



## FAO 41st Conference Concept Note for a Side Event

### Zero Hunger in Latin America and the Caribbean Turning Commitment into Action to Achieve SDG2

**Date:** Tuesday, 25 June 2019

**Time:** 8.30 – 9.30 hrs

**Venue:** Sheikh Zayed Center, FAO, Rome

#### **Background, objectives and outcomes.**

Latin America and the Caribbean was the first region worldwide committing to completely eradicate hunger by 2025. This wish became the first major regional agreement of this nature and shaped the Hunger Free Latin America and the Caribbean Initiative. Ratified by all countries, the Initiative aimed at ensuring the realization of the right to food for all through concrete actions as the creation of innovative institutional and legal frameworks, and the implementation of multisectoral public policies and high-impact projects at regional and national level. The participation of the governments, parliamentarians, civil society, private sector, academia and other key stakeholders at different levels were critical to reduce substantively the prevalence of hunger in LAC in first years of the present millennium.

Latin America and the Caribbean still faces significant challenges to achieve the “Zero Hunger” Objective of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Undernourishment figures have come to a standstill around 6% for undernourishment and 10% for extreme poverty in the past seven years, and one in two inhabitants of the region suffers from overweight or obesity. Currently, 3.9 million of children under five years are overweight. In adults, overweight affects 360 million of people of which 104.7 million are obese.

The side event is an opportunity to recognize and make visible the main elements that helped to reduce substantially the prevalence of food insecurity in the region, and take advantage of the lessons learned to develop new strategies and proposals to achieve zero hunger in the most backward territories. Precisely in those areas where hunger not only affects a greater proportion of the population, it is also more serious. This situation is especially prominent in rural territories and affects children, women, indigenous populations and people of African descent more strongly.

It is expected that the event will serve to further strengthen the commitment of countries for the Zero Hunger and demonstrate that it is still possible to achieve a first generation free of hunger and all forms of malnutrition.