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**Application of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development:
leave no one behind**

1. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda), based on a comprehensive, inclusive and universal view of sustainable development, entered into force in January 2016. It was adopted by the Member States, which are the main stakeholders responsible for its implementation and monitoring.
2. A monitoring mechanism was set up in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) to review progress in implementing the 2030 Agenda and exchanging experiences based on national voluntary reviews. This is known as the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, led by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and is used as a regional channel for reporting to the High-Level Political Forum convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).
3. At the first meeting of the Forum, held in Mexico City in April 2017, a report was prepared entitled Contributions of the United Nations System to the First Annual Report on Regional Progress and Challenges in relation to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean¹. In this, FAO stressed that “Sustainable production systems (agriculture, forestry, livestock, aquaculture and fisheries) are essential for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), seeking mechanisms that interrelate social, economic and productive public policies, cooperation and investment that facilitate the move to sustainability”.
4. Within the framework of the United Nations system in Latin America and the Caribbean and the 2017 High-Level Political Forum held in New York in July 2017, an inter-agency report was

¹ http://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/41212/S1700282_mu.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y

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prepared by the United Nation's Development Group (UNDG) on sustainable development "Leaving no one behind in Latin America and the Caribbean: overcoming inequality to eradicate poverty". In this FAO emphasized issues relating to: a) hunger and food security, b) building resilience for the most vulnerable, and c) sustainable and inclusive food systems.

5. Through its United Nations Country Teams (UNCT), FAO contributed to national capacity-building in: a) political dialogue for implementing SDGs in national policies, strategies and plans and b) working links in statistics set up with ECLAC to support countries in the collection and analysis of data and information to allow the monitoring of indicators for which FAO is proposed as a "custodian" and "co-custodian" agency.

6. The FAO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean provided technical assistance for national dialogue concerning taking ownership of and implementing SDGs within its mandate. It also helped national capacity-building in data and information collection and monitoring of the 21 indicators for which FAO is responsible and the other six for which it acts as co-custodian with other agencies. These actions focused on 11 countries in the region² reporting to the High-Level Political Forum. They promoted political dialogue and the strengthening and consolidation of existing national structures and mechanisms for taking ownership of, implementing and reporting on SDGs and reinforced coordination with UNCTs for country support.

7. Similarly, in the specific case of LAC countries submitting voluntary reviews, FAO helped with review preparation by holding intersectoral dialogues, national workshops with various stakeholders for review preparation, processing of practical experience with implementing SDGs to be reviewed, opening of regional spaces and international forums for dialogue and an exchange of views over SDG 1, SDG 2, SDG 5 and SDG 14.

8. With regard to statistics, FAO is implementing two subregional projects on "Strengthening capacities for measuring and reporting on sustainable development goals in the countries of South America" and "Strengthening capacities for monitoring SDG 2 goals in the countries of Mesoamerica". It is also supporting countries in the design of agricultural censuses, considering aspects of gender and indigenous peoples in data collection and analysis. Technical assistance and individual training were also provided to 17 countries in the region on agricultural statistical methodology and food security in order to strengthen the monitoring capacity of indicators for which FAO is custodian.

9. In the preparation of Country Programming Frameworks, FAO Representations in the region drew up agreements with partners as well as their pillars of work and their direct contribution to the implementation of SDGs. In general terms, SDG 2, SDG 5, SDG 6, SDG 12, SDG 13, SDG 14 and SDG 15 have been identified in most countries for the implementation of support strategies and actions to move indicators and monitor the achievement of goals.

10. At FAO Country Office level, national communication strategies were also developed for the 2030 Agenda and SDGs to raise the awareness of national authorities on the contribution of sustainable food and agriculture to implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

² Argentina, Belize, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama, Peru and Uruguay.