



联合国
粮食及
农业组织

Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Organisation des Nations
Unies pour l'alimentation
et l'agriculture

Продовольственная и
сельскохозяйственная организация
Объединенных Наций

Organización de las
Naciones Unidas para la
Alimentación y la Agricultura

منظمة
الأغذية والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

CONFERENCE

Forty-second Session

Rome, 12-16 July 2021

**Report of the 36th Session of the Regional Conference for Latin America
and the Caribbean (19-21 October 2020)**



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

LARC/20/REP

REPORT

**Managua, Nicaragua
19-21 October 2020
(virtual)**

Thirty-sixth Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean

The designations employed and the presentation of material in this information product do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) concerning the legal or development status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or borders. The mention of specific companies or products of manufacturers, whether or not these have been patented, does not imply that these have been endorsed or recommended by FAO in preference to others of a similar nature that are not mentioned.

The opinions expressed in this information product are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the views or policies of FAO.

© FAO, 2020

FAO encourages the use, reproduction and dissemination of material in this information product. Except where otherwise indicated, material may be copied, downloaded and printed for private study, research and teaching purposes, or for use in non-commercial products or services, provided that appropriate acknowledgement of FAO as the source and copyright holder is given and that FAO's endorsement of users' views, products or services is not implied in any way.

All requests for translation and adaptation rights, and for resale and other commercial use rights should be addressed to copyright@fao.org.

FAO information products are available on the FAO web site (www.fao.org/publications) and can be purchased through publications-sales@fao.org.

FAO Member Nations to which the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean provides services

Antigua and Barbuda	Dominica	Panama
Argentina	Dominican Republic	Paraguay
Bahamas	Ecuador	Peru
Barbados	El Salvador	Saint Kitts and Nevis
Belize	Grenada	Saint Lucia
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	Guatemala	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Brazil	Guyana	Surinam
Chile	Haiti	Trinidad and Tobago
Colombia	Honduras	Uruguay
Costa Rica	Jamaica	Venezuela
Cuba	Mexico	(Bolivarian Republic of)
	Nicaragua	

Date and place of FAO Regional Conferences for Latin America and the Caribbean

1st	- Quito (Ecuador), 18-25 September 1949
2nd	- Montevideo (Uruguay), 1-12 December 1950
3rd	- Buenos Aires (Argentina), 1-10 September 1954
4th	- Santiago (Chile), 19-30 November 1956
5th	- San José (Costa Rica), 12-21 November 1958
6th	- México, D.F. (Mexico), 9-20 August 1960
7th	- Río de Janeiro (Brazil), 17-27 November 1962
8th	- Viña del Mar (Chile), 13-29 March 1965
9th	- Punta del Este (Uruguay), 5-16 December 1966
10th	- Kingston (Jamaica), 2-13 December 1968
11th	- Caracas (Venezuela), 12-20 October 1970
12th	- Cali (Colombia), 21 August-2 September 1972
13th	- Panamá (Panama), 12-23 August 1974
14th	- Lima (Peru), 21-29 April 1976
15th	- Montevideo (Uruguay), 8-19 August 1978
16th	- Havana (Cuba), 26 August-6 September 1980
17th	- Managua (Nicaragua), 20 August-10 September 1982
18th	- Buenos Aires (Argentina), 6-15 August 1984
19th	- Bridgetown (Barbados), 5-13 August 1986
20th	- Recife (Brazil), 2-7 October 1988
21st	- Santiago (Chile), 9-13 July 1990
22nd	- Montevideo (Uruguay), 28 September-2 October 1992
23rd	- San Salvador (El Salvador), 29 August-2 September 1994
24th	- Asunción (Paraguay), 2-6 July 1996
25th	- Nassau (Bahamas), 16-20 June 1998
26th	- Mérida (Mexico), 10-14 April 2000
27th	- Havana (Cuba), 22-26 April 2002
28th	- Guatemala City (Guatemala), 26-30 April 2004
29th	- Caracas (Venezuela), 24-28 April 2006
30th	- Brasília (Brazil), 14-18 April 2008
31st	- Panamá (Panama), 26-30 April 2010
32nd	- Buenos Aires (Argentina), 26-30 March 2012
33rd	- Santiago (Chile), 6-9 May 2014
34th	- Mexico City (Mexico), 29 February - 3 March 2016
35th	- Montego Bay (Jamaica), 5-8 March 2018
36th	- Managua (Nicaragua), 19-21 October 2020 (virtual)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
SUMMARY OF THE MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS	5
	Paragraphs
I. Introductory items	
Regional Conference arrangements	1-2
Inaugural ceremony.....	3-4
Statement by the Head of Government	5
Statement by the Director-General of FAO	6
Election of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons and Appointment of the Rapporteur	7-8
Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable	9-10
Statements made to the Regional Conference.....	11-17
II. Regional and Global Policy and Regulatory Matters	
The impact of COVID-19 on food and agriculture in Latin America and the Caribbean and the response from FAO	18-19
Sustainable food systems to provide healthy diets for all	20-21
Hand-in-Hand towards prosperous and inclusive rural societies	22-23
Sustainable and resilient agriculture	24-25
III. Programme and Budget Matters	
Results and priorities for FAO in the Latin America and Caribbean Region	26-27
Improving FAO's capacities to serve Members in Latin America and the Caribbean	28-29
Innovation and Digital Agriculture	30-31
Summary of the recommendations of regional commissions	32
Multi-year Programme of Work for the Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean	33
IV. Other Matters	
International Year of Plant Health (IYPH)	34
Committee on World Food Security (CFS)	35-36
Implementation of the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition and follow-up to the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2)	37
Updating the Vision and Strategy for FAO's Work on Nutrition	38
Measuring food loss and waste using the assessment methodology of food loss	39
Alliances for development in Latin America and the Caribbean: Instruments to find and share solutions and mobilize resources	40-41
Date and place of the Thirty-seventh Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean	42
	Pages
APPENDIX A: Agenda	23
APPENDIX B: List of documents	24

SUMMARY OF THE MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS

MATTERS REQUIRING THE ATTENTION OF THE COUNCIL

- Results and priorities for FAO in the Latin America and Caribbean Region (paragraphs 26 and 27)
- Improvement of FAO's capacities to serve Members of Latin America and the Caribbean (paragraphs 28 and 29)
- Innovation and Digital Agriculture (paragraphs 30 and 31)
- Summary of the recommendations of regional commissions (paragraph 32)
- Multi-year Programme of Work for the Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean (paragraph 33)
- Other Matters (paragraphs 34 to 42)

MATTERS REQUIRING THE ATTENTION OF THE CONFERENCE

- The impact of COVID-19 on food and agriculture in Latin America and the Caribbean and the response from FAO (paragraphs 18 and 19)
- Sustainable food systems to provide healthy diets for all (paragraphs 20 and 21)
- Hand-in-Hand towards prosperous and inclusive rural societies (paragraphs 22 and 23)
- Sustainable and resilient agriculture (paragraphs 24 and 25)

I. Introductory items

Regional Conference arrangements

1. The Thirty-sixth Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean (LARC) was held from 19 to 21 October 2020. The meeting was held virtually due to the exceptional circumstances of the current COVID-19 pandemic and the consequent health concerns and restrictions. This decision was made following discussions between the Director-General and the host country, the Republic of Nicaragua, as well as with the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Group, in response to the limitations on travel and physical meetings. Given that the General Rules of the Organization require face-to-face sessions at the Regional Conference, Members agreed in this instance to suspend all regulations that are incompatible with the virtual environment.
2. The Regional Conference was attended virtually by 545 participants from 33 Members including 2 Vice-Presidents of the Republic; 1 Prime Minister; 92 Ministers and Vice-Ministers; 14 Ambassadors; 2 Observers; Representatives of 10 United Nations organizations; 9 intergovernmental organizations; 10 civil society organizations; 1 Parliamentary Fronts against Hunger representative; 5 private sector organizations, and 5 scientific and academic organizations.

Inaugural ceremony

3. The inaugural ceremony of the Regional Conference was held on 19 October in the presence of His Excellency Denis Ronaldo Moncada Colindres, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Nicaragua, and Dr Qu Dongyu, the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The Minister welcomed delegates and participants to this first virtual Regional Conference, affirmed his country's commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and stressed the importance of moving forward towards a region free from hunger and extreme poverty, by boosting sustainable and inclusive rural development and agriculture¹ that is resilient to climate change.
4. In addition, he proposed FAO as a candidate for the 2021 Nobel Peace Prize in virtue of the values and qualities put into practice by the Organization for the benefit of humankind.

Statement by the Head of Government

5. In his statement to the Regional Conference, His Excellency Denis Ronaldo Moncada Colindres, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Nicaragua, highlighted the results of public actions and policies implemented in Nicaragua in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, poverty and vulnerability, as well as in terms of gender equality, inclusive production, food security and nutrition, health, education and climate change. He recalled the risk of displacement to urban peripheries faced by rural communities, the delimitation and titling of ancestral territories of indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants, and the importance of the ratification of the Agreement on Port State Measures (PSMA). He noted that the region faces serious challenges with regard to, *inter alia*, food and agriculture: productivity, generation and adoption of accessible technologies, efficiency and quality in production, food safety, financing and access to credit, access to markets, adding value and agroindustry. He appreciated and valued FAO's mission and work in implementing and strengthening policies and programmes for the reduction of poverty and of food insecurity and malnutrition and the sustainable management of natural resources.

¹ The term *agriculture* includes crop production, livestock, fisheries, aquaculture and forestry. The term *farmer* includes those individuals who work in one of these areas.

Statement by the Director-General of FAO

6. In his statement to the Regional Conference, the FAO Director-General, Dr Qu Dongyu, thanked the Government of the Republic of Nicaragua for hosting and collaborating in organizing the virtual Session of the Regional Conference. He outlined his vision of transforming FAO into a more dynamic, flexible, modular, inclusive, effective, efficient, transparent, participatory and results-focused Organization that provides services to Members to support policies and programmes. He highlighted the importance of the Regional Conference's guidance and strategic direction to provide contextualized answers to many of Latin America and the Caribbean's pressing problems and in order to achieve the SDGs, in particular by promoting innovation, digital technologies and strengthening partnerships with other international organizations, the private sector, civil society, parliamentary fronts and the scientific and academic worlds. He noted the progress made by FAO in Latin America and the Caribbean in the implementation of a programmatic approach that breaks down silos, facilitates collaboration and enhances the effectiveness of FAO's work. He emphasized three priorities for the Regional Conference: identifying priorities for the new Strategic Framework, the commitment to the 2021 United Nations Food Systems Summit, and the expectations and priorities for the transformation of food systems. He highlighted the collaborative approach of the Hand-in-Hand Initiative, based on the use of new technologies, innovation and geospatial data, which is now active in six countries in the region. He stressed the impact of COVID-19 on food security, employment and income, as well as FAO's efforts to support Members through the implementation of the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Programme.

Election of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons and Appointment of the Rapporteur

7. The Regional Conference elected as Chairperson His Excellency Edward Francisco Centeno Gadea, Minister for Agriculture and Livestock of the Republic of Nicaragua, who expressed his appreciation for his appointment and welcomed delegates to the meeting. The Honourable Floyd Green, Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries of Jamaica, and His Excellency Xavier Lazo, Minister for Agriculture and Livestock of the Republic of Ecuador, were elected as Vice-Chairpersons.

8. The Regional Conference elected as Rapporteur His Excellency Mario Arvelo Caamaño, Permanent Representative of the Dominican Republic to FAO.

Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable

9. The Regional Conference adopted the Agenda (Appendix A) and the Timetable. The documents submitted to the meeting are listed in Appendix B.

10. The Regional Conference agreed to give the floor to the spokespersons, nominated during the consultation preceding the current session by civil society organizations, the private sector, the scientific world and academia as well as the Parliamentary Fronts against Hunger, as an expression of interest in the broad participation of actors in the work of FAO and in line with the experience of the three previous sessions of the Regional Conference.

Statements made to the Regional Conference

11. Mr Khalid Mehboob, the Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council, highlighted the progress made in the Latin America and Caribbean region in eradicating hunger, and urged countries to strengthen their efforts to reverse the deterioration of the food security- and nutrition-related indicators of past years. He underlined the relevance of the Hand-in-Hand Initiative to accelerate progress made in achieving the SDGs 1 and 2. The Independent Chairperson highlighted the relevance of the Regional Conference's role in defining FAO policies and priorities for the region. He called on Members to ensure that regional priorities were properly incorporated into FAO's new Strategic Framework and reminded them of the 2021 United Nations Food Systems Summit and acknowledged

the central role played by FAO as well as the significance of the 2030 Agenda to the core mandate of the Organization.

12. The Chairperson of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Thailand to FAO, Mr Thanawat Tiensin, noted the key role that the Committee must play in the efforts made by countries in promoting food security and nutrition and highlighted the four new workstreams in the Multi-year Programme of Work for 2020-23 that was approved at the 46th Session of the CFS: gender, youth, inequalities and data systems.

13. In his capacity as Chairperson of the 35th Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean, The Honorable Floyd Green, Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries of Jamaica, thanked Members for the confidence placed in Jamaica during the session. He reiterated the need to continue counting on FAO for technical cooperation and mobilization of the necessary resources to apply the Regional Conference recommendations to the Organization and to achieve the proposed goals of eradicating hunger and extreme poverty, as well as to promote the sustainable management of natural resources in the region.

14. The Regional Conference noted the statement from the consultation with civil society organizations of Latin America and the Caribbean for the 36th Session of LARC, held virtually on 6 October 2020, which is included in information document LARC/20/INF/19².

15. The Regional Conference noted the statement from the consultation with private sector organizations of Latin America and the Caribbean for the 36th Session of LARC, held virtually on 7 October 2020, which is included in information document LARC/20/INF/20³.

16. The Regional Conference noted the statement from the consultation with academia and the scientific world of Latin America and the Caribbean for the 36th Session of LARC, held virtually on 13 October 2020, which is included in information document LARC/20/INF/22⁴.

17. The Regional Conference noted the statement from Mr Jairo Flores, General Coordinator of the Parliamentary Front against Hunger for Latin America and the Caribbean and congressman of the Republic of Guatemala, which is included in information document LARC/20/INF/21⁵.

II. Regional and Global Policy and Regulatory Matters

The impact of COVID-19 on food and agriculture in Latin America and the Caribbean and the response from FAO

18. The Regional Conference:

- i) welcomed the work of FAO in helping Members to combat the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, to guarantee food supplies to communities with continuous and fully operational food chains and food trade, and to mitigate the effects of the pandemic on poverty, food security and nutrition;
- ii) highlighted the importance of progressing in the eradication of hunger and of fighting poverty and malnutrition assertively to guarantee the Right to Food, build back better and ensure sustainable development in the post-pandemic recovery period;

² LARC/20/INF/19 “Statement by the Spokesperson for the Civil Society Consultation”, available at <http://www.fao.org/about/meetings/regional-conferences/larc36/documents/en/>.

³ LARC/20/INF/20 “Statement by the Spokesperson for the Private Sector Consultation” available at <http://www.fao.org/about/meetings/regional-conferences/larc36/documents/en/>.

⁴ LARC/20/INF/22 “Statement by the Spokesperson of the Scientific and Academic Committee”, available at <http://www.fao.org/about/meetings/regional-conferences/larc36/documents/en/>.

⁵ LARC/20/INF/21 “Statement by the Spokesperson for the Parliamentary Fronts against Hunger”, available at <http://www.fao.org/about/meetings/regional-conferences/larc36/documents/en/>.

- iii) stressed the key role played by interregional and international trade in food security and nutrition and the role of science in establishing standards that protect public health and facilitate trade;
 - iv) highlighted that in the midst of the unprecedented international context caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, it is necessary to strengthen multilateralism and international solidarity and cooperation with a view to the full realization of SDG 2 “Zero hunger” while leaving no one behind. It recalled Resolution A/RES/70/1, section 30, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 25 September 2015 regarding the 2030 Agenda: “States are strongly urged to refrain from promulgating and applying any unilateral economic, financial or trade measures not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations that impede the full achievement of economic and social development, particularly in developing countries”;
 - v) welcomed the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Programme proposed in document LARC/20/10 that covers seven key responses: Global Humanitarian Response Plan, Data for Decision-making, Economic Inclusion and Social Protection to Reduce Poverty, International Trade and Food Safety Standards, Boosting Smallholder Resilience for Recovery, Preventing Future Health Crises, and Food Systems Transformation, as appropriate and in accordance with national contexts, priorities and capacities to ensure sustainable food systems that provide healthy diets; and
 - vi) stressed the support received during the COVID-19 pandemic from FAO and the joint work with the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), Central American Integration System (SICA), Caribbean Community (CARICOM), World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), Regional International Organization for Plant Protection and Animal Health (RIOPPAH), Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), World Food Programme (WFP), World Health Organization (WHO), Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and other agencies of the United Nations system as well as the Inter-American system, such as the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA).
19. The Regional Conference recommended that FAO:
- i) support governments in designing, implementing and assessing recovery policies and programmes for the recovery from the crisis caused by COVID-19, with emphasis on job creation, social and productive inclusion, healthy food for the whole population, school feeding, access to and sustainable use of water for agricultural production and increasing production and exports, highlighting the economic, social and environmental aspects of sustainable development and risk management to increase resilience to crises in any of these three dimensions;
 - ii) support governments in reducing the impact of the pandemic containment measures on value chains and access to markets for producers and consumers, including support for productive partnerships between family farmers, youth and rural women;
 - iii) support countries in the adoption of innovative approaches to build inclusive and sustainable agricultural and food systems that use science and technology, in particular digital solutions, bridging the digital gaps in the rural population at the same time;
 - iv) facilitate the mobilization of public and private investments and public-private partnerships for food system recovery and production of crops, livestock, fisheries, aquaculture, forestry and other non-agricultural rural activities, including those that drive demand for products derived from agriculture, such as tourism, including but not limited to the Hand-in-Hand Initiative; and
 - v) continue providing information, dialogue, South-South and Triangular Cooperation and collaboration between Members to deal with the crisis, including early information to dispel doubts on the role of food in transmitting the disease.

Sustainable food systems to provide healthy diets for all

20. The Regional Conference:

- i) acknowledged that eating habits in Latin America and the Caribbean have experienced a rapid transformation over the last decades, simultaneously contributing to a reduction in the levels of undernutrition, and an increase in overweight and obesity;
- ii) highlighted that changes in diets are closely linked to the functioning of food systems, and that they should be geared towards achieving the food security and nutrition of a growing population, whilst at the same time, within the framework of the 2030 Agenda, contributing towards the health of people and sustainable development;
- iii) underscored the need to adapt the policies and approaches to the different needs of the Members, taking into account the heterogeneity of the region and, in particular, the unique vulnerability of Small Island Developing States (SIDS);
- iv) highlighted the existence and development of an ample stock of good practices in sustainable agriculture for the food systems of Latin America and the Caribbean and its contribution to food security and healthy diets to combat all forms of malnutrition, as well as the importance of continuing to disseminate these good practices so that the region's crop production, livestock, fisheries, aquaculture and forestry can move towards sustainable production methods, boosting technological and institutional innovations that will guarantee the growth and sustainable development of its food systems;
- v) recognized that Members which so decide may promote the transformation of their food systems, depending on their characteristics and according to the national contexts, priorities and capacities, to provide healthy diets without affecting food production;
- vi) highlighted that the eventual transformation processes of food systems that are being considered to achieve environmental, social and economic sustainability need transition mechanisms which provide financial resources, capacity-building and technology transfer for developing countries, and that recognize the principles of Common but differentiated responsibilities (CBDR), cooperation and solidarity;
- vii) highlighted the relevance of the contribution of family and small-scale farming, including crop production, livestock, fisheries, aquaculture and forestry, towards the provision of healthy food, with particular emphasis on the relevance of rural women and youth, and the importance of policies that incorporate sourcing of food from this type of agriculture, such as school-feeding policies that facilitate at the same time access for girls and boys to healthy food; and
- viii) emphasized the importance of the participation of Members in the 2021 United Nations Food Systems Summit to promote an exhaustive dialogue on achieving sustainable food systems and greater food security and nutrition levels for the entire population.

21. The Regional Conference recommended that FAO:

- i) support governments, upon their request, in the design, application, monitoring and evaluation of public policies that enable the region to regain progress in achieving SDG 2 "Zero Hunger", in coordination with different government actors, parliamentarians, non-governmental and consumer organizations by means of comprehensive strategies that include:
 - a) efficient and sustainable increase of food production;
 - b) improvement of food safety and quality;
 - c) access of the entire population to affordable healthy and nutritious food, through, for example, food supply, social and fiscal policies, in accordance with the multilateral trade rules;

- d) regulations on marketing and advertising of food, in a manner consistent with multilateral trade rules, so that consumers are given consistent and reliable information;
- e) education for healthy food habits;
- f) the reduction of food losses and waste and sound management of organic waste;
- g) promotion of the consumption of healthy food, including that from family and small-scale farming, including crop production, livestock, fisheries, aquaculture and forestry, and other sustainable systems;
- h) international trade and its essential contribution to food security; and
- i) local purchasing from micro, small and medium-sized producers for school-feeding programmes or public systems, in line with the multilateral trade rules;
- ii) support Members in strengthening international food trade within the framework of a rules-based multilateral trade system that is open, non-discriminatory and equitable, with the World Trade Organization (WTO) at its centre, to maintain the predictability and transparency of trade flows, including agricultural flows, and continue guaranteeing supplies of safe and healthy food to the population at affordable prices;
- iii) assist in improving data and analyses for the development of a new generation of policies, regulations and strategies on food and nutrition based on evidence, science and technology to combat malnutrition in all of its forms, based on sustainable food systems for healthy diets;
- iv) facilitate dialogue, agreements and alliances between the public, private, scientific, academic and civil society sectors, to promote technological and institutional innovations and governance of food systems that enable healthy diets and sustainable food systems. For this purpose, it requested that FAO, in developing the new Strategy for Engagement with the Private Sector, make arrangements to prevent conflicts of interest and protect FAO from any undue influence, in particular in processes related to the formulation and implementation of policies, standards and regulations, including with respect to financial or in-kind contributions from private sector entities;
- v) continue mobilizing skills, knowledge and intentions for an effective collaboration with Parliamentary Fronts Against Hunger and civil society organizations, the private sector and the scientific and academic worlds, which are all rich in skills and knowledge in the region to achieve solutions to different issues and to boost the results that are being pursued by the countries in the region;
- vi) support in resource mobilization that enables the development of policies and innovations that promote healthy diets, and include monitoring and evaluation, promoting the alignment of indicators among the region's countries and the use of science and technology within this field;
- vii) support Members of Latin America and the Caribbean so that they may participate in an active, informed and coordinated manner at the 2021 United Nations Food Systems Summit , by involving government, the private sector, the scientific and academic world and civil society in the preparations; and
- viii) support the implementation of initiatives originated in the region and that have been adopted by the United Nations General Assembly such as the International Year of Fruits and Vegetables 2021 and the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture 2022.

Hand-in-Hand towards prosperous and inclusive rural societies

22. The Regional Conference:

- i) recognized that without efficient, inclusive and sustainable development, the region's countries would not be able to achieve the SDGs and that in order to achieve them it was necessary to speed up the process for eradicating hunger and extreme poverty, especially in rural areas that are less developed, in addition to increasing investment and creating new employment opportunities and economic development for rural communities;
- ii) highlighted the role of the rural sector in Latin America and the Caribbean in regional and global food security and its economic dynamism and growth, which are key elements in achieving SDG 1 ("No poverty") and SDG 2 ("Zero hunger") at regional and global levels;
- iii) stressed the fact that half of the rural population live in poverty and 20 percent in extreme poverty, and that these indicators have increased in the last few years, leading to a dual challenge: to strengthen policies to reduce poverty and hunger whilst at the same time, driving policies that enable the reduction of ethnic, economic, social, territorial and gender inequalities that characterize rural societies in the region;
- iv) stressed the importance of family farming, including crop production, livestock, fisheries, aquaculture and forestry that are responsible for over half of the jobs within these sectors in at least 14 of the region's countries, and over 80 percent of agricultural production units in Latin America and the Caribbean;
- v) encouraged the continued promotion of sustainable growth in the agricultural sector, food systems, and the non-agricultural rural economy. This growth is invaluable in the eradication of hunger and rural poverty;
- vi) stressed the importance of technical cooperation and of investments as a necessary condition for agricultural and rural development, especially through prioritized strategies targeting lagging communities and investment in technologies and in areas of production and trade with high socio-economic returns such as the technology sector;
- vii) reinforced the importance of rural communities and producers having access to digital information technologies and communications, both for the dynamism and inclusiveness of the agricultural sector and for creating non-agricultural rural employment, especially to democratize and close the access gaps of family farming to services and markets, and provide opportunities for rural youth;
- viii) supported the Hand-in-Hand Initiative presented by the Director-General of FAO at the Seventy-fourth Session of the United Nations General Assembly to promote effective cooperation mechanisms between developed and developing countries, strengthening the need for concrete actions to be led by:
 - a. flexibility in implementation;
 - b. needs of Members in their territories and micro-regions;
 - c. cooperation between Members;
 - d. resource mobilization;
 - e. public-private cooperation
 - f. coordination between government levels and sectors:
- ix) recognized FAO's work on promoting gender equality in crop production, livestock, fisheries and aquaculture, forestry and rural development, recognizing and including the importance of women's access to land, as well as prioritizing indigenous and Afro-descendant peoples and other ethnic groups in the cooperation agenda; and
- x) stressed FAO's work in the region on social protection, access to productive assets such as land and water, social and productive resilience, rural employment, as well as rural governance and institutional frameworks.

23. The Regional Conference recommended that FAO:

- i) provide support to the countries of the region included in the Hand-in-Hand Initiative and, in all others, facilitate the application of the Initiative's approach and tools in order to reduce the development gaps that affect lagging rural territories, mobilizing voluntary contributions to this end;
- ii) increase the scope of the Hand-in-Hand Initiative to other countries in the region, including high- and middle-income developing countries;
- iii) provide support to governments to improve the technical quality, efficiency and effects of public policies aimed at promoting and accelerating the sustainable and inclusive development of rural territories in the region, especially those that are lagging further behind in terms of poverty and hunger, including capacity-building, the use of technology and innovation so that family farming and artisanal fisheries and aquaculture can produce and trade safe food in accordance with government priorities and requirements;
- iv) provide assistance to Members in the design, implementation and assessment of public policies to promote the development of new opportunities for the rural economy, including, *inter-alia*, the bio-economy and the development of renewable energies, rural tourism, the development of natural and cultural heritage in rural areas, landscape restoration and the provision of ecosystemic services;
- v) support strengthening policies and family farming artisanal fisheries and aquaculture organizations, in particular through technological and financial inclusion, access to markets, associativity, rural innovation and extension, access to natural resources and inputs, and South-South and Triangular Cooperation, helping in the renovation of an institutional framework in accordance with the sector's new challenges and the implementation of the global action plan on the United Nations Decade of Family Farming (2019-2028);
- vi) support Members in the development of strategies and programmes for the recognition, protection, participation and development of indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants in the integrated policy framework for rural development;
- vii) provide assistance in the development and policies for rural women and youth, strengthening their access to inputs and productive assets, technological innovation and financial services to develop agricultural and non-agricultural economic activities;
- viii) support the region's countries in strengthening agricultural and non-agricultural rural employment by including technology and finance, and developing social protection and economic inclusion development programmes for the rural population in accordance with national priorities and objectives for rural development, food security and the reduction of poverty;
- ix) support Members, upon their request, in updating and fine-tuning their definitions and statistics on rural areas to accord visibility to the actual demographic, economic and social metrics of rural societies, coastal communities, the importance of small and medium urban towns in rural areas, as well as the important role of rural-urban links for the sustainable and inclusive territorial development of the region;
- x) support Members with informed decision-making for scalable and more sustainable public investments in agricultural and rural development;
- xi) help Members to strengthen institutional and governance frameworks for rural development, prioritizing measures that contribute to strengthening coordination, social participation and public-private intersectoral collaboration between different government levels and between rural and urban sectors;
- xii) assist governments in generating knowledge regarding the cost and effectiveness of public investments for boosting agriculture, food systems and other rural economic activities that may contribute to economic growth that is socially and environmentally sustainable, with due regard to current fiscal and financial restrictions;

- xiii) support the implementation of international cooperation strategies and the mobilization of resources to help achieve the SDGs, especially SDG 1 “No poverty” and SDG 2 “Zero hunger” for all countries; and
- xiv) explicitly incorporate artisanal and small-scale fisheries and aquaculture in the programme of work on eradication of hunger and extreme poverty as part of the preparations for the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture 2022 (IYAFA).

Sustainable and resilient agriculture⁶

24. The Regional Conference:

- i) highlighted that agriculture in Latin America and the Caribbean has been characterized by solid growth and is one of the world’s major food suppliers;
- ii) recognized that, in order for countries of the region to achieve their food security goals, there is a need to address the challenges of sustainable increase in productivity and resilience and sustainable use of its rich biodiversity, water, land, forests and other ecosystem services in addition to the reduction of greenhouse gases in accordance with each country’s priorities. All of this is necessary to achieve the SDGs of the 2030 Agenda, in particular SDG 6 “Clean water and sanitation”, SDG 12 “Responsible consumption and production”, SDG 13 “Climate action”, SDG 14 “Life below water”, and SDG 15 “Life on land”;
- iii) highlighted the need to identify good agricultural practices that exist in the region, including integrated systems, livestock farming that is resilient and low in emissions, direct sowing, agro-ecology and other sustainable agriculture approaches;
- iv) emphasized the need to further work on measures to strengthen, as necessary, resilience, climate change mitigation and adaptation in the agricultural sector;
- v) noted that the promotion of sustainable agriculture and food systems, which are specific to each national context, can be a source of new opportunities for economic development and new employment, insofar as it can boost major technological innovations, public and private investment, human capital development, research and improvements to policies and regulations;
- vi) recalled the commitments made by countries for the 2030 Agenda, including environmental agreements, such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, Conventions on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) (Rotterdam and Stockholm), the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, and in particular the Paris Agreement; and
- vii) highlighted the important role played by FAO in facilitating access to sources of external funding, which is essential for advancing the region’s environmental and climate agenda of agriculture and food systems.

25. The Regional Conference recommended that FAO:

- i) support Members who request it to:
 - a) increase productivity and the sustainable production of crops, livestock, fisheries, aquaculture, and forestry, to facilitate consumer access to healthy food, to continue contributing to world food security and to create jobs in rural and urban areas,

⁶ The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in its fifth report defines resilience as the ability of a system and its component parts to anticipate, absorb, accommodate, or recover from the effects of a hazardous event in a timely and efficient manner, including through ensuring the preservation, restoration, or improvement of its essential basic structures and functions.

contributing to the recovery from the crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic with a view to build back better;

- b) strengthen national services and international cooperation for the prevention of plant and animal pests and diseases of economic importance, such as coffee rust, banana *fusarium*, frosty pod rot, the South American locust, zoonotic diseases, transboundary animal diseases such as African swine fever, and all other diseases that may affect agrifood production, as well as promoting regulations and practices that are based on science and evidence and foster the prudent and responsible use of antimicrobial agents in food production, in the framework of the One Health approach, which recognizes the interconnectedness of human, animal and ecosystems health;
- c) fulfil the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) on agriculture and the rural sector as well as other commitments of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), for mitigation and adaptation to climate change, as appropriate and where possible, through the development of intersectoral transformation strategies adapted to the contexts, priorities and capacities of the different countries and territories and considering common but differentiated responsibilities (CBDR);
- d) strengthen the voluntary regional collaboration mechanism in agriculture and climate change for countries within Latin America and the Caribbean as Secretary of the Platform for Climate Action in Agriculture (PLACA);
- e) strengthen collaboration between the public and private sectors and facilitate dialogue in order to advance towards sustainable and resilient systems by: (i) better intersectoral, public-private and rural-urban coordination, aligning objectives and promoting mutual benefits; (ii) generating information to support national decisions and the fulfilment of international agreements; (iii) safeguarding traditional knowledge; and (iv) mobilizing the required resources and investments;
- f) promote the development and effective use of risk monitoring and early warning and early action mechanisms that reduce losses and damage to the agricultural sector for climate disasters and phytosanitary threats that increase the resilience of farmers and disaster risk reduction;
- g) strengthen work on disaster risk management, a topic of great importance for the region, to ensure the resilience of livelihoods and of the agrifood system including through mechanisms for risk prevention and early action and risk transfer products for smallholders, in the framework of comprehensive disaster risk management strategies and recognizing that the impact of adverse events affect men and women in different ways and require specific responses;
- h) support the incorporation of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation in agricultural sector strategies, especially for Caribbean SIDS, as part of work to promote sustainable and resilient food systems in a context of increased exposure to climate and disasters risks, which are aggravated by existing vulnerabilities;
- i) strengthen conservation, restoration and the sustainable use of biodiversity in agriculture, in line with the FAO strategy for mainstreaming biodiversity across agricultural sectors as well as promoting High-Level Regional Dialogue on Integration of Biodiversity in Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DRANIBA);
- j) develop actions to promote Blue Growth, on the understanding that these aim to promote the sustainable use of aquatic resources, towards economic growth, improvement of people's lives and job creation and ecosystems conservation, in accordance with multilateral trade rules, including artisanal fisheries and aquaculture;
- k) prevent and combat illegal, undeclared and unregulated (IUU) fishing, based on relevant international instruments such as the Agreement on Port State Measures (PSMA), the development of capacities for monitoring, fisheries management and data collection, as well as raising public awareness about the role of the different actors in this context,

discouraging the consumption of products that come from IUU fishing, and furthermore continue providing technical support in the framework of the ongoing negotiations in the WTO on fisheries subsidies and in the framework of the mandate conferred by the Members;

- l) strengthen the sustainability of fishery and aquaculture resources through the planning, conservation, production and trade of fish products, as well as efforts aimed at combatting the negative effects of climate change in the sector;
- m) support coastal communities in taking measures for resilience and adaptation and adopt new techniques to address the rise of the sea level and saline intrusion and initiate the development of voluntary technical guidelines to facilitate the speedy adoption of best practices to help fishers, aquaculturists and coastal communities to adapt to ocean warming;
- n) continue work on promoting conservation, efficient use of water and the management of water shortages, as well as access to and sustainable management of the resource, in the context of increased frequencies and intensity of droughts, floods, saline intrusion and other threats that are exacerbated by climate change;
- o) work on to restoration of forest landscape, conservation and increase of forest coverage, including urban forests and agroforestry and silvopastoral systems, considering indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants, and recognizing the role of forests and trees outside of forest for mitigation and adaptation to climate change, and continue supporting countries in the design and implementation of strategies to reduce emissions caused by deforestation and forest degradation (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (REDD+));
- p) revitalize regional networks on the management of forest fire risks and promoting management strategies for fire risks, including prevention, preparation, response and rehabilitation, the use of technology and innovation, both at a national and community level, and reinforce capacities for data collection, assessment and reporting damages and losses caused by forest fires;
- q) boost the large-scale adoption of technological innovations in agriculture and food systems to make them more productive, sustainable and resilient;
- r) support family farming and rural micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) to increase their competitiveness, sustainability, and resilience;
- s) reduce the impact of environmental crises, including climate change, with special focus on family farming, indigenous peoples, rural women, vulnerable communities and SIDS, promoting their inclusion and empowerment in the use of new practices, technologies and innovations;
- t) reduce the impact of economic and social crises, including the deterioration of terms of trade, debt crises and crises due to the drop of remittances, in the countries' efforts to achieve food security and nutrition;
- u) continue working with the private sector, a major source of investment and technological innovation and an important actor for the implementation of the necessary changes in the agricultural sector as well as with civil society and the scientific and academic worlds; and
- v) access environmental and climate funding, without excluding any category of country, and mobilize private investment to contribute to the achievement of SDG 6 "Clean water and sanitation", SDG 12 "Responsible production and consumption", SDG 13 "Climate action", SDG 14 "Life below water", and SDG 15 "Life on land". of the 2030 Agenda.

III. Programme and Budget Matters

Results and priorities for FAO in the Latin America and Caribbean region

26. The Regional Conference:

- i) welcomed the work undertaken and completed in the region during the 2018-2019 biennium, and the achievements in response to the priorities and recommendations defined by the 35th Session of the FAO Regional Conference;
- ii) expressed satisfaction with the increase in expenditures for programme implementation, noting that voluntary contributions for 2018-2019 were 35 percent higher than the previous biennium, and that, in addition, FAO supported the mobilization of USD 1.2 billion in investments;
- iii) supported the reformulation of Regional Initiatives (RI) and requested that RI 1 be named “*Sustainable food systems to provide healthy diets for all*”; RI 2, “*Hand-in-Hand towards prosperous and inclusive rural societies*”; and RI 3, “*Sustainable and climate resilient agriculture*” for the 2020-2021 biennium, based on major trends and challenges in the region, and building on achievements of the 2018-2019 biennium;
- iv) supported the new Hand-in-Hand Initiative, through which FAO will support country-led and country-owned decision-making based on objective data, to promote sustainable agriculture and rural development to eradicate poverty (SDG 1), and end hunger and all forms of malnutrition (SDG 2);
- v) highlighted the importance of strengthening partnerships, in particular with the private sector, cooperatives, small producers and food enterprises, food suppliers and consumers, the scientific and academic world, adhering to the common frameworks, guidance and good practices of the United Nations system;
- vi) noted the emphasis on leaving no one behind and the establishment of an office for SIDS, Least Developed Countries (LDC) and Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDC), consolidating the Organization’s support to meet the particular needs of these vulnerable populations and countries;
- vii) recognized the importance of FAO’s Strategic Framework in providing direction for the FAO’s technical work and took note of the arrangements regarding the process of its review to guide FAO’s future strategic direction and to promote the efficient and effective achievement of results on the ground;
- viii) highlighted the importance of the 2030 Agenda and appreciated the further anchoring of the new Strategic Framework in the SDGs;
- ix) appreciated that the Country Programming Frameworks (CPFs), led and owned by countries, are FAO’s planning and programming tool at country level, and set the basis for FAO’s country-level prioritization and overall medium-term programming at country level, to be aligned to the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks, within the context of the reform of the United Nations system; and
- x) acknowledged the importance of plant health and the need to address the issues through the One Health approach, highlighting the work of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) in protecting the world’s plant resources from the introduction and spread of pests and diseases, in order to preserve food security and biodiversity and facilitate trade. In this regard, it requested FAO to strengthen and enhance the visibility of the IPPC’s Secretariat within the Organization.

27. The Regional Conference recommended that FAO:

- i) continue organizing its support to Members from Latin America and the Caribbean around three RI so that they may achieve the Strategic Objectives and advance towards the

achievement of the 2030 Agenda, focusing efforts on the agrifood and nutrition sector, rural populations and sustainable development, and in particular, to:

- a) support measures and investments aimed at creating sustainable food systems, which is essential for achieving the 2030 Agenda, and especially SDG 2 “Zero hunger”, SDG 5 “Gender equality”, SDG 9 “Industry, innovation and infrastructure”, SDG 12 “Responsible production and consumption” and SDG 14 “Life below water” through RI 1 “*sustainable food systems to provide healthy diets for all,*” providing support and mobilization of resources and public and private investment to countries in the region, upon request, to transform their food systems, in accordance with national contexts, priorities and capacities, focusing on increasing food supply and physical access to healthy diets for all as well as facilitating economic access, information and consumption habits to achieve healthier diets by applying the principle of leaving no one behind;
- b) promote economic growth and sustainable and resilient production accompanied by social inclusion policies, which is essential for achieving the 2030 Agenda and in particular SDG 1 “No poverty”, SDG 2 “Zero hunger”, SDG 4 “Quality education”, SDG 5 “Gender equality”, SDG 8 “Decent work and economic growth”, SDG 10 “Reduced inequalities”, SDG 14 “Life below water” and SDG 17 “Partnerships to achieve the goals”, through RI 2 “*Hand-in-Hand towards prosperous and inclusive rural societies,*” highlighting the Hand-in-Hand Initiative as an important instrument, and focusing on eradicating extreme poverty and ending hunger in lagging territories with emphasis on productive inclusiveness and the creation of new opportunities in rural territories;
- c) support Members in increasing the sustainability and resilience of agriculture and food systems, as well as producers, communities and land and sea ecosystems to environmental, social and economic crises, in order to advance towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and, in particular to achieve SDG 1 “No poverty”, SDG 2 “Zero hunger”, SDG 5 “Gender equality”, SDG 6 “Clean water and sanitation”, SDG 12 “Responsible production and consumption”, SDG 13 “Climate action”, SDG 14 “Life below water” and SDG 15 “Life on land”, through RI 3 “*Sustainable and climate resilient agriculture*”;
- ii) prioritize the Organization’s work on strengthening gender approaches, the inclusion of indigenous and tribal peoples, youth and resilience in the Organization’s work, praising it for its achievements so far;
- iii) apply a coherent approach to SIDS to empower their communities in the Global Action Programme on Food Security and Nutrition in SIDS;
- iv) consider scientific foundations exclusively in its recommendations and policy guidelines; and
- v) prioritize in its Strategic Framework:
 - a) access of small-scale producers to innovation, information and technical assistance;
 - b) prevention, early warning, control and eradication of animal and plant pests and diseases;
 - c) an integrated approach between urban and rural food environments;
 - d) recognition of contributions of sustainable agricultural, livestock, fisheries, aquaculture and forestry practices to achieve the SDGs; and
 - e) promotion of sustainable agricultural practices, in accordance with national capacities, priorities and contexts.

Improving FAO's capacities to serve Members in Latin America and the Caribbean

28. The Regional Conference:

- i) considered that the proposal to perfect the operational model of FAO in Latin America and the Caribbean will allow the streamlining of internal processes to support Members in achieving the 2030 Agenda, and economic and social recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, through the following key improvements:
 - a) adopt a programmatic approach integrating normative, technical, operational, investment and policy support, creating multidisciplinary technical groups to improve the quality, efficiency and effectiveness of technical assistance to Members and ensuring coordination with national programmes and institutions;
 - b) review regional structures in line with the changes introduced in headquarters, without incurring additional costs, to increase quality, opportunity and effectiveness of support to FAO Representations in member countries, fostering collaboration and 'breaking down the silos' between regional, subregional and national teams and units;
 - c) review the structure of the country office network to optimize the presence of the Organization at national level;
 - d) recognize the fundamental importance of partnerships and alliances, especially in the development of legal instruments and cooperation frameworks – Hand-in-Hand Initiative, South-South and Triangular Cooperation, Parliamentary Fronts against Hunger - to jointly offer integrated solutions to government priorities that benefit from local knowledge and generate opportunities for strengthening national capacities in SDG 17 "Partnerships for the goals", especially consultation and development of cooperation strategies between cooperation agencies and international finance, South-South and Triangular Cooperation with the private sector, academics and civil society.

29. The Regional Conference recommended that FAO:

- i) improve monitoring, evaluation and knowledge management, including through the use of impact indicators and results, to value and put into use knowledge gained from a variety of sources such as project implementation, policy dialogues, experiences of community of practices, project monitoring reports, independent evaluations and FAO knowledge products;
- ii. strengthen the legal and institutional frameworks for South-South and Triangular Cooperation and increase the mobilization of resources to respond to the needs of Members and growing requirements and, with the cooperation of regional and global financial institutions, promote investments within the framework of SDG 2 "Zero hunger" and SDG 17 "Partnerships for the goals";
- iii. strengthen FAO governance at regional level, in particular the role of the Regional Conference, in guiding the Organization's actions to strengthen its national programmes and technical assistance, especially in view of contributing to coordinated and integrated approaches for the achievement of the SDGs in the context of the repositioning of the United Nations Development System;
- iv. review the consultation process for the future reformulation or drafting of RIs, to include a formal, inclusive and transparent review authority with the governments of Members before submitting them to the Regional Conference for approval;
- v. strengthen the Technical Cooperation Programme and its use as a catalytic and pre-investment instrument for achieving results that lead to large scale impacts and effects, as it is a key tool through which the Organization disseminates knowledge on normative nature and implements operations through its Decentralized Offices Network;
- vi. review the criteria for the distribution of Technical Cooperation Programme resources between the various regions, which recognize the multidimensional nature of poverty and not only criteria based on income; and

- vii. establish, expand and facilitate the administrative and fiduciary decentralization of FAO and strengthen capacities at national, subregional and regional levels, required in the region to improve the quality, efficiency and effectiveness of FAO projects, *inter alia*, creating thematic technical networks of excellence, with the flexibility to accommodate the region's configuration and geographical setting and with due regard to the specific needs of each Member.

Innovation and digital agriculture

30. The Regional Conference:

- i) welcomed FAO's commitment to strengthening national strategies and systems for agrifood innovation, as well as the importance accorded to digital innovation; and
- ii) highlighted the importance of stimulating policies to scale up the use of digital tools in food systems, crop production, livestock, fisheries, aquaculture and forestry, rural development and the management of climate and sanitary risks, in particular among small- and medium-sized family farmers and poor and vulnerable rural communities, leveraging their potential for inclusive and sustainable development.

31. The Regional Conference recommended that FAO:

- i) promote exchanges of experience and coordination among Members supporting them in actively participating in the International Platform for Digital Food and Agriculture approved at the Hundred and Sixty-fourth Session of the Council, to realize the potential of digital technology to improve food systems and strengthen regional and international cooperation with due regard to data protection issues;
- ii) support Members upon request in capacity development, institutional reform, governance, monitoring and evaluation, impact assessment, and related activities to improve effectiveness, efficiency and the inclusiveness of investments and agricultural innovation systems;
- iii) promote specific programmes for technological innovation in agriculture and food in the region, creating conditions to facilitate access for rural youth and women to new technologies and funding mechanisms, highlighting their role as vectors of innovation in rural areas;
- iv) prioritize support for regional and national programmes that promote research, technology and innovation in agriculture, food systems and rural development, to achieve large-scale effects, with special focus on associativity and on identifying new partnerships and alliances for public-private research, new funding mechanisms and new research, technology and innovation policies to promote new investment; and
- v) contribute effectively to the 2030 Agenda commitment of leaving no one behind, focusing digital innovations on more inclusive growth, and address technology gaps within the rural areas and the restrictions that producers, micro, small and medium enterprises and rural households face in participating in technological innovation processes.

Summary of the recommendations of regional commissions

32. The Regional Conference:

- i) reaffirmed FAO's role in the technical secretariats of the Regional Commissions. It endorsed the recommendations of the Latin American and Caribbean Forestry Commission (LACFC), Commission on Livestock Development for Latin America and the Caribbean (CLDLAC), Commission for Small-scale and Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture of Latin America and the Caribbean (COPPECAALC), Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC) and the FAO/OAS/CIE/IICA Working Group on Agricultural and Livestock

Statistics for Latin America and the Caribbean which are contained in information document LARC/20/INF/10⁷;

- ii) called for regular meetings of Regional Commissions to be held no later than the second semester of the second year of the biennium, so that the recommendations and technical decisions can be addressed in time and adequately for the Regional Conferences during sessions.

Multi-year Programme of Work for the Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean

33. The Regional Conference supported the Multi-year Programme of Work 2020-2023 and insisted on regular and systematic reviews on the performance and efficiency, with the expectation of receiving a full report at its 37th Session.

IV. Other Matters

International Year of Plant Health (IYPH)

34. The Regional Conference noted the measures adopted by FAO for the IYPH and recognized the fundamental role played by FAO and the IPPC and urged Members to participate in the International Year activities and support the International Year of Plant Health.

Committee on World Food Security (CFS)

35. The Regional Conference recognized the singular character of the CFS as a platform for multiple stakeholders and invited Members to consider national and regional applications of CFS instruments and policy recommendations.

36. The Regional Conference highlighted the importance of continuing negotiations for developing the Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition at the 47th Session of the CFS in February 2021 and invited Members to participate in the development of the CFS Multi-year Programme of Work 2020-2023.

United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition and follow-up to the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2)

37. The Regional Conference noted the mid-term review of the Decade and highlighted the region's leadership in boosting regional action networks and in preparations for the International Year of Fruits and Vegetables to be held in 2021.

Updating the Vision and Strategy for FAO's Work on Nutrition

38. The Regional Conference noted the progress made in updating the vision and strategy for FAO's work on nutrition and related processes.

Measuring food loss and waste using the assessment methodology of food loss

39. The Regional Conference noted FAO initiatives to support countries in compiling data for tracking progress, substantiating policies and measures to reduce food loss and waste and achieve target 12.3 of SDG 12 "Responsible production and consumption."

⁷ LARC/20/INF/10 "Summary of the recommendations of the regional commissions" available at <http://www.fao.org/about/meetings/regional-conferences/larc36/documents/en>

Alliances for development in Latin America and the Caribbean: Instruments to find and share solutions and mobilize resources

40. The Regional Conference noted the dynamism demonstrated in South-South and Triangular Cooperation and the partnerships set up by FAO with civil society, the private sector, academia, scientific research and technology institutions, the agencies of the United Nations system and other resource partners.

41. The Regional Conference noted the main results, difficulties and lessons learned from the assessments of the FAO Office of Evaluation, including the conclusion that the Organization's contribution had been considerable and extremely valuable, and that FAO is valued for its technical experience, its capacity of benefitting from a wide network of specialists, knowledge sources and resources, and that it is viewed as an honest intermediary and a neutral and trustworthy partner.

Date and place of the 37th Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean

42. The Regional Conference welcomed the generous offer by the Government of the Republic of Ecuador to host the 37th Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean to be held in 2022 and recommended that the offer be accepted.

APPENDIX A**Agenda****I. Introductory items**

- 1) Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons, and Appointment of the Rapporteur
- 2) Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable
- 3) Statements:
 - Statement by the Director-General
 - Statement by the Independent Chairperson of the Council
 - Statement by the Chairperson of the 35th Session of the Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean
 - Statement by the Chairperson of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS)
 - Statement by the spokesperson for the Civil Society Consultation
 - Statement by the spokesperson for the Private Sector Consultation
 - Statement by the spokesperson for the Parliamentary Fronts against Hunger
 - Statement by the spokesperson for the Scientific and Academic Committee
- 4) Review and Adoption of the Regional Conference Report

Regional and Global Policy and Regulatory Matters

- 5) Transforming food systems for healthy diets for all
- 6) Hand-in-Hand towards prosperous and inclusive rural societies
- 7) Sustainable and climate-resilient agriculture
- 8) Improving FAO's capacities to serve member countries in Latin America and the Caribbean
- 9) Innovation and Digital Agriculture
- 10) Coronavirus (COVID-19) update and adjustments to FAO's regional priorities to address impact on food security and nutrition, and food systems

II. Achievements and New Priorities in the Region**Programme and Budget Matters**

- 11) Results and priorities for FAO in the Latin America and the Caribbean Region

III. Other Matters

- 12) Date and venue of the 37th Session of the Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean

APPENDIX B**List of documents**

<http://www.fao.org/about/meetings/regional-conferences/larc36/documents/en/>

Symbol	Title
LARC/20/1 Rev.2	Provisional Annotated Agenda
LARC/20/2	Transforming food systems for healthy diets for all
LARC/20/3	Hand-in-Hand towards prosperous and inclusive rural societies
LARC/20/4	Sustainable and climate resilient agriculture
LARC/20/5	Results and priorities for FAO in the Latin America and the Caribbean Region
LARC/20/5 WA1	Overview of FAO's Strategic Objectives Programme
LARC/20/5 WA2	Contribution of Results in the Latin America and the Caribbean Region to FAO Strategic Objectives in the 2018-2019 Biennium
LARC/20/5 WA3	FAO Country Planning and Programming in the context of repositioning the United Nations development system
LARC/20/5 WA4	Corporate Outcome Assessment (2019) Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Results
LARC/20/5 WA5	Update on the development of the new Strategic Framework
LARC/20/6	Decentralized Offices Network
LARC/20/7	Multi-year Programme of Work (MYPOW) for the Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean
LARC/20/8	Improving FAO's capacities to serve member countries in Latin America and the Caribbean
LARC/20/9	Innovation and Digital Agriculture
LARC/20/10	COVID-19 update and adjustments to FAO's regional priorities to address impact on food security and nutrition, and food systems
INF Series	
Symbol	Title
LARC/20/INF/1	Information Note

LARC/20/INF/2 Rev.2	Provisional Timetable
LARC/20/INF/3 Rev.2	Provisional list of documents
LARC/20/INF/4	Statement by the Director-General
LARC/20/INF/5	Statement by the Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council
LARC/20/INF/6	Statement by the Chairperson of the 35th Session of the Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean
LARC/20/INF/7	Statement by the Chairperson of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS)
LARC/20/INF/8	International Year of Plant Health (IYPH) 2020
LARC/20/INF/9	The Committee on World Food Security (CFS): Promoting Food Security and Nutrition through Partnership and Policy Convergence
LARC/20/INF/10	Summary of the Recommendations of the Regional Commissions
LARC/20/INF/11	Agricultural trade of the Latin America and the Caribbean region: status, challenges and opportunities
LARC/20/INF/12	Development partnerships in Latin America and the Caribbean: tools to identify and share solutions and mobilize resources
LARC/20/INF/13	United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition and Follow-up to the Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2)
LARC/20/INF/14	Update of the Vision and Strategy for FAO's Work in Nutrition
LARC/20/INF/15	Food Loss and Waste Measurement linked to the Food Loss Analysis Methodology
LARC/20/INF/16	UN Food Systems Summit
LARC/20/INF/17	FAO's Hand-in-Hand Initiative: a New Approach
LARC/20/INF/18	Synthesis of FAO evaluations 2014-2019 in Latin America and the Caribbean
LARC/20/INF/19	Statement by the spokesperson for the Civil Society Consultation
LARC/20/INF/20	Statement by the spokesperson for the Private Sector Consultation
LARC/20/INF/21	Statement by the spokesperson for the Parliamentary Fronts against Hunger
LARC/20/INF/22	Statement by the spokesperson for the Academic and Scientific Committee