



COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL MATTERS

Hundred and Twentieth Session

Rome, 25-27 March 2024

FAO-OEA/CIE-IICA Working Group on Agricultural and Livestock Statistics for Latin America and the Caribbean: proposal to change the name and adopt the Statutes

I. Background

1. This item has been placed on the Provisional Agenda of the Committee on Constitutional and Legal Matters (“CCLM” or “the Committee”) under Rule XXXIV, paragraph 7(e), of the General Rules of the Organization (“GRO”), whereby the Committee shall consider specific items referred to it which may arise out of “*the establishment of commissions and committees under Article VI of the Constitution, including their membership, terms of reference, reporting procedures and rules of procedure*”.

2. This document presents a proposal to change the name of the FAO-OEA/CIE-IICA Working Group on Agricultural and Livestock Statistics for Latin America and the Caribbean (hereinafter “the Working Group”), a statutory body under Article VI of the FAO Constitution, and to endorse its Statutes. The Thirty-first Session of the Working Group recommended that the name of the group be changed to “Latin American and the Caribbean Commission for Agricultural Statistics (LACCAS)”. The proposed Statutes, including the change in name, have been adopted by the Working Group, and are now submitted for consideration by the CCLM and subsequent approval by the Council.

II. The Working Group

3. The Working Group was established in 1958 as a joint initiative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (“FAO” or “the Organization”) and the Inter-American Statistical Institute (“IASI”)¹ in the framework of the Subcommittee on Statistical Coordination for Central America.

4. In 1994, IASI was replaced by the Organization of American States (“OEA”) and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (“IICA”) in the framework of the Interamerican Conference for Statistics (“CIE”), as indicated in the Final Report of the 11th CIE. The Working

¹ See United Nations, Economic and Social Council, [Informe de la Cuarta Reunión del Subcomité de Coordinación Estadística del Istmo Centroamericano](#), 24 May 1958.

Group was henceforth known as the “FAO-OEA/CIE-IICA Working Group on Agricultural and Livestock Statistics for Latin America and the Caribbean”.

5. The Working Group’s mandate is to review the state of food and agricultural statistics in the region, to advise Member Nations on the development and standardization of agricultural statistical services, and to convene study groups or other panels of national experts required for this purpose.

6. Since its establishment in 1958, the Working Group has been meeting on a regular bi-annual basis and has held 31 sessions. The Thirty-first Session of the Working Group was held in Santiago, Chile, from 28 to 30 March 2023, and was attended in person by 15 Members and by an additional 14 Members virtually.

III. Proposal to change the name of the Working Group and to adopt its Statutes

A. History of the Proposal

7. During its Thirty-first Session, the Working Group recognized, *inter alia*, that “*the name of this current body does not reflect its character*” because “[t]he term ‘working group’ does not correspond to the nature of a technical commission of FAO and implies a less formal and less important mechanism. In addition, it implies a defined operational timeline and specific technical products”. Accordingly, the Working Group recommended that “[f]rom the next session in 2025, the group will be known as the Latin American and the Caribbean Commission for Agricultural Statistics (LACCAS). To achieve this objective, the group request that FAO begin the appropriate procedure to change the name”.²

8. In light of this request,³ on 21 November 2023, the FAO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (“RLC”) consulted OEA/CIE and IICA to seek their non-objection to the change of the name of the Working Group. Both organizations consented in writing to take such action on 30 November 2023 and 23 November 2023, respectively.

9. In addition, as it was not possible to locate the original Statutes of the Working Group, the Secretariat of the Working Group developed the “*Statutes of the Latin American and the Caribbean Commission on Agricultural Statistics (LACCAS)*” for the consideration and adoption by the Working Group. The Working Group adopted the proposed Statutes by full consensus during a Special Session held on 12 December 2023.⁴

10. The proposed Statutes are set out in **Annex I** to this document.

² See Conclusions and Recommendations of the [Thirty-first Session of the Working Group](#).

³ Similar requests had been made by Members prior to the Thirty-first Session: During its Twenty-Eighth Session, held in Quito, Ecuador, from 24 to 26 October 2017, the Working Group recommended that the FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean support the change of the name of the Working Group to “*Regional Commission on Agricultural and Food Security Statistics*” (see Conclusions and Recommendations of the [Twenty-eight Session of the Working Group](#)). At its Thirty-fifth Session held from 5 to 8 March 2018 in Montego Bay, Jamaica, the Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean supported the request (see [Report of the Thirty-fifth Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean](#), Montego Bay, Jamaica, 5-8 March 2018, Appendix E (LARC/18/REP)). During its Thirtieth Session, held from 20 to 23 July 2021, the Working Group recommended that FAO “*explore the possibility of changing the name of the working group to working group on agricultural and food statistics*” (see Conclusions and Recommendations of the [Thirtieth Session of the Working Group](#)).

⁴ See Conclusions and Recommendations of the [Special Session of the Working Group held on 12 December 2023](#).

B. Considerations on the Proposal

11. The proposal submitted for consideration by the CCLM is two-fold: Firstly, the change of the name of the Working Group aims at implementing the recommendations made by its Members, in particular during its Thirty-first Session held from 28 to 30 March 2023, to adopt a more appropriate name for the Working Group, to raise its profile in the region and to help facilitate efforts to mobilize resources from external partners. Secondly, with the proposed Statutes adopted by the Working Group during the Special Session held on 12 December 2023 (paragraph 9 refers), the Working Group will have a framework within which to streamline its operations and align itself with other FAO regional commissions on statistics in Africa and Asia, which are also statutory bodies established under Article VI of the FAO Constitution.

12. The Statutes include provisions on, *inter alia*, membership, terms of reference, observers, participation of international organizations in LACCAS's work, reporting procedures, operational aspects of sessions, subsidiary bodies, administrative and financial matters, languages, and rules of procedure, as required by the Conference for bodies established under Article VI of the Constitution.⁵ It is noted that the Statutes were developed on the basis of the statutes for the statistical commissions of Africa and Asia, with a few adjustments to reflect the particular situation of this body.

13. The proposed Statutes, if endorsed by the CCLM, would be referred for approval to the Hundred and Seventy-fifth Session of the Council, to be held from 10 to 14 June 2024.

14. There are no budgetary implications of the decision to adopt a new name and Statutes, as the Working Group will continue to work as in the past with the support of regular programme funding allocated to it by RLC. No new bodies or structures are being created by the implementation of this proposal. The Working Group would continue to report through the Director-General to the relevant Governing Bodies of the Organization.

IV. Suggested action by the Committee

15. The Committee is invited to examine and comment upon this document, as appropriate.

16. More specifically, the Committee is invited to:

- a) endorse the proposed change in the name of the Working Group to become the "*Latin American and the Caribbean Commission for Agricultural Statistics (LACCAS)*"; and
- b) endorse the proposed draft Council Resolution, as set out in **Annex I**, containing the Statutes, including the change in name, for on-forwarding to the Council for approval.

⁵ See "*Principles and Procedures which should govern Conventions and Agreements Concluded under Articles XIV and XV of the Constitution, and Commissions and Committees established under Article VI of the Constitution*", Part O of Volume II of the Basic Texts of the Organization.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION .../..**LATIN AMERICAN AND THE CARIBBEAN COMMISSION FOR AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS (LACCAS)**

THE COUNCIL

Considering:

That the FAO-OEA/CIE-IICA Working Group on Agricultural and Livestock Statistics for Latin America and the Caribbean (hereinafter “the Working Group”) was originally established in 1958 as a joint initiative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (hereinafter “FAO” or “the Organization”) and the Inter-American Statistical Institute (IASI);¹

That in 1994, IASI withdrew from the Working Group and was replaced by the Organization of American States (OEA) and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) in the framework of the Interamerican Conference for Statistics (CIE), as indicated in the Final Report of the 11th CIE and was henceforth known as the FAO-OEA/CIE-IICA Working Group on Agricultural and Livestock Statistics for Latin America and the Caribbean;

That the Working Group, during its Thirty-first Session held from 28 to 30 March 2023, recognized, *inter alia*, that “*the name of this current body does not reflect its character*” because “*the term ‘working group’ does not correspond to the nature of a technical commission of FAO and implies a less formal and less important mechanism. In addition, it implies a defined operational timeline and specific technical products*”;

The recommendation of the Working Group at its Thirty-first Session, that “[f]rom the next session in 2025, the group will be known as the Latin American and the Caribbean Commission for Agricultural Statistics (LACCAS). To achieve this objective, the group request that FAO begin the appropriate procedure to change the name”;

That in light of this request, on 21 November 2023, FAO consulted OEA/CIE and IICA to seek their non-objection to the change of the name of the Working Group and, considering that they provided their consent to such name change in writing on 30 November 2023 and 23 November 2023, respectively;

Hereby promulgates the following provisions of the Statutes of the Latin American and the Caribbean Commission for Agricultural Statistics (LACCAS).

MEMBERSHIP

1. Membership in the Latin American and the Caribbean Commission for Agricultural Statistics (hereinafter “the Commission”) shall be open to all Member Nations and Associate Members of FAO whose territories are situated wholly or partly in the region concerned as defined by the Organization or who are responsible for the international relations of any non-self-governing

¹ See United Nations, Economic and Social Council, [Informe de la Cuarta Reunión del Subcomité de Coordinación Estadística del Itsmo Centroamericano](#), 24 May 1958.

Documents can be consulted at www.fao.org

territories in that region. Membership shall comprise such eligible nations as have notified the Director-General of the Organization of their desire to be considered as Members.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

2. The terms of reference of the Commission shall be to review the state of food and agricultural statistics in the region and advise Member Nations on the development and standardization of agricultural statistics within the general framework of FAO's work in statistics, and to convene study groups or other subsidiary bodies of national experts required for this purpose. The terms of reference shall include in particular:

- (a) the formulation of the programme of work of the Commission in relation to the promotion and development of food and agricultural statistics including periodical agricultural censuses and food consumption surveys, and continuous surveys and controlled experiments for current information, trade in food and agricultural products and requisites;
- (b) the setting up of a scheme of priorities taking into consideration both the immediate requirements and the long-term development of agricultural statistics on a sound and permanent basis;
- (c) working out a minimum programme for current agricultural statistics;
- (d) the formulation of recommendations regarding measures to be adopted by Member Nations for:
 - i. the standardization of concepts, definitions and methodology of food and agricultural statistics,
 - ii. the coordination of food and agricultural statistics as to their coverage, accuracy, timeliness and comparability,
 - iii. planning short- and long-term training programmes in statistics at all levels,
 - iv. organizing research on statistical problems of common interest to countries in the region;
- (e) the formulation of recommendations regarding ways and means in which FAO could assist Member Nations in the development of food and agricultural statistics including such measures as the organization of training centres and seminars; the promotion of fellowships; the provision of technical assistance through experts and regional statistical advisers; the promotion of research in statistical problems under local conditions;
- (f) the consideration of problems referred to the Commission by the FAO Conference and Council and FAO Regional Conferences and the preparation of suitable reports including relevant recommendations;
- (g) the organization of technical discussions between national experts on specific statistical problems related to the programme of work of the Commission by convening working groups whose detailed terms of reference are to be worked out by the Commission;

(h) the compilation of data from Member Nations in relation to the programme of work of the Commission and its working groups;

(i) the preparation of a summary report to the Director-General of the Organization or presentation to the FAO Conference or Council incorporating the main recommendations of the Commission particularly those on policy, financial or programmatic matters which require FAO Conference or Council action.

OBSERVERS

3. Any Member Nation of the Organization and any Associate Member that is not a Member of the Commission but has a special interest in the work of the Commission, may, upon request communicated to the Director-General of the Organization, attend as observer, sessions of the Commission and of its subsidiary bodies and ad hoc meetings.

4. Nations which while not Member Nations or Associate Members of the Organization are Members of the United Nations, may, upon their request and with the approval of the FAO Council granted upon the recommendations of the Commission, be invited to attend in an observer capacity the sessions of the Commission, in accordance with the provisions relating to the granting of observer status to nations adopted by the FAO Conference.

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

5. Participation of international organizations in the work of the Commission and the relations between the Commission and such organizations shall be governed by the relevant provisions of the Constitution and the General Rules of the Organization as well as by the rules on relations with international organizations adopted by the FAO Conference or Council. All such relations shall be dealt with by the Director-General of the Organization.

SESSIONS

6. The Commission shall hold at least one session every two years. The sessions of the Commission shall be convened and the place where they are to be held shall be determined by the Director-General of the Organization after consultation with the competent authorities of the host country, taking into consideration the recommendation of the Commission on the subject. Sessions of the Commission may, as necessary and appropriate, be held in person, using electronic means such as videoconferencing, or in a hybrid format.

REPORTS

7. The Commission shall submit to the Director-General of the Organization reports on its activities and recommendations at such appropriate intervals as to enable the Director-General of the Organization to take them into consideration when preparing the draft Programme of Work and Budget of the Organization and other submissions to the Organization's Governing Bodies.

8. The Director-General of the Organization shall bring to the attention of the FAO Conference, through the FAO Council, any recommendations adopted by the Commission which have policy implications, or which affect the programme or finances of the Organization.

9. Copies of each report of the Commission will be circulated to Member Nations and Associate Members of the Organization and international organizations for their information as soon as they become available.

10. Subject to the provisions of the preceding paragraphs, the Director-General of the Organization may request members of the Commission to supply the Commission with information on action taken on the basis of recommendations made by the Commission.

SUBSIDIARY BODIES

11. The Commission may establish such subsidiary bodies as it deems necessary for the accomplishment of its task, subject to the availability of the necessary funds in the relevant chapter of the approved budget of the Organization: the determination of such availability shall be made by the Director-General of the Organization. Before taking any decision involving expenditure in connection with the establishment of subsidiary bodies, the Commission must have before it a report from the Director-General of the Organization on the administrative and financial implications thereof.

12. The terms of reference and reporting procedure of the subsidiary bodies shall be determined by the Commission.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL MATTERS

13. The Secretary of the Commission shall be appointed by the Director-General of the Organization and shall be administratively responsible to him. The expenses of the Secretariat of the Commission shall be determined and paid by the Organization within the limits of the relevant appropriations in the approved budget of the Organization.

14. The financial operations of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies shall be governed by the appropriate provisions of the Financial Regulations of the Organization.

15. Expenses incurred by representatives of members of the Commission and of the observers while attending sessions of the Commission or its subsidiary bodies, as well as the expenses of observers at sessions, shall be borne by the respective governments or organizations.

16. Expenses of experts attending in their individual capacity sessions of the Commission are to be borne by the Commission's budget.

LANGUAGES

17. English and Spanish shall be the working languages of the Commission.

RULES OF PROCEDURE

18. The Commission may adopt and amend its own Rules of Procedure which shall be in conformity with the Constitution and the General Rules of the Organization and with the statement of principles governing commissions and committees adopted by the FAO Conference. The Rules of Procedure and amendments hereto shall come into force upon approval by the Director-General of the Organization.