

## Concept Note

### Side Event on Celebrating 40 Years of Country Representations

#### Background and justification:

In 1977, FAO made a conscious and far-reaching decision to begin opening representations at the country level to bring its technical assistance closer to governments and the people who needed it most. Between 2017 and 2019, fifteen country offices in the Latin America and the Caribbean region will be celebrating 40 years, marking four decades of FAO's long-term presence in the field. The countries are listed below according to the date in which the agreement was signed:

1977: Colombia, Mexico, El Salvador, Ecuador

1978: Guyana, Chile, Cuba, Haiti, Jamaica, Uruguay, Bolivia, Barbados, Honduras

1979: Brazil, Dominican Republic

At midpoint in this three-year anniversary initiative, the 2018 Regional Conference is an important occasion for underlining the Organization's lasting commitment to the field and cooperation with host governments in the region. This Side Event is an opportunity to highlight major achievements made through cooperation with FAO, to promote new forms of representation as well as partnerships, and to encourage renewed commitment to collaboration in the future, thereby increasing support to countries' achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

#### Venue and date:

Montego Bay – Jamaica, Wednesday, 7 March 2018 (18.10 hours)

#### Speakers:

The event will gather high-level representatives, ministers and senior officers of Latin America and the Caribbean, who are part of the delegations attending the FAO Regional Conference. The following people will be on the stage:

Ms Lystra Fletcher-Paul

FAO Subregional Coordinator for the Caribbean *ad interim*

*Acting as Master of Ceremonies*

Mr José Graziano da Silva

Director-General, FAO

Ms Mirna Cunningham

President of the Fund for the Development of Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean (FILAC) and former Chairperson of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

#### Duration:

1 hour

#### Purpose and Expected Outcomes:

The purpose of the Side Event is to celebrate the legacy of collaboration between member countries and FAO over the course of the last four decades in support of the achievement of meaningful and lasting developments across Latin America and the Caribbean.

The Side Event is expected to achieve the following outcomes:

- promote enhanced awareness of and appreciation for the success stories across the region over the course of the last 40 years, with special focus on those countries with Representations inaugurated between 1977 and 1979;
- recognize the anniversary as an opportunity to reaffirm the Organization’s commitment to support the achievement of high-impact results, including the creation of a Zero Hunger Generation, strengthened rural communities’ livelihoods and sustainable use and management of natural resources, and more resilient, inclusive and productive food systems – all through tailored Country Programming Frameworks that align FAO’s technical and policy expertise with government priorities in partnership with diverse stakeholders.

**Structure:**

The Master of Ceremonies will guide the celebratory event, coordinating the transitions between each element included on the agenda. The address by the FAO Director-General, the video clip, and the address by the President of FILAC, will highlight the following themes:

- important transformations in the region over the course of the last 40 years in which FAO has played a catalytic role;
- recognition of the major achievements made in the 15 countries in which the FAO Representations are marking 40 years (those established between 1977 and 1979);
- reflections on the legacy of collaboration at country level.

Following these interventions, the Master of Ceremonies will invite the heads of delegation of the 15 countries celebrating 40-year anniversaries between 2017 and 2019 to join the stage and collectively blow out the candles in a symbolic act commemorating the 40 years of FAO Country Representations.

Finally, the Master of Ceremonies will invite all guests to enjoy the showcase of a photographic trajectory of cooperation with FAO in the region over the past 40 years in the 15 countries marking the anniversary while refreshments are served.

<b>Tentative agenda on the Celebration of 40 Years of Country Representations</b>	
2 minutes	Master of Ceremonies, the Subregional Coordinator a.i. for the Caribbean, welcomes distinguished guests
5 minutes	Celebratory statement by the FAO Director-General
5 minutes	Video covering FAO’s work in the 15 countries celebrating 40 years
5 minutes	Personal address by Ms Mirna Cunningham, President of the Fund for the Development of Indigenous Peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean
10 minutes	Master of Ceremonies will invite heads of delegation from the 15 countries celebrating 40 years to participate in a symbolic blowing out of the candles on a birthday cake
35 minutes	Distinguished guests are invited to enjoy a historic photographic display and refreshments

**Languages:** English and Spanish with simultaneous interpretation into English, French, and Spanish.