

43rd Session of the Conference

Written Correspondence Procedure – inputs from Members - English version

Item 11.4 – Report of the 37th Session of the Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean (Quito, Ecuador, 28 March-1 April 2022)

Member Name	Comments
Colombia (Saturday, 10 June 2023 — 12.18)	<p>Colombia appreciates the presentation of this Report and the organization of the 37th Session of the Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean. The Regional Conference, organized by Ecuador in 2022, provided an excellent opportunity for the countries of the region to recognize the results achieved by FAO in 2020-2021, as well as to recall the serious consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic in the region, and reflect on the lessons learned. Thus, it became more necessary than ever to recall the importance of FAO's work to eradicate poverty, eradicate hunger, combat climate change and protect natural resources. Such objectives are at the heart of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and Colombia strongly supports them.</p> <p>The Regional Conference also allowed to highlight the importance of the <i>four betters</i> proposed in FAO's Strategic Framework 2022-31: <i>better nutrition, a better environment and a better life, leaving no one behind</i>. Colombia highlights the relevance of these <i>four betters</i> for sustainable development and the need to forge ahead in the transformation of food systems to end hunger, support economic recovery, generate employment, advance toward gender equality, and improve the management of natural resources.</p> <p>Finally, Colombia appreciates the valuable exchange of information that took place at the Conference, especially with regard to updated information on the situation of food prices and agricultural inputs and their impacts on agrifood systems in the region. We believe that having this information, analysis and space for discussion is more necessary than ever considering the serious impact of rising food prices on nutrition and food insecurity indicators.</p> <p>Colombia hopes to continue contributing its experiences and progress in future Regional Conferences, since the country is currently implementing, within the framework of our National Development Plan, <i>Colombia World Power of Life</i>, a variety of programmes and policies to guarantee the Human Right to Food that we can share with the other countries of the region and the world to identify the challenges, opportunities and solutions we face together.</p>
United States of America (Monday, 12 June 2023 — 10.10)	<p>The United States of America appreciates the work of all Regional Conferences and strongly supports the Conference endorsement of all Regional Conference reports, including the Informal Regional Conference for North America (INARC) Report, endorsing the conclusions of CL 170 on this matter.</p>

<p>Argentina (Monday, 12 June 2023 — 13.07)</p>	<p>Under the Written Correspondence Procedure, established to address specific items on the Agenda of the 43rd Session of the FAO Conference, the Permanent Representation of the Argentine Republic would like to share the following comments.</p> <p>As agreed during the Conference, we understand that FAO’s Strategic Framework 2022-31 must promote the sustainable development of Latin America and the Caribbean and therefore facilitate capacity-building and cooperation schemes to strengthen the region’s food systems. The long-lasting impact of COVID-19 must be given particular consideration.</p> <p>We would also like to recall with satisfaction the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31 and its strategic narrative of supporting the transformation, which should be encouraged in a coherent manner, as appropriate, in accordance with and dependent on national contexts and capacities, to achieve more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems.</p> <p>We would also like to highlight the need to adapt the implementation of the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31 to the local context in our region, supporting countries by implementing the Programme Priority Areas, in particular by mobilizing sufficient funds to meet the needs of the Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean (LARC).</p> <p>In the regional context, we also consider it essential that the respective implementation plans of the new FAO Strategy on Climate Change 2022-2031 and the FAO Science and Innovation Strategy should address the specific needs of the countries and promote technology transfer, the development of biotechnological approaches, the application of digital solutions to agriculture and the development of technologies that increase efficiency – in irrigation systems for example.</p> <p>Finally, we would like to endorse the following messages set out in the Conference Report:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Provide support to Members to ensure diversity of land uses, soil fertility and health, the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in agrifood systems and the provision of ecosystem services. b. Maintain and enhance support to Members to implement the Hand-in-Hand Initiative with the aim of strengthening planning and investment mobilization processes, and the inclusion of holistic approaches that accelerate agricultural transformation and sustainable rural development, in a coherent manner, as appropriate and in accordance with existing contexts and priorities. c. Provide greater technical assistance to Members to strengthen and improve their capacity, resilience and access to markets, food supply chains and trade in accordance with World Trade Organization rules. d. Support Members to develop their food supply chains and trade with the aim of promoting the inclusion of family farming and small and medium-sized enterprises in markets and international trade to contribute to food and nutritional security. e. Mainstream the principles established in the Paris Agreement, including equity in the implementation of the Strategy, and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, in light of regional and subregional priorities and needs and differences in each Member’s contexts, and acknowledge the importance of technology development and transfer for improving resilience to climate change and reducing greenhouse gas
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	<p>emissions.</p> <p>f. Support Members, at their request, in implementing adaptation and mitigation measures to address the challenges of climate change, and in strengthening their national, subregional and regional policies, strategies and mechanisms, in a consistent manner, as appropriate and in accordance with existing contexts and capacities.</p> <p>g. Use holistic and innovative approaches in its work, including biotechnology, genome editing, direct seeding and other technical tools, promoting linkages between climate change, restoration of productive ecosystems, integrated water resource management, land-use planning and management and combating desertification, soil degradation and illegal deforestation.</p> <p>h. Use multilaterally-agreed language, especially that agreed under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in preparing its documents, strategic frameworks and plans of action.</p>
<p>United Kingdom (Monday, 12 June 2023 — 18.11)</p>	<p>The United Kingdom welcomes the Latin America and the Caribbean region’s emphasis on youth, gender, and women and girls and fully supports the call for FAO to strengthen its work on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.</p> <p>We furthermore agree with the region that both the Codex Alimentarius and the International Plant Protection Convention should remain top priorities for FAO, and we look forward to this being reflected in strategic and resource planning.</p>
<p>Chile (Friday, 16 June 2023 — 11.09)</p>	<p>Regional results, priorities, the <i>four betters</i> and the Sustainable Development Goals – Part II paragraphs 20 (a) to (e) and 20 (i)</p> <p>Regarding the recommendations of the Regional Conference to FAO set out in the paragraphs in question, Chile appreciates FAO's role in the matters indicated, since it has played an exceptional role through its approach and support to Members in promoting food security and agrifood systems after the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>In particular, the post-pandemic situation has been aggravated by the effects of climate change, economic crises and Russia's aggression against Ukraine, affecting the availability of food, inputs and mainly fertilizers worldwide, which has caused an inflation of food prices that has generated greater difficulties in access. In this regard, FAO has maintained a technical role in addressing the repercussions of excessive increases in the prices of food and agricultural inputs.</p> <p>Chile agrees with the recommendations. Of particular concern is the issue raised by the Director-General, who noted that "hunger, food insecurity and threats to agriculture were on the rise again in the region” and reaffirmed his commitment to consider the recommendations made at the 2022 Regional Conference.</p> <p>Chile would like to encourage Members to see the 2024 Regional Conference, LARC 38, as an opportunity to once more evoke a regional pact that would allow us to face the serious threats to food security, based on sustainable agriculture, open trade and protection of natural resources, and lend greater certainty to the human rights and social protection perspective in achieving food security.</p> <p>Date and place of the 38th Session of the Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean (paragraph 30)</p>

	<p>The 38th Session of LARC will be held in March 2024 in Guyana. Chile welcomes this offer and congratulates the Caribbean countries on their approach to food security matters, since it is strengthened by the proposals promoted by the <i>pro-tempore</i> Presidency of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, such as the relaunch of the CELAC Plan for Food Security and Nutrition Security and the Eradication of Hunger (FSN) 2025, scheduled for November 2024 in Chile.</p>
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