and consumption, and the exchange of experiences to optimize production resources.

192. The Committee urged FAO to support the development of family farming with a focus on the recovery of traditional know-how and the incorporation of good practices to ensure social, economic and environmental sustainability.

Report on the CODEX Alimentarius and food safety in the region

193. The Committee stressed that the CODEX was a topic of primary interest to all the countries. However, it expressed its concern about the limited participation of countries of the region in Codex meetings. It pointed out that this was due to the geographic spread of meetings, the shortage of funds for participation and the poor dissemination of information.

194. In this regard, the Committee recognized the importance of the trust fund, but emphasized the need for additional resources and for a review of the classification criteria determining eligibility to the benefits of the fund.

195. The Committee proposed that thought be given to the possibility of creating a supplementary regional fund to foster greater participation of the countries of the region.

Meetings of the subregional groups: Caribbean, Central America and South America

196. The Committee was informed of the proposed priorities of each subregion, including challenges, outlook, thematic areas and preliminary identification of priorities for FAO action. The outcome of discussion of these preliminary proposals would be presented in plenary session of the Conference.

FINAL ITEMS

Date and place of the Thirty-second FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean

197. The Conference noted with satisfaction the offer of the Delegation of Argentina to host the Thirty-second FAO Regional Conference, to be held in 2012. The offer was unanimously endorsed by the delegations present.

Adoption of the Report (including the Technical Committee Report)

198. The Conference unanimously adopted the Report, including the Report of the Technical Committee, which is an integral part of this document.

Closure of the Conference

199. The Conference thanked the Government and people of the Republic of Panama for having hosted the Conference and for the facilities made available for its proceedings.

200. The Independent Chairperson of the Council thanked the Government and people of the Republic of Panama for the hospitality provided and congratulated the Delegations on their work.

201. The FAO Regional Representative for Latin America and the Caribbean, speaking on behalf of the Organization, thanked the Delegates for their efforts and the Minister for Agricultural Development of the Republic of Panama for the excellent organization of the Conference.

202. The Minister for Agricultural Development of the Republic of Panama congratulated the Delegations on the outcome of their deliberations and thanked all those who had helped with the organization of the Conference. Speaking on behalf of the Government and people of the Republic of Panama, he then brought the 31st FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean to a close.

APPENDIX A

STATEMENT OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Mr Chairperson,
Mr Independent Chairperson of the Council,
Distinguished Ministers,
Honourable Delegates,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honour and a pleasure to be here today with you in this beautiful city of Panama for the Thirty-first FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean.

On behalf of the Organization and all of you, I should like to express our gratitude to the President of the Republic, His Excellency Ricardo Alberto Martinelli Berrocal, to his Government and to the people of Panama for hosting this Conference and for their generous hospitality.

State of food insecurity in the world and in Latin America and the Caribbean

In 1996, at the World Food Summit (WFS), the Heads of State and Government pledged to halve the number of people suffering from hunger by 2015 in order to achieve sustainable food security for all. This global commitment has been reaffirmed at other international conferences, including the Millennium Summit in 2000 and the World Food Summit: *five years later* in 2002. More recently, the World Summit of Heads of State and Government on Food Security, held in Rome last November, decided to take a series of measures to completely eradicate hunger from the world.

Unfortunately, the latest data compiled by FAO show that the current situation is even more disturbing than it was in 1996. Hunger has increased in the last three years because of soaring food prices. It has been exacerbated by the financial and economic crisis that has affected the world. In 2009, the number of hungry people increased by 105 million from the previous year, reaching one billion; that is, one out of every six human beings.

The region of Latin America and the Caribbean has not been spared. Regrettably, the food and economic crises have wiped out the progress made in the previous ten years. Between 1995-1997 and 2004-2006, the number of undernourished people in the region fell by 6.5 million, a reduction of 12.5%. According to the latest estimates, the level of food insecurity in the region increased in 2009, with 53 million people suffering from hunger.

For a region that produces enough food to cover the dietary needs of all of its people and, moreover, that exports sizeable surpluses to other parts of the world, this is a paradox. Thus, the problem of food insecurity in the region is not one of food availability at regional level, but rather one of production capacity in certain countries and inadequate food access for a large proportion of the population.

The impact of the food crisis is also uneven among countries. The countries that are net importers of food and energy are the hardest hit. These are also the countries that have the highest poverty

levels and that have mostly seen a fall in demand for their exports and reduced external financial flows. Some countries of the region have also borne the impact of natural disasters, such as the droughts and floods that ravaged several countries of Central and South America in 2009.

This dramatic situation has however served to reposition agriculture and food security at the heart of national and regional development policies and programmes, thanks to which we can look to the new decade with optimism. This new order of priorities should provide an opportunity to support small producers and strengthen family farming.

Agricultural development in Latin America and the Caribbean in 2008-2009

In 2008, agriculture and forests contributed an average 5% of regional GDP. Individual contributions ranged from 20.2% in Haiti and 21.4% in Paraguay to 1.6% in Mexico and 1.3% in the Bahamas.

Crops

In 2008, the region produced 185 million tonnes of cereals, up 3.3% from the previous year. Approximately 75% of those cereals were grown in South America. Because of its expanse of agricultural land and its competitiveness, South America is the subregion that contributes most to crop production in the region.

Livestock

Livestock in Latin America and the Caribbean accounts for 45% of the region's agricultural added value and represents 40% of the global value of agricultural production. The livestock sector has a value of 79 billion US dollars.

For several years this sector has posted regional growth of 4%, twice the world average. The Southern Cone countries are the world's leading exporters of beef, accounting in 2008 for 43% of the global total.

Although the prospects for animal production in the region are encouraging, the challenge for the future is to increase productivity while mitigating impact on the environment. Hence the importance of policies to promote sustainable land use, conservation of water and biodiversity, better disease prevention and improved animal health. Small producers essentially need access to inputs, credit and appropriate technologies so that they can raise productivity and lessen the risk of being displaced.

Fisheries and aquaculture

The fisheries and aquaculture sector is very important to the region. In 2008, fishery products, 95% of which derived from the sea, accounted for 12% of the world total. Aquaculture is very dynamic in the region, increasing its share of aggregate production from 2 to 10% since 1995.

Industrial fisheries, conducted mainly by Peru, Chile, Mexico and Argentina, seem to have reached their maximum sustainable catch levels. Recent annual landings have varied between 12 and 14 million tonnes, used almost exclusively for fishmeal and fish oil.

Despite their importance to food security, artisanal and subsistence fisheries and small-scale aquaculture remain marginal activities often overlooked by policies and programmes of assistance to sectoral development.

Forestry

Currently, Latin America and the Caribbean have about 956 million hectares of forests, which is 24% of the global forest cover. But this is also the region that has the heaviest losses. In only 10 years, between 2000 and 2010, the region's forest cover diminished by 44 million hectares (which is 4.4%).

Considering the importance of forestry to the region, there is an urgent need to adopt appropriate policies and new mechanisms to combat forest degradation and deforestation.

Mr Chairperson,
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Main challenges for the region

The strategic importance of agriculture to the economic and social welfare of the countries and peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean is considerable. Agriculture remains the principal economic activity in rural areas and therefore has a direct impact on the potential to address the socio-economic challenges that prevail in the countryside. At the same time, agricultural development is an engine of growth for other economic spheres.

If it is to ensure sustainable agricultural development, the region needs to rise to two major challenges: first, climate change, particularly temperature increases, greater variability of rainfall and increased frequency of extreme events; and second, the natural disasters that frequently strike the region and cause considerable loss of life and property.

In addition, rural infrastructure, access to quality water, financing and institutional structure remain major constraints to improving agricultural productivity in the region, particularly in rural areas.

Other achievements

In this new context of political reappraisal of food and nutritional security, the "Hunger-free Latin America and the Caribbean 2025" initiative was endorsed by the Summit of Latin America and the Caribbean on Integration and Development, held in Salvador de Bahia in December 2008. For the first time, the region's Heads of State and Government included food security among the priority topics of their common agenda. With support from FAO, the initiative has led to more robust legal and institutional frameworks for food and nutritional security in the region. In some cases, there has been legal recognition of food as a human right.

FAO has also provided technical support to programmes aimed at promoting agricultural production and reinforcing food and nutritional security in the region. Family farming has received special attention in these programmes.

The many different activities that FAO has conducted in the region in the last biennium are obviously too numerous to mention here. You will receive reports on many of them during this Conference.

The situation in Haiti

In Haiti, the earthquake of January 12 devastated a country that was already extremely vulnerable.

Nearly 55% of Haiti's population depend on agriculture, which accounts for 27% of GDP. There are also significant problems of deforestation and soil erosion that make the country even more vulnerable to extreme seasonal events relating to climate.

Before this great natural disaster, FAO had been implementing a relief and development programme worth some 49 million USD which was beginning to show encouraging results. The earthquake led us to rethink our activities in Haiti. Under the authority of the Haitian government, FAO should intensify and diversify its activities along three central thrusts:

1. Firstly, we must concentrate our short-term efforts on the spring growing season which lasts from March to May and which accounts for 60% of the country's annual agricultural output.
2. Next, we need to prepare the medium- and long-term actions that will permit necessary investments in agricultural infrastructure, watershed management and reforestation activities.
3. Finally, we must work on reshaping agriculture, placing an emphasis on food crops, better marketing of agricultural products and institutional strengthening.

We must start work on the medium term and the long term at once. An FAO interdisciplinary mission collaborated with officials from the Ministry of Agriculture in drafting the chapter on agriculture and fisheries that was included in the Post-Disaster Needs Assessment and the medium- to long-term investment plan for revival of the rural sector that was presented at the Conference in New York on March 31 of this year.

Funding of some 800 million USD will be required to rebuild a modern and competitive agricultural sector, capable of feeding a population of 10 million people in a country where 80% of the poor live in the rural sector which itself accounts for 60% of national employment.

Mr Chairperson,
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The agenda of the Regional Conference

In accordance with your recommendations, notably in Brasilia, this Conference is an opportunity to participate in discussions on global and regional emergency situations and on climate change and its impact on the region. Territorial development in rural areas and family farming are other items on your agenda.

You will be informed of FAO activities and you will have the opportunity to discuss priorities for the region, implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action for FAO Renewal, the network of decentralized offices and reform of the Committee on World Food Security. The Conference will also bring the regional authorities up-to-date on recovery efforts in Haiti.

FAO Reform

FAO is currently undergoing the most profound process of reform in the United Nations system. It is renewing all its work arrangements and the way it performs its mandate and delivers its services to member countries.

Implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action has been a primary objective of both the Member Nations and the Secretariat since it was adopted by the Special Session of the Conference in November 2008. The main elements of the Immediate Plan of Action are essentially:

- the adoption of a planning framework and a new results-based culture;
- decentralization and a greater delegation of authority;
- organizational streamlining;
- the improved management of human resources;
- more effective governance.

Since January, the regional offices have been responsible for overseeing the budget and programme for technical officers in the region and will gradually assume leadership of the substantive work of the country offices. The staff of the regional offices have also been trained to take on responsibility for the Technical Cooperation Programme.

To facilitate the alignment of our administrative structure with a results-based framework, a comprehensive restructuring of FAO Headquarters was initiated in 2009 and is due for completion in 2012. A key element of this exercise has been the elimination of 40 Director-level positions to produce a flatter Organizational structure and hierarchy.

The Independent Chairperson of the Council will explain these activities in more detail, especially at the level of the Representatives of Member Nations.

Reform of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS)

Last November, the 36th session of the FAO Conference approved another significant reform: that of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS). The purpose of CFS reform is to improve the governance of world food security, using existing structures and programmes and creating effective partnerships.

The renewed CFS has the following important functional characteristics:

- It is a global forum for discussion to foster convergence of views on the causes and consequences of food insecurity and on the modalities of action required in this domain.
- It is a mechanism of global coordination of efforts to eliminate hunger in order to ensure the long-term coherence and effectiveness of actions.
- It operates on a solid scientific basis and includes a High-Level Panel of Experts that will enable appropriate decisions to be taken by providing objective and impartial research and analysis.
- It is open to all stakeholders and includes representatives of governments, regional and global institutions, economic and financial partners, farmer organizations, the private sector, non-governmental organizations, foundations and civil society.

But if the CFS is to serve as a platform for high-level intergovernmental decision-making and thus acquire political credibility, the governments must be represented at ministerial level at its meetings. Equally important, in addition to the line ministries and their technical departments, the ministers of cooperation and development must also participate in the discussion of key economic and financial issues.

At the national level, it is essential to establish partnerships based on Food Security Thematic Groups and National Alliances Against Hunger, which will need to be strengthened. These two mechanisms should provide support to the governments, which are responsible for ensuring there is a proper allocation and utilization of budgetary resources, official development assistance, domestic private investment and foreign direct investment.

Thus the new Committee on World Food Security and its High-Level Panel of Experts, together with the relevant national mechanisms, will provide the cornerstone of the Global Partnership for

Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition.

Conclusion

Mr Chairperson,
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Only five years separate us from 2015, the date by which the world's leaders have pledged to halve hunger and extreme poverty.

From 16 to 18 November 2009, the Heads of State and Government of the Member Nations gathered at the *World Summit on Food Security* to help the one billion hungry people in the world to improve their living conditions and to regain hope for a better future. In this regard, I should like to highlight some important elements of the Declaration of the Summit, which we must now build upon to rid the world of hunger:

One: the firm commitment of the Heads of State and Government to step up their efforts to meet the target of the World Food Summit and the Millennium Development Goal of halving world hunger by 2015 and eradicating it at the earliest possible date;
Two: the commitment to strengthen international coordination and governance of food security by implementing radical reform of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and creating a High-Level Panel of Experts in the new CFS framework;
Three: the commitment to reverse the decline in domestic and international funding for agriculture, food security and rural development in the developing countries and to substantially increase the share of official development assistance devoted to these areas;
Four: the decision to promote new investments to increase agricultural production and productivity, especially in the developing countries, and to reduce poverty in order to achieve food security for all.

This Thirty-first Conference must rise to the challenges that face Latin America and the Caribbean. I am convinced that the countries of the region have the political will and the resources to ensure sustainable agricultural development and the food security of their peoples.
For its part, FAO will continue to help the governments and its partners in the region to develop and implement effective plans and programmes.

I thank you for your kind attention and wish you every success in your work.

APPENDIX B

STATEMENT OF THE INDEPENDENT CHAIRPERSON OF THE COUNCIL OF FAO

Mr Chairman of the Conference,
Distinguished Ministers and Heads of Delegation,
Mr Director-General,
Honourable Delegates and Observers
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Introduction

May I be permitted, on behalf of the Council of FAO, to express my warmest thanks to the Government of the Republic of Panama for having organized this Regional Conference and for having put in place all the necessary facilities. I should also like to thank the Panamanian people for their wonderful welcome and generosity. Panama hosts the FAO Subregional Office for Central America and is thus a select partner of our Organization.

I should like to begin by paying homage to the victims of the devastating earthquakes that rocked Haiti on 12 January and Chile on 27 February. I reiterate our solidarity with the people affected and salute the courage and efforts of the Government of both countries to assist the victims and work towards reconstruction. The international community stands by their side, first the States and organizations of the region, but also FAO which is assisting the rural communities.

It is an honour and a pleasure to take part in this **Regional Conference**. Our session in Panama is the first of five Regional Conferences this year. It is critically important given the new role that the member countries have given it under the reform plan adopted in 2008, and for which the Basic Texts were amended in 2009.

The 2010 cycle of **Regional Conferences** is a landmark in the institutional life of the Organization as it constitutes the first biennium of implementation of the reform plan, the **Immediate Plan of Action**. Its implementation, financed from the Regular Budget, is under our collective responsibility and calls for sustained efforts on the part of the Member Countries and of the Secretariat in Rome and the Decentralized Offices.

As we approach the 139th Session of the Council in May, I wish to take this opportunity:

(1) to brief you on the unfolding of my mandate as Independent Chairperson of the Council and to report to you on the accomplishment of the mission that you have entrusted to me;
(2) to provide a progress report on implementation of the reform plan, in my capacity as Chair of the "Committee on Reform" [CoC - IEE], and on the functioning of the Open-Ended Working Group on Measures Designed to Increase the Efficiency of Governing Bodies (OEWG), which I also chair;
(3) to envision developments for these different bodies.

First, the unfolding of my mandate

You elected me in November. My work is guided by **five principal axes** which I should like to share with you:

1 – Collegiality: I have introduced a process of **informal coordination** of the Chairs of the Committees with limited membership and the Vice-Chairs of the "Committee on Reform" whose

first meeting was on 9 March. I think the best option is to adopt a consensual and cross-cutting approach to the tasks that lie before us. Regular meetings of this group should facilitate communication and the search for a common vision in order to address the time limits set for our agenda. Broader consultation to involve the Chair of the CFS (Committee on World Food Security) and the Technical Committees of the Council is programmed for early June.

2 – Subsidiarity: It is essential that the governing bodies maximize the coordination of their actions to avoid duplication and repetition. As we proceed from one level to the next, each level needs to have its added value. I make sure that what is dealt with at one level is not dealt with again at a higher level. In this connection, **intersessional work** is essential and reflects the spirit of reform. Positive initiatives have been taken in this sense. They go in the right direction in that they permit in-depth preparation of the formal sessions.

3 – Ownership: Essential dialogue within and with the **Regional Groups** must draw upon regular meetings so that each group can express its concerns and proposals. I therefore invited the Chairs of the Regional Groups to working meetings on 15 March, 22 March and 21 April to deal in particular with the topic of **field visits**. I take this opportunity to thank the Chair of GRULAC, Argentina, and the Vice-Chairs, Venezuela and Uruguay, for their active collaboration.

4 – Independence: Each of you knows that it is important to maintain this criterion, both in relation to the Members and to the Secretariat and the Office of the Director-General, with whom changes are under way in a constructive atmosphere. Rest assured that I view the observance of this independence as crucial to the success of my mission. I strive each day to maintain it, especially in view of the important looming deadlines, including the election of the Director-General in 2011 at the Thirty-seventh Session of the Conference.

5 – Partnership: Partnership is essential to our mission and we need to find ways of developing it in all its forms: other UN agencies, States, civil society, NGOs and private enterprise.

Second, what is the state of progress of reform?

Reform is under way. The time is ripe for collective action and we need to help maintain the momentum of the reform process, which is still fragile. Together we must counter all forms of inertia, making best possible use of the Organization's human resources, which we all know to be top quality. **Internal communication** is essential for it is the staff who handle the everyday implementation of reform. **External communication** is also essential and each country should play its part.

That is how we can expect concrete results, both in Rome and in your region. The new methods of work and preparation of the Committees with limited membership will lead to even more precise recommendations for the Council in May. And as you know, the Council has been given added responsibilities in planning, establishing priorities, control, oversight and monitoring the implementation of governance decisions. The session of the Council in May will directly benefit from the conclusions of the Regional Conference that gathers us today in Panama.

The schedule of meetings of the "Committee on Reform" has been revised so that two can be held before the summer. Following our first meeting of 8 April, I wish to take stock with you on four core processes of our road map:

(1) – The Open-Ended Working Group on the efficiency of the governing bodies: This was formally established on 9 April and its tentative work schedule adopted. Intersessional work will clearly be needed given the sensitivity of the topic of representation on the Council.

(2) – The process of preparation of the informal meeting on the integration of extra-budgetary funding: On 14 April, the joint session of the Finance and Programme Committees underlined the need to define the preparatory conditions for this meeting, scheduled under the IPA. We should address this issue and take decisions at our next meetings on the monitoring of reform.

(3) – Preparation for election of the Director-General: The address of candidates to the Council and Conference is on the agenda of the session of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters that opens today in Rome. Proposals have been put forward by the Secretariat, mainly on the basis of a comparative analysis of rules and practices in effect in other UN agencies. Recommendations to be transmitted to the Council will be discussed in May.

(4) Status of the Regional Conferences: The reform of governance introduced significant change at the regional level, with the Regional Conferences now having full governing body status. Henceforth they will be hierarchically linked to the Conference and to the Council, to which they will also report:

- in the first case, on aspects relating to policy and regulation;
- in the second case, on matters relating to programme and budget.

This is a remarkable step towards the consolidation of governance at regional level.

Moreover, as the CFS reports to the Council on programme and budgetary matters, I should like to comment on the work of the Bureau of this Committee, which I consider to be extremely positive. The significant advances that have emerged can only benefit the relationship between the CFS and the Council. This liaison will also facilitate the establishment of the Global Partnership for Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition, involving the specialized agencies in Rome - FAO, IFAD, WFP and Bioversity - as well as civil society. This Conference will be examining this issue in detail, as there is a corresponding item on its agenda, in the presence of the Chair of the CFS Bureau.

What is the short-term outlook?

The entry into effect of the new scheduling for the Conference, now to be held in June, will shorten this current biennium by some six months. The agenda is therefore heavy and we will have to make best possible use of the time available.

In this regard, work conducted in informal groups is a good approach, on condition that is transparent, open and compatible with the formal sessions of the governing bodies, whose decisions it must not pre-empt. This approach provides for early and careful preparation of important events, such as the election of the Director-General or consideration of extra-budgetary funding in the preparation of the Programme of Work and Budget 2012-2013. But it must remain coordinated and aligned with the work of the "Committee on Reform", the Council and other formal or informal bodies.

The next meetings of the "Committee on Reform" will be dealing with the **decentralized offices and staff rotation policy**. These are important issues for **decentralization**, whose discussion could be enlightened by the views and recommendations of the Regional Conferences taking place in the meantime. I will facilitate consideration of the inputs of the Regional Conferences in the decision-making processes, particularly during the deliberations of the Council.

The Committees have examined issues of direct relevance to **decentralization**, such as progress in implementing the Technical Cooperation Programme. The Programme Committee specifically recommended that, with support from the Secretariat, I take measures for the **Regional Conferences** to be in a position to formulate precise recommendations to the Council on the

priority areas of regions. I will implement this recommendation, particularly in the formulation of the next Programme of Work and Budget.

You will also know that my mandate calls for continued contact with institutions dealing with subjects falling within FAO's remit, so that the Council is kept abreast of corresponding developments. In this regard, I wish to inform you that I intend to attend the 33rd Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission in July and no doubt ECOSOC, and in September the Summit on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), where I shall be meeting other international agencies. I shall also be pursuing my meetings with staff representatives and will step up my encounters with representatives of civil society, particularly NGOs, and of course WFP and IFAD.

Finally, I have planned several missions to the field to coincide with the Regional Conferences, so that I can meet the beneficiaries of FAO's work and assess the impact of reform. That is why I am here this week in Panama.

CONCLUSION

To conclude, I wish to assure you of my complete availability for the mission you have entrusted to me, both in Rome and in the field. I wish to hear your concerns which I am ready to pass on to all Member Countries, whenever necessary.

We need to remain focused on the implementation of reform, homing in on the essentials without reopening settled issues. The road is long and strewn with obstacles. The process is still fragile. We must remain united and committed to make FAO more effective and more responsive at its different levels, and we must strengthen the Members' accountability to achieve our primary goal fighting better against hunger.

In this regard, I wish to pay tribute to the countries of your region of Latin America and the Caribbean for spearheading the fight against hunger. You have resolved to eradicate hunger within one generation and thereby to ensure food security for all the inhabitants of the region through the *Hunger-Free Latin America and the Caribbean 2025* Initiative. Allow me to commend you on this important commitment and to welcome the significant advances that have been made in the countries of the region

But I wish to assure you that reform is not an end in itself, but is rather a means of ensuring greater efficiency and effectiveness of FAO at all its levels. The Secretariat and Management have already embarked on promising actions for culture change. The regions, including yours, are now better structured to respond to such change.

But also, the Governing Bodies, the Council, the Committees and indeed, I myself, have changed culture to bring each country delegation more closely into the everyday workings of FAO. This is essential if we are to perform our duties to the full, everywhere in the field, in all the countries. It is equally important to promote FAO's influence and recognition among international bodies.

Along the lines of action with the CFS (Committee on World Food Security), we have other platforms that need stronger cohesion (Water, Land, Climate...). We need to be proactive players in this regard. Hence the importance of FAO reform. And driving us all forward is our haste to eradicate world hunger, once and for all.

Thank you for your kind attention.

APPENDIX C

PROPOSAL OF THE CARIBBEAN SUBREGION

Review of "Challenges and Outlook for the Caribbean Subregion"

1. The Subregional Coordinator of FAO opened the meeting and welcomed the delegates and observers.
2. The Group unanimously elected Barbados Representative as the Chairperson and the CARICOM Secretariat as the Rapporteur with the understanding that the Chairman would present the Report to the Plenary Session.
3. The meeting determined that the objective was to examine the document submitted by the FAO Subregional Office and to determine whether any issues needed to be strengthened or included to ensure that there was consensus especially in the determination of the priorities at the regional level.

General agreement on the document

4. The FAO Representative highlighted the need for consensus and prioritising the main issues for the region. The final document should reflect the priorities of the subregion taking into account cross cutting issues.
5. The meeting agreed that while all countries had participated in the process of setting National priorities and its integration into the Regional priorities and that additionally the CARICOM countries had had discussions with the Sub-regional Office, the document also needed to reflect the agreement of Cuba and the Dominican Republic with the proposals.
6. The meeting agreed that the document generally reflected the challenges and opportunities of the Caribbean Region and that it presented a regional balance. There were however the concern of member countries that it needed to be more precise and specific with respect to activities and priorities.
7. The Cuba delegate requested a review of paragraph 14 of the document LARC/10/INF/11 since the language did not reflect the actual situation with respect to Cuba. The meeting agreed after a lengthy discussion to replace the last two sentences with the following: "In Haiti, 60% of those employed are linked to the agricultural sector and the quality of work and salary levels continue to be relatively low."

Strengthening of specific areas of the document

8. The meeting also agreed that the document needed some strengthening in key areas to emphasize that it is well known that the region has its own particular challenges as is captured under the definition of Small Island Developing States (SIDS). It was noted that FAO and other regional Institutions had accepted this at Mauritius and in treating with the Rising Food Prices and that there is need to articulate this position within the contextual framework for FAO support.
9. With respect to climate change, it is necessary to strengthen this area of discussion to be able to look at adaptation and mitigation strategies. It was noted that current funds exist to address this issue but member countries have not been able to access these and the recommendation made was to request FAO's assistance in accessing these funds.
10. The meeting then agreed on specific areas which can be strengthened by indicating specific activities in the sub-region with respect to:

- Risk Management
- Food and Nutrition Security including the use of the value chain approach
- Clean and certified planting material
- Sanitary and Phytosanitary issues
- Climate Change and how to deal with this risk using water management (irrigation) and Green House Technology.
- Transboundary diseases and to expand this to include plant pest and diseases as well on the activities to be implemented.
- Further, the inclusion of a Matrix indicating the priorities for the sub-region would serve to highlight action to be taken.

11. The meeting agreed that FAO needed to ensure that its Technical Assistance Cooperation program is appropriately resourced so that it could be more responsive to the region's needs, especially now, given its restructuring and decentralization process where the regional offices are managing its programs. With the Regional and Sub-Regional offices more involved in decision making, they must be able to expedite the technical assistance process. For this, they must be adequately supported by Headquarters and the Sub-Regional office must be appropriately staffed to meet the needs of the Sub-Region.

12. The meeting agreed that FAO must be thanked for its contribution and support to the region.

New issues to further strengthen the document

13. The meeting agreed that Agricultural Insurance must be included in the consideration of risk management given the yearly incidence of hurricanes and increasing incidences of droughts and floods in the region. It was also noted that the document should focus on risks, opportunities and on specific areas in which FAO can assist the region. This message has to be clear to FAO and the regional priorities should include cooperation with the region with early warning systems and monitoring of climate change and other risks.

14. The meeting was reminded that the CARICOM region has established a Disaster and Risk Management Committee which was set up to address this key binding constraint identified under the Jagdeo Initiative in which FAO was already involved and that the Committee is looking actively at the issue of Agricultural insurance and support for that initiative.

15. In light of the ongoing pressing need for seeds and planting materials, especially in Haiti at this time, it is proposed that the seed programme currently in place for Central America be expanded to the Caribbean Region.

16. The meeting noted that no mention was made of South-South Cooperation within the region. It was agreed that South-South Cooperation within this sub-region, between this and other sub-regions and beyond should be a part of the regional Strategy. The emphasis was placed on collaboration and cooperation and this needs to be clearly spelt out in the document.

17. The meeting also noted the need for agriculture credit and its facilitation to be addressed in the document even while acknowledging that FAO is not a funding agency.

18. The meeting was reminded that the G8 had pledged $20 billion to assist with matters of Food Security on a global scale. It was recognized that given our SIDs status that we should partner with FAO to be able to access these funds and any other available resources through project proposals.

Assistance to Haiti

19. The meeting agreed to request from FAO a dedicated and specific program to assist Haiti at this time of greatest need. This should be done in collaboration with other regional institutions and also member countries with capacity within the region to assist Haiti.

20. The meeting noted the current level of assistance being provided by Dominican Republic to Haiti. The Haiti delegate acknowledged and expressed appreciation for the support provided by the Dominican Republic and also Jamaica and thanked the Subregion and FAO for their support and solidarity.

APPENDIX D

PROPOSAL OF THE CENTRAL AMERICA SUBREGION , MEXICO AND DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

The group examined the document LARC/10/INF/12 CHALLENGES AND OUTLOOK FOR THE CENTRAL AMERICA SUBREGION and reached the following consensus agreements.

AGREEMENTS REACHED

a) Accept and validate the six main challenges to guide FAO's work in the subregion, as set out in the document:

1. Low profitability in the context of the price crisis.
2. Inadequate levels of competitiveness.
3. Unemployment and poverty.
4. Insufficient access to food.
5. Deterioration of natural resources. Vulnerability.
6. Regional integration.

b) Redefine the priorities that should guide FAO's activities in the Subregion for the next years:

1. Family Farming.
   Strengthen the production capacity of small producers working in agriculture (crops, livestock, forestry, fisheries, aquatic products) ensuring them access to food security, capitalizing their economy and providing them with access to appropriate technology and production assets.
2. Territorial Rural Development as a strategy to reduce poverty and achieve food security.
   Territorial rural development taps the potential of the territory, especially its human resources, so that it can pursue integrated activities that will help raise its economic capacity and standard of living. In order to bolster the capacity of family farming to access food and agricultural resources, attention needs to be paid to the importance of governance and local management of local and municipal territorial development and territorial development plans, defining and implementing policies with a participatory approach involving the local frontline players and entities. Implementation of the Central American Strategy for Territorial Rural Development (ECADERT) needs to be facilitated.
3. Integrated Water Management.
   This involves a process that promotes the management, conservation and development of water, land and natural resources (forests, biodiversity) to maximize social and economic welfare, with an emphasis on small Family Farming, in a manner that is equitable and does not compromise the sustainability of ecosystems. Activities to be promoted include innovation, transfer and adaptation of irrigation technology.
4. Plant and Animal Health and Food Safety.
   The concept of plant and animal health and food safety is extremely important in the context of market globalization, as sanitary and phytosanitary measures continue to represent key barriers to international trade, obliging countries to upgrade their systems in order to meet consumer demands on national and international markets, which are becoming increasingly competitive and demanding. From this point of view, it is imperative that cooperation from international agencies focuses on recommending the adoption of official integrated models for the implementation of phytozoosanitary measures to facilitate trade that is safe, smooth and competitive. Institutional

strengthening should be directed towards facilitating the standardization of laws on plant and animal health and food safety in the Mesoamerica Region and towards implementing and strengthening programmes and capacities for sanitary, phytozoosanitary, zoonosis and safety diagnosis at regional level. As climate change is considered to affect the behaviour of plant and animal diseases, risk analyses are needed to mitigate resulting impacts.

5. Sustainable development of livestock activity with an emphasis on small-scale production. Work has traditionally concentrated on the extensive livestock sector, overlooking the livestock assets of small family producers that present a source of protein and income. This sector needs to be strengthened with access to technology, technical assistance and financing for sustainable production.
6. Linking small producers to the market.
   There needs to be capacity building and the strengthening of a commercial/business culture as an alternative to the unplanned placement of surpluses from Family Farming, creating mechanisms to incorporate these into existing value chains and implementing efficient marketing networks.

c) Cross-cutting issues to be considered within FAO cooperation in the region.

1. Integrated development of human resources related to agriculture.
2. Institutional strengthening to improve government responsiveness.
3. Review of legislation relating to agriculture in the region.
4. Strengthening capacity for research and technological innovation, knowledge management and access to information, creating regional institutional linkages.
5. Strengthening extension, training and technology transfer to small farmers.
6. Discussing and agreeing on the concept of Family Farming.
7. Strengthening institutional capacities to adapt to and mitigate climate change, as related to agriculture.
8. Developing institutional capacity for the management of financial alternatives.

d) Request the incorporation of Mexico into the region to become the Mesoamerica Region.

e) Request that the FAO Office in Guatemala have Permanent Delegation status.

APPENDIX E

PROPOSAL OF THE SOUTH AMERICA SUBREGION

1. The countries of the region agreed that they preferred to maintain direct links with the Regional Office in Santiago, Chile, in order to avoid duplication of effort and make better use of available human and financial resources. They therefore declined the creation of the Multidisciplinary Group for South America. They emphasized the need to strengthen the FAO Regional Office and the Regional Offices for Central America and the Caribbean, through human resources, facilities, infrastructure and financial resources.

2. They agreed that food and nutritional security should be the framework for the definition of regional priorities.

3. Seven major areas of work were identified: 1) right to adequate food; 2) family farming; 3) rural development; 4) social technologies; 5) food quality and safety; 6) climate change; and 7) biodiversity. The gender and youth issues should cut across these seven major areas of work.

4. They agreed that food and nutritional security should be based on the right to adequate food.

5. They determined the strategic importance of family farming as the most appropriate pathway for achieving food security.

6. They emphasized the need to ensure that family farmers had access to means of production, including land, water, natural resources, seeds, and that public policies be directed towards the development of this sector, including the promotion of production, credit, agricultural insurance for climate and price, technical assistance, rural extension and, where necessary, public storage and marketing.

7. They reiterated the importance of protecting, promoting and enforcing the right to land, water, seeds and other public policies mentioned above.

8. Guaranteeing such rights was essential to reverse the rural outmigration that exists in the region. The countries expressed their concern that social and natural disasters and climate change could accentuate the rural exodus.

9. They believed that the promotion of family farming required support for and the strengthening of current processes of related institution building. In order to improve consistency of effort, the joint participation of governments, international agencies and civil society organizations was needed in formulating and implementing the above public policies and guaranteeing corresponding rights, involving representatives of landless farmers, indigenous communities, artisanal fishers, Afro-descendants, peasants and family farmers.

10. With this in mind, they expressed the desire that civil society should participate in FAO Regional Conferences and other bodies in the manner agreed for the Committee on World Food Security.

11. They also underlined the importance of intensifying processes for the regional integration of family farming, such as the specialized meeting on family farming of MERCOSUR (REAF), as a forum of discussion between government and civil society on the subject in an international arena.

12. With regard to rural development, they stated that, where necessary, land reform should be constantly monitored and the subject of cooperation between countries of the region. In this connection they appreciated South-South cooperation on thematic topics such as land registration and policies for the consolidation of land reform settlements, as well as multilateral fora such as the FAO Committee on World Food Security and follow-up to the International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ICARRD).

13. They emphasized the importance of FAO's contribution to the consolidation and dissemination of social technologies related to food and nutritional security and family farming, including for participatory risk management. In this connection, they called for the building of a regional database to collate successful experiences that could be exchanged.

14. They saw great merit in the larger-scale production and consumption of healthy and culturally appropriate foods. They emphasized the importance of exchange between countries of the region and other countries in the context of the Codex Alimentarius, and called for further debate on the facilitation of participation of the countries of the region.

15. They expressed their major concern about the effects of climate change on agriculture in the region, especially for the more vulnerable populations. They thus urged closer cooperation for the prevention and assessment of risks, and the establishment of systems of early warning, rapid and appropriate response, damage mitigation, agricultural recovery and adaptation to climate change.

16. With regard to adaptation, they agreed on the importance of developing technologies that would place agriculture in a better position to counter the effects of climate change.

17. Faced with the reality of climate change, they underlined the priority of ensuring the conservation of natural resources and the protection of existing genetic biodiversity in the countries of the region. In this regard, they called for an easier exchange of social technologies, mainly traditional and age-old knowledge, between the countries of the region.

18. They stressed the need to progress in the compilation of the glossary to harmonize concepts of relevance and importance to the region, especially regarding food sovereignty.

APPENDIX F

STATEMENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL NGO/CSO PLANNING COMMITTEE FOR FOOD SOVEREIGNTY (IPC)

"Second Special Conference for Food Sovereignty"

In Panama City on 25 and 26 April 2010, the International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty (IPC) (Regional Coordination Latin America and the Caribbean) helped convene the Second Special Conference for Food Sovereignty, which preceded the 31st FAO Regional Conference.

Coming from Latin America and the Caribbean, we the participants, men and women, peasants, family farmers, rural workers, artisanal fishers, youths, indigenous peoples and ethnic communities, environmental networks and NGOs, involved in food sovereignty and the right to food, gathered to examine the economic and social development of Latin America, the industrial model of agriculture and fisheries and its social and climatic effects, and the alternatives based on food sovereignty. The Special Conference also aimed to provide follow-up to the International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ICARRD); to formulate recommendations for the 31st FAO Regional Conference; and to build a plan of action for civil society, with the strengthening and development of strategic alliances.

We believe that food sovereignty is a principle, a vision and a legacy built by indigenous peoples, peasants, family farmers, fishers, women, youths and rural workers, and has become an umbrella platform for our struggles and a proposal for society as a whole. Food sovereignty refers to sustainable production with ethical values, to the ability to produce what is needed, to food self-sufficiency, to a dignified, healthy and culturally appropriate diet, to tenure of and access to land and water resources, to the maintenance and building of biodiversity, to the recovery of the rural being, cultures and knowledge, and value of foods and to the promotion of work and generational succession.

The current development model which is based on the predatory extraction of natural resources and excessive environmental contamination, on the denial of rights and on the concentration of wealth, has generated a crisis that is manifest in all dimensions: economic, cultural, social, food and environmental. This economic system is causing the global warming that affects the whole of society and in particular the most impoverished groups.

The food sector as related to agriculture and fisheries has become concentrated in few companies in less than twenty years. This concentration has been decisive in determining a model of agricultural development that is based on intensive monocropping for export and the use of technologies and inputs that contaminate and are harmful to health, such as genetically modified organisms and pesticides.

This intensive system of production is responsible for a large proportion of greenhouse gas emissions and causes the displacement of traditional and indigenous rural populations, undermining labour rights, causing the disappearance of local cultures and knowledge and traditional forms of production, and introducing consumption habits that are harmful to the health of workers and the whole of society.

The region has undergone profound change affecting various sectors of fisheries, the countryside and urban areas. Regional patterns of accumulation, marketing and consumption have reduced

national food production and redefined the role of local markets, generating an increase in imported foods, which has given rise to exclusion and the violation of rights.

Although some States and international organizations assert that a consensus exists regarding the recognition of the human right to food, there is no consensus over the way to ensure this right. There is therefore progress in building legal and institutional frameworks and in creating and implementing emergency programmes to combat hunger, but little progress has been made regarding the structural problems and the policies needed to overcome those problems, and it is precisely for this reason that most countries have made no headway on measures to effectively ensure food sovereignty. In many countries there is a strong trend towards marginalizing and criminalizing social movements that carry out direct actions to demand sovereignty and the right to food.

The Second Special Conference declares and demands:

- That there be an end to the criminalization of movements fighting for sovereignty and the human right to food.
- That the recovery of independence and food, cultural and political sovereignty for peoples requires policies and programmes that will stimulate the production of peasant, family and indigenous farming, in addition to artisanal fisheries, to ensure that the whole of society can access safe, healthy, culturally acceptable, sustainable, nutritious and sufficient food, and as a fundamental social, cultural and economic contribution to the sustainability of current societies.
- That agro-ecology and traditional know-how and methods of producing food need to be appraised and promoted as a means of gaining sovereignty, security and assurance of the Human Right to Food and as a means of tackling climate change. States are also requested to promote socially responsible consumption, based on healthy, adequate, regular, sustainable and accessible foods.
- That measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions should respect the Human Right to Food, meaning that we cannot accept an expansion of agrofuels or the building of hydroelectric dams. Such projects generate new violations of rights, with displacement and starvation, new emissions of greenhouse gases and very poor working conditions. In turn, adaptation measures should safeguard the culture and method of production, the living conditions and the human rights of the population.
- That the implementation of mining operations and other mega-projects and concessions, such as the plan to open up the Darien Gap in Panama, directly affect the health of Mother Earth and hence the food sovereignty of all of Panamanian society.
- That it is imperative for the governments of the region to adhere to the provisions set out in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- That the States ratify ILO Convention 169 on the recognition of the land of indigenous peoples.
- That it is essential to guarantee the rights of men and women farmers under the Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources.
- That the governments ratify and implement ILO Convention 184 on the safety and health of rural workers.
- That policies of sovereignty and the right to food be rights-based in approach, permitting the active and informed participation of actors, that there be budgets and a definition of indicators, goals and time frames for their achievement and that there be consistency between the means to secure rights and their purposes.
- That the laws guaranteeing the right to food incorporate the political, economic, social, environmental and cultural implications that underpin the concept of food sovereignty.
- That, with the social movements, FAO play a significant role in promoting the issue of food sovereignty and its association with the right to food in the countries.

- That FAO carry out its commitment to create an indigenous peoples' unit to permit their recognition and the implementation of policies and programmes.
- That FAO and the governments honour the commitments adopted at the International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ICARRD), given that access to land, water, biodiversity, forests and production resources is fundamental for sovereignty and the right to food. Implementation of agrarian reform must be comprehensive, equitable, participatory and with due consultation and the prior, free and informed consent of indigenous peoples, ethnic communities, peasant and family farmers and artisanal fishers.
- That FAO's Technical Cooperation Programmes are important instruments of follow-up to ICARRD, to the extent that the participation of civil society and social movements is assured in their formulation, implementation and evaluation.
- That it is urgent for the governments to guarantee that FAO will regain its original mandate and that space will be found for the effective and permanent involvement of civil society. While we maintain a growing, independent, respectful and collaborative relationship with the FAO Regional Office, this is insufficient, especially in the countries, because it still depends on the initiative of certain governments and of the people who run and work in the Organization.
- In the same context, we emphasize the support that we have received from the Brazilian Government for the strengthening of the Committee on World Food Security and for the realization of national dialogues. We propose that other governments follow the same initiative.
- We appreciate the effort of reform of the Committee on World Food Security, in particular the formal involvement of social organizations. However, such representation must be decisive as well as consultative. In addition, at the regional level, the establishment of the regional committee should consider that the participation of social organizations should be based on the progress, reality and characteristics of relations already forged between these organizations, FAO and the States. In Latin America and the Caribbean, the social organizations decided at the Second Special Conference that the Regional IPC would be the body representing them on the regional CFS.
- Finally, that the Special Conferences of Civil Society be formally established for the formulation of its proposals and that the social organizations and movements be formally guaranteed an effective and equal participation at the FAO Regional Conferences.

FOR RIGHTS AND LIFE,
FOR A PRESENT AND FUTURE WITHOUT HUNGER,
NOW IS THE TIME FOR FOOD SOVEREIGNTY

APPENDIX G

STATEMENT OF THE INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR COOPERATION ON AGRICULTURE (IICA)

Mr Chairperson of the Thirty-first FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean,
Distinguished Ministers of Agriculture of Latin America and the Caribbean,
Mr Graziano da Silva, FAO Regional Representative for Latin America and the Caribbean,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Director-General of the IICA, Dr Victor Villalobos, I should like to express my deepest thanks for this opportunity given to the IICA to address this honourable assembly. The invitation extended to us is an excellent indication of the Regional Office's desire to pursue and to deepen our partnership.

You are the mandators of both institutions and have instructed us to deepen our ties. Many of you were present at the last session of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture in Jamaica where, thanks to your support, Dr Villalobos was nominated to head the IICA.

At the time he expressed his keen interest in developing new forms of cooperation with other international agencies for the benefit of the countries. That same message is reiterated today.

For several years in Mexico, Dr Villalobos worked with both institutions and has since been an enthusiastic supporter of collaboration between them; an enthusiasm that is no doubt shared by Dr da Silva.

Dr Villalobos enjoyed the opportunity to work for FAO in Rome and today has the honour to lead the IICA. That experience will clearly be useful for the purpose at hand.

One of the first actions that Dr Villalobos undertook when joining the Institute was to search the records of our collaboration. He found that this has been extensive and long-standing. We have a natural affinity of activities at country level, although coordination has been more haphazard than planned; more on an individual level than the result of a joint strategy.

He also reviewed the history of requests made by Ministers on the Inter-American Board of Agriculture and found at least six resolutions calling for coordination between the IICA and FAO.

Strictly speaking, we still have some way to go to achieve full coordination, but a fair appreciation would point to a rich history of collaboration. True, a frequent charge has been duplication in the work of the IICA and FAO. But Dr Villalobos found no evidence of such duplication, although he did recognize that we need to complement our activities better.

The desire for collaboration has been expressed on many occasions, with three notable examples:

In 2006, a Letter of Understanding for a Strategic Alliance between the two organizations was signed for a period of four years that ends on 28 April this year. It would certainly be appropriate to renew this letter, after having jointly evaluated its results, as stipulated in the document itself, and determining a joint strategy. I will be outlining Dr Villalobos's response to this a little later.

Secondly, I should like to mention the report entitled "The Outlook for Agriculture and Rural Development in the Americas, 2009", jointly produced by our institutions with the invaluable assistance of ECLAC. I consider this to be an extremely relevant document which would be worth formally instituting as a periodical report. Its characteristics could be discussed by the parties involved.

Thirdly, I wish to refer to the joint IICA/FAO actions mentioned in the reports that have been presented in recent years. Dr Villalobos found at least three dozen examples of joint actions in those reports, including studies, reports, forums and training at national, regional and hemispheric level.

All this leads us to the conclusion that first we need to formalize and structure existing collaboration and then to take it further. A document by Dr Carlos Pérez del Castillo on this subject was presented to you in Jamaica.

Given this situation and that the Inter-American Board of Agriculture will sit until next year, Dr Villalobos respectively requests this Assembly to instruct the FAO Regional Representative to negotiate with the IICA a new letter of understanding, giving effect to the Ministers' instructions on cooperation between both institutions.

Such collaboration would take place in at least five common areas:

- Food security – zero hunger
- Rural development and combating poverty
- Agricultural productivity and competitiveness
- Sustainable development
- Knowledge management

The formal procedure would be:

- To hold a meeting of senior officers from both institutions to draft a new letter of understanding with a minimum programme of cooperation over the medium term.
- To present these proposals to a special meeting of government representatives (perhaps two per region) for their comments and observations.
- To send the resulting document to the other countries for the same purpose.
- To produce the final document to be submitted to the Ministers of Agriculture of the Continent at the next IABA (2010).
- To set time aside at the IABA for the Ministers to discuss this issue with a view to its approval and subsequent instructions.

Because of obvious time constraints, I wish to end by submitting this proposal for your kind consideration, imposing upon the hospitality of our hosts. Dr Villalobos is infinitely grateful for this invitation and for your attention.

Thank you very much.

APPENDIX H

STATEMENT OF THE WORLD ORGANISATION FOR ANIMAL HEALTH

The OIE is an intergovernmental organization founded in 1924 upon the initiative of 28 countries, and is therefore older than the United Nations and the World Trade Organization.

It is made up of 177 Member Countries, including 29 in the Americas. There are still seven Caribbean islands that are not yet Members. We are working closely with them and would welcome them in the OIE.

The OIE's original mandate was "to prevent animal diseases from spreading around the world". This was then extended in the Fourth Strategic Plan to include "the improvement of animal health all around the world".

The OIE's objectives include **HEALTH NOTIFICATION**, as the OIE is the only organization at world level mandated to disseminate official health information. This information comes from notifications by Delegates. Such notification serves to pursue the objective of rendering the world health situation transparent in order to facilitate safe trade and to enable Members to adopt appropriate actions for the prevention, control and eradication of diseases. Another objective is **SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION** whereby the OIE compiles, analyses and disseminates top quality scientific information to be used for specific objectives. The OIE is also mandated to draw up **INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS** which serve as global reference standards for the World Trade Organization. The OIE drafts and publishes two major types of international sanitary standards applying to animals and animal products: commercial standards and biological standards. These are drawn up by Specialist Commissions and submitted for the approval by the OIE Members at their Annual Assembly.

The four publications grouping OIE standards are:

- the Terrestrial Animal Health Code
- the Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals
- the Aquatic Animal Health Code
- the Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals.

The other OIE objective is **INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY.** Through its network of agreements with international and regional organizations, it seeks to help developing countries improve the capacity of their Veterinary Services.

STRATEGIC PLAN 2011-2015

The Fifth Strategic Plan covering the period 2011-2015 will continue to consolidate the following fundamental missions:

- Ensuring transparency of the world animal health situation, with the formulation of science-based standards, particularly those applied in the WTO.
- Formulating guidelines for the prevention, control and eradication of animal diseases, including zoonoses; recognizing the sanitary status of Members.
- Providing training to enhance the capacities of Delegates and officials, especially National Coordinators (relations with the OIE, health information system, aquatic animals, wildlife, veterinary drugs, etc.).

- Increasing the influence of the OIE in world, regional and national policies relating to good animal health management and establishing priorities for scientific research policy.
- Strengthening the role of the OIE in resolving disputes between Members over sanitary matters.

The new concepts to be included in the Fifth Strategic Plan are activities relating to such global issues as:

- ONE HEALTH
- CLIMATE CHANGE
- FOOD SECURITY
    - Considering that Veterinary Services play a key role in protecting society, that food security (animal proteins) is a fundamental concern of public health and that good animal health is essential for food safety and security and for producing safe foods.
- CONSOLIDATING THE OIE'S ROLE IN STRENGTHENING THE ACTIVITIES OF THE VETERINARY SERVICES IN THE MEMBER COUNTRIES, particularly the follow-up of activities to evaluate the Veterinary Services using the PVS tool and the subsequent economic evaluation using the method of gap analysis and strengthening Members' legislation through special missions.
- STRENGTHENING OIE REGIONAL AND SUBREGIONAL REPRESENTATIONS
- INCREASING COMMUNICATION EFFORTS
- Establishing closer contacts with multilateral and bilateral organizations to persuade them that investment in animal health and Veterinary Services constitutes a genuine national and global public good and is also an international priority.
- VETERINARY EDUCATION, considering that it is crucial for Veterinary Services to have veterinarians with excellent scientific training given that those services are the top national body for combating animal diseases, including zoonoses, and for updating international standards through active participation in the OIE. These activities and achieving the objectives of the Veterinary Services require highly qualified personnel.

IMPROVING THE CAPACITIES OF VETERINARY SERVICES

The OIE is also expected to improve the capacities of Veterinary Services through a variety of actions, including the training of Delegates and the training of OIE National Focal Points who are currently the Focal Points for Health Notification, Veterinary Drugs, Safety of Animal Products, Wildlife, Animal Welfare and Aquatic Animals. Specific seminars have been run to train more than 1100 high-level Veterinary Service Professionals across throughout the world. Other activities include the Twinning of National Laboratories with OIE Reference Laboratories and seminars tailored to specific regional needs.

In addition, the Veterinary Services of 100 countries have been evaluated using the PVS tool in accordance with OIE guidelines. After PVS evaluation, countries can request a specific evaluation of detected improvement needs. This is also carried out by OIE experts who produce an economic

report and detail investment requirements. There have been 50 such missions. The OIE also conducts missions to enhance national legislation at the request of Member Countries. There have been 30 such missions.

Clearly all these activities are aimed to bolstering the capacity of Veterinary Services in terms of:

- ✓ early detection,
- ✓ rapid response,
- ✓ adequate biosafety measures,
- ✓ security of food supply and food safety,
- ✓ reliability of export certificates.

CLIMATE CHANGE

This item is on the agenda of the 31st FAO Session. The OIE is looking very closely at the implications of climate change and thus global warming on the epidemiology of disease, vector behaviour and other factors. There is no doubt that all animal species are to some extent affected by climate change, which has a number of causes, including the vast quantities of fossil fuel emissions in developed countries.

Livestock production at world and particularly developing country level is one of the sectors most exposed with the risk of lower production of animal-based foods because of reduced livestock production or the emergence of new and reoccurring diseases.

Animal production in the Americas will increase substantially in the next years to meet the enormous world demand for food. The OIE recommends that special attention and investment be directed towards research, prevention, surveillance, cross-sectoral cooperation and appropriate communication to minimize the effects of climate change caused, among other factors, by greenhouse gas emissions from a range of sources and types of energy, with animal production contributing very little.

JOINT WORK WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS – GF TADs

The international and regional organizations of the Americas have been engaged in excellent collaborative work to avoid duplication and unnecessary wastage of time and money.

The OIE has intensified such actions in the Americas since 2004, when it began working under the new global agreement signed by FAO-OIE, the GF TADs, which has basically the same concept of coordinating actions to use the region's resources more efficiently.

During the worldwide Avian Influenza Crisis, the Americas – like elsewhere in the world – had a **pandemic of meetings**. There was virtual anarchy with organization working to its own agenda until, thanks to the efforts of the OIE as Secretariat of the GF TADs of the Americas and excellent coordination with FAO and all regional agencies, we managed to secure adequate coordination of actions, resulting in the high level of operational coordination that now exists in our region of the Americas.

The Americas have defined the following diseases as priorities: Foot-and-Mouth Disease, BSE, Classical Swine Fever, Newcastle Disease, New World Screwworm, Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza and Rabies.

I should like to single out Foot-and-Mouth Disease because the Americas have an excellent situation whereby 90% of livestock are free from this disease, with or without vaccination. We still

require political commitment and improved Veterinary Service capacity in the Andean Region, especially in Ecuador and Venezuela, where Foot-and-Mouth Disease is still endemic, and in Bolivia, which needs to significantly enhance the capacity of its Veterinary Services in accordance with OIE recommendations. We thus reiterate our call to those countries to work to OIE standards. We hope that the programme that FAO and the CAN are implementing, and which has been reviewed and agreed by the OIE and PANAFTOSA and the Veterinary Services of the Andean Region, will help to improve the health situation in this region. To that effect, the OIE proposes the use of the CVP working model which has produced excellent results from coordinated actions suggested by the OIE.

OIE GLOBAL AND REGIONAL STRATEGIES – AMERICAS

The Veterinary Services of the Americas have established strategies in key areas for IMPROVING THE PRODUCTION OF ANIMAL-BASED FOODS to deal with the anticipated increase in demand.

Strategies have been determined for issues such as ***Animal Welfare***, with an approach that focuses on appropriate animal management for an excellent state of animal health to achieve maximum production potential in terms of quality and quantity in accordance with OIE standards and with production conditions and characteristics of the region. With regard to ***Private Standards***, the OIE has established a clear position in Resolutions of the World Assembly stating that standards relating to animal health, food safety and animal welfare should continue to be drawn up by the OIE, and that any existing private standards should refer to, and never be more restrictive than, those of the OIE.

With regard to ***Cost Benefit***, the OIE has published a global work showing that the cost of investment in prevention is always lower than expenditure incurred in crises. Regional studies have been conducted in the Americas to estimate the cost benefit for certain diseases, including a work on Food-and-Mouth Disease by the Ministry for Agricultural Development of Brazil, Dr Jorge Madeira Nogeira and his colleagues, and coordinated by the OIE, which gives the example of investment over 42 years amounting to over US$34 550 000, with benefits calculated for only the last 16 years amounting to US$49 773 000, thus showing a gain of US$15 223 000 and demonstrating the significant level of return from public investment in this type of programme. We hope these studies will persuade other governments to invest in prevention.

With regard to ***Veterinary Education***, the OIE held the first Global Conference on Veterinary Education in 2009, which produced the recommendation that the OIE start establishing international standards for veterinary education in order to raise international quality standards to the level needed for Veterinary Services to achieve their objectives.

With regard to ***Laboratory Networks***, considering that Diagnostic Laboratories are a very important contributor to disease surveillance and food safety, and that the Americas have a large number of laboratories and differing capacities that need to be properly coordinated, the OIE and the other international organizations have decided to launch the Network of National Laboratories of the Veterinary Services of the Americas this coming July 2010.

Thank you very much.

APPENDIX I

AGENDA OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

(26 to 27 April 2010)

I. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

1. Opening of the Technical Committee Meeting
2. Election of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson and appointment of the Rapporteur
3. Adoption of the Technical Committee Agenda and Timetable

II. TECHNICAL ITEMS

4. Global and regional emergency issues: Risk management and reactions to emergencies in the agricultural, forestry and fisheries sectors in Latin America and the Caribbean
5. Promoting synergies and collaboration between the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Commission on Genetic Resources of FAO and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA)
6. Climate change and its impact on agricultural, forestry and fisheries production in Latin America and the Caribbean
7. Rural territorial rural development and its institutional implications in Latin America and the Caribbean
8. Policy agenda for family farming
9. Report on the Codex Alimentarius and food safety in the region
10. Challenges and outlook for the Caribbean subregion
11. Challenges and outlook for the Central America subregion
12. Challenges and outlook for the South America subregion
13. Adoption of the Technical Committee Report
14. Closure of the Technical Committee Meeting

AGENDA OF THE PLENARY SESSION

(28 to 30 April 2010)

I. INTRODUCTORY ITEMS

1. Inaugural Ceremony
2. Election of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons and appointment of the Rapporteur
3. Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable

II. STATEMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS

4. Statement of the Director-General
5. Statement of the Independent Chairman of the FAO Council
6. Matters arising from the World Summit on Food Security and the 36th Session of the FAO Conference, notably implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action (IPA), including the decentralized offices network
7. Towards a new vision of the decentralized offices network
8. Reform of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS)
9. Establishment of one global Shared Services Centre
10. Report on FAO activities (2008-2009) in the Region and actions taken on the main recommendations of the 30th FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean
11. Latin American and Caribbean Forestry Commission (LACFC), Commission on Livestock Development for Latin America and the Caribbean (CODEGALAC), Western Central Atlantic Fisheries Commission (WECAFC) and the Commission for Inland Fisheries of Latin America (COPESCAL)
12. Food and nutritional security: The human right to food
13. Follow-up to the Hunger-Free Latin America and the Caribbean 2025 Initiative
14. The situation in Haiti and the process of reconstruction: guidelines for the implementation of projects with the contribution of the UN agencies based in Rome (FAO, IFAD, WFP)
15. Presentation of reports and proposals for the subregions of the Caribbean, Central America and South America
16. Implementation of the Programme of Work and Budget 2010-11 and Areas of Priority Action for the region in the following biennium

III. CONCLUSION

17. Date, place and agenda of the 32nd Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean
18. Other matters
19. Adoption of the Report (including the Technical Committee Report)
20. Closure of the Regional Conference

APPENDIX J

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

Number	***Title***
LARC/10/1	Provisional Annotated Agenda
Discussion items	
LARC/10/2	Food and nutritional security: The Human Right to Food
LARC/10/3	Climate change and its impact in agricultural, forestry and fisheries production in Latin America and the Caribbean
LARC/10/4	Rural territorial development and its institutional implications in Latin America and the Caribbean
Standing items	
LARC/10/5	Report on FAO activities (2008–2009) in the Region and actions taken on the main recommendations of the 30th FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean
LARC/10/6	Matters arising from the World Summit on Food Security and the 36th Session of the FAO Conference, notably implementation of the Immediate Plan of Action (IPA), including the decentralized offices network
LARC/10/6 Add.1	Towards a new vision for the decentralized offices network
LARC/10/7	Reform of the Committee on World Food Security
LARC/10/8	Global and regional emergency issues: Risk management and reactions to emergencies in the agricultural, forestry and fisheries sectors in Latin America and the Caribbean
LARC/10/9	Implementation of the Programme of Work and Budget 2010-11 and Areas of Priority Action for the Region for the following biennium
LARC/10/10	Establishment of one global Shared Services Centre
Information items	
LARC/10/INF/1	Information Note
LARC/10/INF/2	Provisional timetable
LARC/10/INF/3	Provisional list of documents
LARC/10/INF/4	Statement of the Director-General
LARC/10/INF/5	Report of the Latin American and Caribbean Forestry Commission (LACFC)
LARC/10/INF/6	Report of the Commission on Livestock Development for Latin America and the Caribbean (CODEGALAC)
LARC/10/INF/7	Report of the Western Central Atlantic Fisheries Commission (WECAFC)
LARC/10/INF/8	Report of the Commission for Inland Fisheries of Latin America (COPESCAL)
LARC/10/INF/9	Report on Codex Alimentarius and food safety in the Region
LARC/10/INF/10	Follow-up to the Hunger-Free Latin America and the Caribbean 2025 Initiative
LARC/10/INF/11	Challenges and outlook for the Caribbean subregion
LARC/10/INF/12	Challenges and outlook for the Central America subregion
LARC/10/INF/13	Challenges and outlook for the South America subregion
LARC/10/INF/14	A policy agenda for family farming

LARC/10/INF/15	Promoting synergies and collaboration between the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Commission on Genetic Resources of FAO and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA)
LARC/10/INF/16	The situation in Haiti and the process of reconstruction: guidelines for the implementation of projects with the contribution of the UN agencies based in Rome (FAO, IFAD, WFP)

APPENDIX K

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

CONFERENCE OFFICERS

Chairperson	Víctor Manuel Pérez	Panama
Vice-Chairpersons	Pedro Pablo Peña	Dominican Republic
	Altemir Gregolim	Brazil
Rapporteur	Milton Rondó	Brazil

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE OFFICERS

Chairperson	Juan Carlos Rodríguez	Panama
Vice-Chairperson	Pedro Pablo Peña	Dominican Republic
Rapporteur	María del Carmen Squeff	Argentina

MEMBER NATIONS SERVICED BY THE REGIONAL OFFICE

ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

Head of Delegation

Jedidiah Maxime
Acting Director of Agriculture
Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Housing and the Environment

ARGENTINA

Head of Delegation

Lorenzo Basso
Secretario de Agricultura, Ganaderia y pesca
Secretaría de Desarrollo Rural y Agricultura Familiar

Alternates

Carla Campos Bilbao
Secretaria de Desarrollo Rural y Agricultura Familiar
Secretaría de Desarrollo Rural y Agricultura Familiar

María del Carmen Squeff
Presidente del GRULAC
Representante Permanente Alterna
de la República Argentina ante la FAO
Encargada de Negocios *a.i.*

Lucrecia Santinoni
Directora Nacional de Agricultura
Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería y Pesca

Eduardo Tempone
Director de Relaciones Económicas Multilaterales
Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto

Nestor Alfredo Fuentes
Director de Areas Temáticas Agricultura Familiar
Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería y Pesca

José Maria Monez Cazón
Asesor
Secretaría Desarrollo y Economías Regionales
Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería y Pesca

Miguel Donatelli
Dirección Relaciones Internacionales
Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería y Pesca

Pedro Cerviño
Coordinador Técnico REAF
Secretaría de Agricultura Familiar y Desarrollo Rural

Waldino Juárez
Representante Foro Agricultura Familiar Argentino
Ministerio de Agricultura

BAHAMAS

Head of Delegation

Lawrence Cartwright
Cabinet Minister
Ministry of Agriculture and Marine Resources

Alternate

Simeon Pinder
Director of Agriculture
Ministry of Agriculture and Marine Resources

BARBADOS

Head of Delegation

Haynesley Benn
Minister of Agriculture

Alternate

Barton Clarke
Chief Agricultural Officer
Ministry of Agriculture

BOLIVIA

Head of Delegation

Edgar Soliz Morales
Embajador
Embajada de Bolivia en Panamá

Alternates

Raúl Calizaya
Primer Secretario
Embajada de Bolivia

Winston F. Canqui Aramayo
Responsable Alimentación Escolar
Ministerio de Educación Bolivia

BRAZIL

Head of Delegation

Guilherme Cassel
Ministro de Desarrollo Agrario

Alternates

Altemir Gregolin
Ministro de Pesca y Agricultura
Ministerio de Pesca y Agricultura

Crispim Moreira
Secretario Nacional para la Seguridad Alimentaria y Nutricional
Ministerio de Desarrollo Social y Lucha contra el Hambre

Roosevelt Tomé Silva Filho
Secretario de Ciencia y Tecnología para la Inclusión Social,
Ministerio de Ciencia y Tecnología

Milton Rondó Filho
Coordinador General de Acciones Internacionales de Combate al Hambre
Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores

Caio Franca
Jefe de Gabinete
Ministerio de Desarrollo Agrario

Francisco Osvaldo Barbosa
Jefe de Asesoría para Asuntos Internacionales
Ministerio de Pesca y Agricultura

José Accarini
Asesor Subjefe de Análisis y Seguimiento de Políticas Gubernamentales
Secretaría General de la Presidencia de la República

Laudemir Muller
Asesor Especial
Ministerio de Desarrollo Agrario

Francesco Pierri
Asesor Internacional,
Ministerio de Desarrollo Agrario

Mirlane Klimach Guimares
Asesora Internacional
Consejo Nacional de Seguridad Alimentaria y Nutricional - CONSEA

Alessandra da Costa Lunas
Vicepresidente
Confederación Nacional de Trabajadores en la Agricultura - CONTAG

Valeria Torres Amaral Burity
Vice Presidenta
Acción Brasileña para la Nutrición y Derechos Humanos - ABRANDH

CHILE

Head of Delegation

José Antonio Galilea
Ministro de Agricultura
Ministerio de Agricultura

Alternates

Cecilia Rojas
Asesora
Ministerio de Agricultura

Marisol Pérez
Primer Secretario
Representación Permanente de Chile ante la FAO

Eduardo Salinas
Encargado de Negocios *a.i.*
Embajada de Chile en Panamá

COLOMBIA

Head of Delegation

Gina Benedetti
Embajadora
Embajada de Colombia en Panamá

Alternates

Luis Fernando Caicedo Lince
Gerente General
Instituto Colombiano Agropecuario ICA

Víctor Echeverri
Consejero
Embajada de Colombia en Panamá

COSTA RICA

Head of Delegation

Javier Flores
Ministro de Agricultura
Ministerio de Agricultura

Alternates

Carlos Villalobos
Viceministro de Agricultura y Ganadería
Ministerio de Agricultura

Marcelo Roldán Sauma
Consejero y Cónsul
Embajada de Costa Rica en Panamá

CUBA

Head of Delegation

José Puente Nápoles
Viceministro del Ministerio de la Agricultura de la República de Cuba

Alternates

Reinaldo Carlos Calviat Lafferté
Embajador de la República de Cuba en Panamá

José A. Quintero
Funcionario
Ministerio del Comercio Exterior y la Inversión Extranjera de la República de Cuba

Yuri González Aranda
Agregado Comercial
Embajada de Cuba en Panamá

José Amargoz
Consejero Económico Comercial
Embajada de Cuba en Panamá

Ramón Pérez
Consejero Económico Comercial
Embajada de Cuba en Panamá

DOMINICA

Head of Delegation

Matthew J. Walter
Minister for Agriculture and Forestry

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Head of Delegation

Pedro Pablo Peña Cruz
Viceministro de Planificación Sectorial Agropecuaria

Alternates

Mario Arvelo Caamaño
Embajador
Representación Permanente de la República Dominicana ante FAO, PMA y FIDA

Grecia Fiordalicia Pichardo
Embajadora
Embajada de la República Dominicana en Panamá

Onelia Durán
Consejera
Embajada República Dominicana en Panamá

Marcos Martínez
Encargado del Departamento de Seguimiento y Evaluación
Dirección General de Ordenamiento y Desarrollo Territorial
Ministerio de Economía, Planificación y Desarrollo

ECUADOR

Head of Delegation

María Isabel Jiménez
Sub Secretaria de Fomento Agrícola

Alternates

César Cabrera
Director del Proyecto de Competitividad Agropecuaria y Desarrollo Rural Sostenible
CADERS

Santiago Izquierdo
Secretario Técnico de la Presidencia *Pro Tempore* del Consejo Suramericano de Desarrollo Social
UNASUR

EL SALVADOR

Head of Delegation

Arnoldo Bernal Chévez
Embajador de El Salvador en Panamá
Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores

Alternate

Jorge Pleitez
Director
Oficina Política
Ministerio de Agricultura

GUATEMALA

Head of Delegation

Juan Alfonso de León
Ministro de Agricultura, Ganadería y Alimentación
Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería y Alimentación

Alternates

Mariela Vélez de García
Ministro Consejero
Embajada de Guatemala en Panamá

Carlos Avila
Subdirector General DIGEPSA
Ministerio de Educación

Roberto Chávez
Asesor del Despacho Ministerial de Agricultura, Ganadería y Alimentación.

Carlos Estuardo Mas
Asesor del Ministro de Agricultura
Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería y Alimentación

HAITI

Head of Delegation

Jonas Gué
Ministro de Agricultura
Ministerio de Agricultura, Recursos Naturales y Desarrollo Rural

Alternates

Francois Joseph Delinois
Director de Cooperación Externa
Ministerio de Agricultura, Recursos Naturales y Desarrollo Rural

Colette Blanchet
Directora Adjunta de Cooperación Externa
Ministerio de Agricultura, Recursos Naturales y Desarrollo Rural

HONDURAS

Head of Delegation

Juan Carlos Ordóñez
Viceministro de Ganadería
Secretaría de Estado en los Despachos de Agricultura y Ganadería

Alternate

Carmelo Rizzo
Representante Permanente de Honduras ante la FAO

JAMAICA

Head of Delegation

William J.C. Hutchinson
Minister of State
Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries

Alternate

Donovan Stanberry
Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries

MEXICO

Head of Delegation

Jorge Eduardo Chen Charpentier
Embajador, Representante Permanente de México ante la FAO

Alternates

Yanerit Morgan Sotomayor
Embajadora de México en Panamá

Elías Reyes Bravo
Sub Director de Enlace con Instituciones Internacionales
Secretaría de Agricultura, Ganadería, Desarrollo Rural, Pesca y Alimentación

Gilberto Velarde Meixueiro
Encargado de Asuntos Politicos y Prensa
Embajada de Mexico en Panamá

NICARAGUA

Head of Delegation

Eva Acevedo
Directora General
Instituto Nicaragüense de Tecnología Agropecuaria INTA

Alternate

Samuel Trejos Córdova
Cónsul General de la República de Nicaragua en Panamá

PANAMA

Head of Delegation

Juan Carlos Rodríguez
Secretario General del Ministerio del Desarrollo Agropecuario

Alternates

Hermann E. Gnaegi
Director de Cooperación Internacional
Ministerio de Desarrollo Agropecuario

Ministerio de Desarrollo Agropecuario

Ariel Espino
Directo de Sanidad Vegetal

Rubén Serracín
Jefe
Departamento de Vigilancia Fitosanitaria

Pablo Moreno
Director de Salud Animal

Rocío Lezcano
Coordinadora de Planes y Programas de Salud Animal

Cesar Maure
Director
Dirección de Cuarentena Agropecuaria

Kirian Cerceño
Subjefe
Dirección de Cuarentena Agropecuaria

Gabriel Buitrago
Jefe
Dirección de Cuarentena Agropecuaria en Tocumén

Enso Rodríguez
Funcionario
Zona de Protección en el Area de Balboa

Gabriela Morales
Directora
Dirección de Política Comercial

Hildemarta Riera
Directora
Dirección del Desarrollo Rural

Rubén Quiroz
Planificador
Dirección del Desarrollo Rural

José Bosquez
Economista
Dirección del Desarrollo Rural

Domino González
Economista
Dirección del Desarrollo Rural

Edgar Serrano
Ingeniero Agrícola
Dirección del Desarrollo Rural

Ramón Isos
Ingeniero Agrícola
Dirección del Desarrollo Rural

Sebastián Mirones
Director de Agricultura

Ángel Carril
Jefe, Departamento de Frutales

Luis Aparicio
Director, Dirección de Ganadería

Ramón riera
Jefe, Programa de Especies Menores

David Guevara
Planificador
Dirección de Ganadería

Carlos Córdova
Director
Dirección de Unidad Ambiental

Gabriela Martiz
Asistente Técnica
Dirección de Unidad Ambiental

Agustín Zambrano
Asistente Técnico
Dirección de Unidad Ambiental

Esquiel Rodríguez
Director
Dirección de Reforma Agraria

Carlos Qvistgaard
Director
Dirección de Planificación

Jesús Guerra
Técnico
Dirección de Planificación

Jorge E. Cerrud S.
Secretario Técnico
Dirección de Secretaría Técnica

Jorge e. Ulloa
Director Administrativo
Dirección de Administración

Ingrid Rodríguez
Directora, Comunicación e Informática

Oriela González
Periodista

Boris Reyes
Camarógrafo

Instituto de Investigación Agropecuaria (IDIAP)

Julio Abrego
Director

Manuel de gracia
Director de Investigación Pecuaria y Agrícola

Instituto de Seguro Agropecuario (ISA)

Rubén Darío Campos
Director

Luis Cortez
Sub gerente general
Leandro Camarena
Gerente de Seguros Agrícolas, Ganadería y Forestales

Banco de Desarrollo Agropecuario (BDA)

Rigoberto Amaya
Director

Orlando Osorio
Sub Gerente Técnico

Omar Espinosa
Jefe de Planificacion

Liberato Montenegro
Subgerente Ejecutivo de Crédito

Instituto de Mercado Agropecuario (IMA)

Delia García Ramírez
Directora

Oscar Mackay
Subdirector

Amarlis Gómez
Secretaria General

Domingo Saavedra
Analista de mercadeo

Ministerio de Salud

Franklin Vergara
Ministro de Salud

Eduardo Lucas Mora
Director General de Salud

Gabriel Cedeño Lam
Director de Asuntos Internacionales

Abraham Ducreux
Jefe Nacional
Departamento de Protección de Alimentos

Ruben Carcache
Médico veterinario

Ricardo Rodolfo Martinelli Melendez
Asesor legal

Joge Hassan
Director de la Región Metropolitana de Salud

Aracelis Vergara
Agrónoma, Protección de Alimentos

Alberto Vergara Salcedo
Médico Veterinario
Sub Jefe de Protección de Alimentos

Vielka Cedeño
Presidenta del Comité Nacional del Codex Alimentarius

Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores

Guido Martinelli de la Togna
Embajador
Representante Permanente de Panamá ante la FAO

Tomas A. Guardia
Director General de Organismos y Conferencias Internacionales

Marena Benavides
Sub Directora General de Organismos y Conferencias Internacionales

Itza Broce
Jefa del Departamento del Medio Ambiente y Desarrollo Sostenible

Gerardo Vega
Ministro Consejero
Embajada de Panamá en Italia

Ministerio de la Presidencia

Gilma Ripol
Secretaria Nacional del Plan Alimentario y Nutricional

Asamblea Nacional de Diputados

Dalia Bernal
Presidenta de la Comisión de Ambiente

Autoridad de Recursos Acuáticos de Panamá (ARAP)

Diana Arauz
Administradora General de la Autoridad de Recursos Acuáticos de Panamá

Vielka Morales
Secretaria General

Bernardo Jaramillo
Director de Fomento

Ornaldo Bernal
Subdirector de Ordenación

Ana Garcia
Directora General de Investigación y Desarrollo
Anabieth Morales
Jefa de la Unidad Ambiental

Alpha Santamaría
Subdirectora de Recursos

Lisette Trejos
Veterinaria

Kathia Broce
Jefa del Departamento de Desarrollo

Ramon Diez
Abogado

Alfonso Martínez
Jefe, Departamento de Asistencia Técnica

Zedna Guerra
Jefa, Laboratorio de Molusco

Gustavo Collado
Biólogo Pesquero

Rozio Ramírez
Jefa, Departamento de Manejo Integral

Kenia Martínez
Abogada

Kriss Poveda
Directora General de Vigilancia

Autoridad nacional del Ambiente (ANAM)

Cynthia Deville
Unidad de Cambio Climático y de Desertificación

Israel Torres
Unidad de Cambio Climático y Desertificación

Carlos Gomez
Funcionario de la Dirección de Gestión Integrada de Cuencas Hidrográficas

Dalia Vargas
Funcionario de la Dirección de Gestión Integrada de cuencas Hidrográficas

Félix Magallón
Funcionario de la Dirección de Gestión Integrada de cuencas Hidrográficas

Joaquín Díaz
Funcionario de la Dirección de Gestión Integrada de cuencas Hidrográficas

Ibelice Añino
Jefa del Departamento de Vida Silvestre y Biodiversidad
Marina Gallardo
Funcionaria de la Dirección de Áreas Protegidas y Vida Silvestre

Lissy Tapia
Jefa del Departamento de Ordenamiento Territorial

Autoridad Panameña de Seguridad Alimentaria (AUPSA)

Alcides Jaén
Administrador General

Filiberto Fragos
Secretario General

Carmela Castilla
Jefa del Departamento de Evaluación Sanitarias y Fitosanitarias

Sistema Nacional de Protección Civil (SINAPROC)

Arturo Alvarado
Director General
Soluciones Ambientales Tecnológicas

Hilel Cohen
Presidente

Gerardo Sandoya
Técnico de Investigación y Desarrollo

Colegio de Ingenieros Agrónomos de Panamá (CINAP)

Marco Moscoso
Presidente

Anibal Fosati
Secretario de Promoción y Superación Profesional

Fany de Dominguez
Presidente, Capitulo de Panamá

PARAGUAY

Head of Delegation

Juan Carlos Ramírez
Embajador
Embajada de la República del Paraguay en Panamá

Alternate

Cristián Leguizamón
Primer Secretario
Embajada de la República del Paraguay en Panamá

PERU

Head of Delegation

Gabriel García Pike
Embajador de Perú en Panamá

Alternates

Eduardo Reusche
Ministro Consejero
Embajada del Perú en Panamá

Mario D'Andrea Rivera
Agregado Económico
Embajada del Perú en Panamá

SAINT LUCIA

Head of Delegation

Hubert Emmanuel
Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Forestry and Fisheries

SURINAME

Head of Delegation

Dew P. Jaddoe
Acting Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries
Alternate Head of Delegation

Alternate

Ashmie Sheoratan-Jairam
FAO National Correspondent for the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries
Delegate

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

Head of Delegation

Edwina Leacock
Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources

Alternate

Patricia La Borde-Grant
Planning Officer III
Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources

Marlene Andrews
Planning Officer I
Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources

URUGUAY

Head of Delegation

Robert Frugoni
Director
Dirección General de Desarrollo Rural

Alternate

Gimena Hernández
Segundo Secretario
Embajada de Uruguay en Panamá

VENEZUELA

Head of Delegation

Jorge Luis Durán Centeno
Embajador de la República Bolivariana de
Venezuela en Panamá

Alternates

Gladys Urbaneja
Embajadora
Representante Permanente de la República
Bolivariana de Venezuela ante la FAO

Ramón Alfredo López Martínez
Ministro Consejero
Embajada de la República Bolivariana de
Venezuela en Panamá

Uraisi Troconis Sebrian
Primer Secretario
Embajada de la República Bolivariana de
Venezuela en Panamá

José Manuel Van Der Biest
Primer Secretario
Embajada de la República Bolivariana de
Venezuela en Panamá

Alexander Ojeda Mieres
Segundo Secretario
Embajada de la República Bolivariana de
Venezuela en Panamá

Lilian María Chirinos Lugo
Agregada para Asuntos Internacionales III
Embajada de la República Bolivariana de
Venezuela en Panamá

José Gregorio Torres
Asistente de Prensa
Embajada de la República Bolivariana de
Venezuela en Panamá

OBSERVERS FROM MEMBER NATIONS NOT SERVICED BY THE REGIONAL OFFICE

HOLY SEE

Renato Volante
Permanent Observer of the Holy See to FAO

SPAIN

Paloma Cano
Jefe de Servicio
Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional
para el Desarrollo

Laura López-Ortum Collado
Asesora Técnica
Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional
para el Desarrollo

UNITED STATES

Cheryl Claus
International Relations Advisor
Foreign Agricultural Service USDA

REPRESENTATIVES OF UNITED NATIONS AND SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (ECLAC)

Adrián Rodriguez
Chief, Unit of Agricultural Development

INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT (IFAD)

Ladislao Rubio
Gerente de Programas de la División de América Latina y el Caribe

Joana Keitaanranta
Representante del FIDA en Panamá

INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY (IAEA)

Jorge Hendrichs
Section Head, Insect Pest Control

PAN-AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION / WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (PAHO/WHO)

Manuel Peña
Coordinator
Pan American Alliance on Nutrition and Development

WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME (WFP)

Jaime Vallaure
Deputy Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean

OBSERVERS FROM INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

BIOVERSITY INTERNATIONAL

Marleni Ramirez
Regional Director (Americas)

ANDEAN COMMUNITY (CAN)

Francisco Suasti
Responsable del Programa de Seguridad Alimentaria

CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY (CARICOM)

Sergio Garcia
Programme Manager, Agriculture and Development
Directorate of Trade and Economic Integration

Desiree Field-Ridley
Adviser, Single Market and Sectoral Programmes

CENTRAL AMERICAN AGRICULTURAL COUNCIL (CAC)

Róger Guillén Bustos
Secretario Ejecutivo

Oscar Quesada
Coordinador del Plan de Apoyo a las Estrategias Regionales

ANDEAN DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (ADC)

Juan Bernardo Requena
Director de Desarrollo Social

INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR COOPERATION ON AGRICULTURE (IICA)

Rafael Trejos
Director de Modernización Institucional

Lars Pira
Secretario de Relaciones Externas

Carlos Jara
Director de Desarrollo Rural Solstenible

WORLD ORGANISATION FOR ANIMAL HEALTH (OIE)

Luis Barcos
Regional Representative of the OIE for the Americas

José Joaquin Oreamuno
Subregional Representative for Central America

James B. French
Director de Liderazgo Técnico y Gestión del Conocimiento

REGIONAL INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR PLANT PROTECTION AND ANIMAL HEALTH (OIRSA)

Guillermo Alvarado Downing
Director Ejecutivo

Abelardo de Gracia
Representante del OISA en Panamá

Gisela Tapia
Oficial Sanitario en Panamá

ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES (OAS)

Abigail Castro de Pérez
Executive Secretary for Integral Development

LATIN AMERICAN PARLIAMENT (PARLATINO)

Norma Calero
Asesora

OBSERVERS AND NON-GOVERMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

INTERNATIONAL NGO/CSO PLANNING COMMITTEE FOR FOOD SOVEREIGNTY (IPC)

Mario Aumada
Coordinador

Nivaldo Ramos
Punto Focal Juventud

Jorge Stanley
Punto Focal para Pueblos Indígenas

Florencia Aróstica
Directora Nacional
ANAMURI

Perla Álvarez
Coordinadora Equipo Técnico
CONAMURI

Deidania López
Movimiento Juventud Kuna (MJK-CIP)

Teovaldo Hernández
Secretario
Movimiento Juventud Kuna

Ariel Gonzalez
Secretario General-CGK

Jesús González
Delegado

Inatoy Obaldía
Fiscal

Jorge Peña Obaldía
Vocal

Oscar Marroquín
Presidente
Confederacion de Pescadores Artesanales de Centro America

Francisco Guerrero
Miembro

Cairo Laguna
Presidente FENICPESCA/CONFEPESCA

Jorge Fedrick
Presidente

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION FOR HOME ECONOMICS (IFHE)

Janice Maison
Vice President, Region of Americas

PAN AMERICAN DAIRY FEDERATION (FEPALE)

Eduardo Fresco León
Secretario General

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

Mario Yee
Senior Rotary Leader

FAO

Luc GUYAU
Independent Chairperson of the Council

Jacques DIOUF
Director-General

Conference Secretariat:

José GRAZIANO DA SILVA
Assistant Director-General
Regional Representative for Latin America and the Caribbean

Guilherme SCHUETZ
Conference Secreatry

Deodoro ROCA
Subregional Coordinator for Central America
Conference Affairs Officer, and Officer Responsible for the Programme of the Director-General

Florita KENTISH
Subregional Representative for the Caribbean

Alejandro FLORES NAVA
Officer Responsible for the Multidisciplinary Team for South America

Luis GOMEZ-OLIVER
Reports Officer

Germán ROJAS
Information Officer

Mitzi FABREGAT
Registration and Documents Officer

Arquimedes PEREZ
Information Technology Officer

Axelle MEYNART
Secretary of the Director-General and of the Independent Chairperson of the Council

Denise WOLFF
Secretary of the Assistant Director-General, Regional Representative for Latin America and the Caribbean

Officers:

Basharat ALI
Director
Office of Support to Decentralization

Boyd HAIGHT
Director
Office of Strategy, Planning and Resources Management

Noel DE LUNA
Chairperson of the Committee on World Food Security

Cristina AMARAL
Chief, Emergency Operations Service for Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean

Fernando SOTO BAQUERO
Chief, Policy Assistance Branch

Tito DÍAZ
Senior Animal Production and Health Officer

Salomón SALCEDO
Senior Policy Officer

Juan Carlos GARCÍA CEBOLLA
Coordinator Hunger-Free Latin America and the Caribbean Initiative