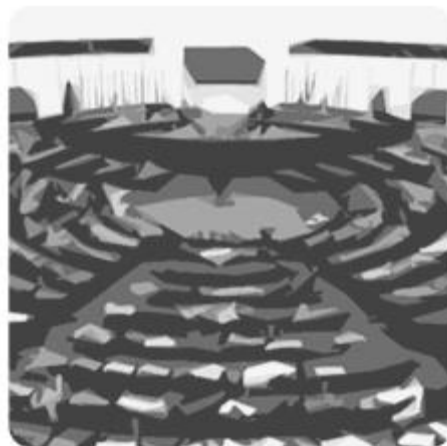


DECLARATION

V Forum of the Parliamentary Front Against Hunger in Latin America and the Caribbean



**V FORUM OF THE PARLIAMENTARY
FRONT AGAINST HUNGER**
Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic
November 5 and 6, 2014



V FORUM OF THE PARLIAMENTARY FRONT AGAINST HUNGER IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

DECLARATION

We, the adherents of the Declaration of the Fifth Forum of the Parliamentary Front against Hunger in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic on November 5 and 6, with the ultimate objective of contributing from the legislative bodies we represent to the task of eradicating hunger and malnutrition in Latin America and the Caribbean, firstly acknowledge:

That more than 37 million people in Latin America and the Caribbean are suffering from hunger, a high percentage of who are involved in small scale agriculture, small-scale fisheries and the aquaculture industry.

More than nine million suffering chronic malnutrition are children under the age of five. Together with women and people with disabilities are the sectors of the population that require priority attention.

That undernourishment coexists with other forms of malnutrition, such as overweight, obesity and anemia resulting from inadequate eating habits brought on by the excessive consumption of overly processed foods with high sodium, sugar and fat content and other substances that in excessive consumption are harmful, depriving the population from adequately satisfying the food and nutrition requirements needed to lead a healthy life.

That the population of most Latin American and Caribbean countries do not have adequate physical and cultural access to toxic-free, nutritional food, in spite of the fact that the region's farming, small-scale fisheries and aquaculture sectors have the capability of providing enough food for the entire population.

That Latin America and the Caribbean could potentially eradicate hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition if the necessary social, productive and environmental conditions are generated through legal and policy frameworks to ensure the sustainable development of agri-food with a human rights-based approach to food sovereignty.

That the right to food is realized when it is physically, socially and economically accessible to all at all times, is sufficient in quantity and quality, and is culturally acceptable.

That food and nutrition insecurity is a multidimensional and cross-cutting issue where aspects associated with family farming (which includes small-scale fisheries and the aquaculture sector), malnutrition and school meals programs -all of which were addressed at this Fifth Forum- are closely related and in which there is considerable experience and lessons learned in the region.

Bearing in mind

That the **Parliamentary Front against Hunger** made a commitment when it was created in Panama City on September 3 and 4, 2009, to create a Working Group to ensure the permanence of the parliamentary struggle against hunger.

That the members of Congress who met in Rome prior to the 2009 **World Summit on Food Security** declared that “as members of parliament, we play a key role in finding solutions to the problem of hunger (...) and there are many things that we parliamentarians can do, such as adopt legal frameworks and laws to protect the right to food”. As a consequence, our region is undergoing a process of discussion and approval of law reforms aimed at eliminating hunger in the region such as, for example, the approval of the Right to Food, Food Security and Food Sovereignty Framework Law by the PARLATINO.

That at the **First Forum of the Parliamentary Front against Hunger** held in Sao Paulo, Brazil, in March 2010, a Declaration was signed and a Steering Committee created to ensure the implementation and compliance of the agreements reached at this forum, including a particular reference to the importance of Food Sovereignty.

That at the **Second Forum of the Parliamentary Front against Hunger** held in Bogotá, Colombia, in June 2011, we made a commitment to promote the approval of budgets to officially recognize the right to food and recommended that the data and indicators used to monitor the regional, national and local outcomes of hunger and poverty-fighting policies be improved.

That at the **Third Forum of the Parliamentary Front against Hunger** held in Guatemala City, Guatemala, in August 2012, we made a commitment to promote legislation to facilitate the implementation of public policies that promote the realization of the human right to food in all of Latin America and the Caribbean.

That at the **Fourth Forum of the Parliamentary Front against Hunger** held in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, in September 2013, we made a commitment to promote the development of participatory political processes placing particular emphasis on social inclusion, ensuring that the necessary political dialogue is generated to facilitate cross-sector integration for the promotion of legal frameworks and policies capable of addressing the agri-food challenges we currently face.

That the Parliamentary Front against Hunger is part of the commitment made by countries in the region in support of the **Latin America and the Caribbean without Hunger Initiative**, which since its inception has received the backing of Spain and Brazil and of new South-South cooperation programs headed by Mexico under the Mesoamerica without Hunger program, and Venezuela under the Petrocaribe – ALBA program to fight hunger.

That, given how vitally important family farms are for eradicating hunger and malnutrition, 2014 was declared by the United Nations General Assembly **International Year of Family Farming, which includes small-scale fisheries and the aquaculture industry**. The development of the national and regional institutional frameworks to strengthen family farms is considered one of its pillars.

That malnutrition is an issue that has drawn the attention of specialized international organizations and political and social actors around the world who will meet in Rome, Italy, at the **Second International Conference on Nutrition**, from November 19 to 21.

That school feeding programs are considered an effective tool in the struggle against hunger and other forms of malnutrition, and for promoting healthy eating habits.

And that eradicating hunger and malnutrition is an essential and urgent goal that requires the involvement and commitment of all sectors of society.

Therefore,

WE REAFFIRM THE COMMITMENTS MADE AT THE PREVIOUS FOUR FORA OF THE PARLIAMENTARY FRONT AGAINST HUNGER AND DECLARE THE FOLLOWING:

1. Acknowledging that family farming (which includes small-scale fisheries and the aquaculture industry) as well as peasant, indigenous, associative, urban and community-based farming, underpinned by government policies for the full development of their potential to produce healthy food under conditions of decent employment and respect for the environment, are part of the solution to hunger and malnutrition-related problems in our continent, we recommend:
 - That the development of legislative frameworks recognizing the human right to culturally adequate and healthy food, and of public policies aimed at strengthening family farming as well as peasant and community-based farming be promoted, in line with the institutional and political conditions of each country. For this, it is important to take into consideration the progress already made in countries as well as regional and sub-regional parliaments such as PARLATINO, PARLANDINO and PARLACEN.
 - Moving toward coordinating the agendas of the social organizations, government executive agendas and parliamentary agendas in order to define and implement well-grounded public policies to fight hunger and malnutrition at a regional level.
 - Defining, identifying and surveying all family farms, focusing on their productive, geographic, ethnic and cultural diversity, to ensure that policies targeting family farms, which include small-scale fisheries and the aquaculture industry, benefit all their members. To achieve this, the development of a family farming registry is considered good practice for the formulation of differentiated policies.
 - Linking family farming within the framework of rural development with comprehensive educational, health, sports and cultural programs, thus contributing to the solution of problems associated with overpopulation in the bigger cities.
 - Strengthening family farming within the framework of balanced and sustainable rural development, sports, health and cultural programs, thus contributing to the solution of problems associated with overpopulation in the bigger cities and rural-to-urban center migration.

- Securing the resources and budget necessary to ensure differentiated and binding public policies for family farming, which includes small-scale fisheries and the aquaculture industry.
 - Facilitating public sector procurement from family farms, which include small-scale fisheries and the aquaculture industry.
 - Facilitating access to funding, loans and farm insurance under favourable terms and conditions
 - Promoting national extensionist strategies for family farming, with a particular focus on the transfer of technology aimed at fostering innovation and increasing production, underpinning the agro-ecological and sustainable production of the means of production of family farmers.
 - Developing specific programs aimed at strengthening the role of women and youth in family farming and of rural women in particular through access to low cost credit.
 - Strengthening the sustainable agro-ecological production of the family farmers' means of production.
 - Fostering and strengthening farmer cooperatives and associations in order to facilitate their market integration.
 - Encouraging the participation of grassroots, citizens and farmer organizations as well as cooperatives and other types of associations in policy-building processes.
2. **Acknowledging the fundamental role and influence parliamentary fronts against hunger play in building inclusive, healthy and sustainable agri-food systems, we have agreed to promote the development of legislative and policy frameworks aimed at fostering healthy eating habits that will ultimately lead to the eradication of hunger and malnutrition, and recommend:**
- That food advertising be regulated, ensuring that the media contribute toward promoting healthy eating habits and lifestyles by avoiding food with high salt, sugar and fat content and other substances that consumed in excess are harmful, placing particular attention to comprehensible food product labelling.
 - That the right of consumers to information be regulated to ensure that the nutritional content on food labeling is adequate and intelligible.
 - That the supply of safe, healthy and locally-produced food be reinforced, as well as food and nutrition education in schools and at all levels of society.
 - That scientific rigor be taken into consideration when developing standards to regulate nutrition-related aspects, and that strategic partnerships be promoted with prestigious universities and independent research institutions that produce reliable and permanent information on the subject.
 - That institutions and mechanisms for monitoring activities with high nutritional impact be strengthened, in line with the institutional reality of each country.
 - That the resources and budget necessary to ensure the sustainability over time of these public policies aimed at ensuring healthy diets and lifestyles be guaranteed.

- That state subsidies focus on promoting healthy food and restricting access to unhealthy food.
 - That programs aimed at progressively reducing the use of agrochemicals and the production of organic foods be promoted.
 - That nutrition education be promoted at all levels of society.
 - That comprehensive policy frameworks and programs to ensure the building of a paradigm that emphasizes health and healthy lifestyles be promoted, transforming public policies into sustainable health models.
 - That programs promoting breastfeeding and the protection of maternity and post-natal care -which have an impact on early childhood nutrition- be developed.
 - That platforms for dialogue and concerted action on this issue be created so that all stakeholders, i.e., civil society, including national and international consumer networks, the private sector, the media and the State, take on the responsibility of developing policies with a focus on public health.
3. **With regard to the Second International Conference on Nutrition to be held November 19 to 21 in Rome, Italy, the Fourth Forum of the Parliamentary Front against Hunger in Latin America and the Caribbean has agreed to submit for consideration the points covered in this declaration at this event and advocate the adoption of comprehensive and binding agreements that will prompt the development of international regulatory frameworks to guarantee adequate nutrition that can serve as a reference for the formulation of national policy frameworks.**
4. **In promoting the development of legislative frameworks and public policies to strengthen school meals programs that include the sustainability elements that emerge from the agreements reached at regional fora on the subject, we place particular emphasis on:**
- The important role education plays in creating eating habits, as well as health, sanitary and safety criteria.
 - Continuing to move forward on the constitutional right to school meals.
 - Ensuring a human rights approach to food and nutrition in school meal programs, policies and legislative frameworks that point toward universal and systematic coverage.
 - Taking into consideration regional and sub-regional framework laws that provide guidelines on the matter, such as those formulated by PARLATINO and FOPREL, since they can become useful tools in the formulation of regulatory policies for school meals program.
 - Strengthening government mechanisms for procuring products from family farmers, which includes small-scale fisheries and the aquaculture industry, for school meals programs, establishing minimum quotas as per the conditions in each country.
 - Considering the elements of sustainability that have been developed with regional experts (particularly food and nutrition education, direct procurement from family farms and nutritional appropriateness).

- The links these policies have with educational, health, water, social development, and family and local farming policies, establishing the institutional framework necessary to support school meals programs with the participation of families and the community.
- Developing these policy and legislative frameworks collectively, particularly with governments, civil society and the academic community.
- The allocation of financial resources for the development of school meals programs, striving for universal coverage through the various funding mechanisms available, including the option of earmarked taxes.
- The creation of regulatory and social participation mechanisms.
- Generating inclusive governance and territorial plans to strengthen national school meals systems, including participatory cross-sectoral mechanisms. The experience gathered in the region in terms of the inter-ministerial councils that have been created for this purpose is considered extremely valuable.

Furthermore, the Fourth Forum of the Parliamentary Front against Hunger:

Reaffirms the important role local government bodies play in defining strategies and implementing programs aimed at achieving food and nutrition security among the population. The Parliamentary Front against Hunger calls on all countries to promote territorial governance systems for food and nutrition security in line with the decentralization process each country is undergoing, where local government structures also play a fundamental role.

Reaffirms the importance of universal coverage of income transfer programs targeting families with boys, girls and youth vulnerable to food and nutrition insecurity.

Proposes as a topic for discussion and necessary debate the possible change in name of the Parliamentary Front Against Hunger.

Underscores the need to engage organized civil society in legislative and institutional processes to give them legitimacy and to ensure inclusive governance and the effectiveness of these policies.

Commends the Andean Parliament's declaration supporting the Front and the creation of the Parliamentary Front within this legislative body, as well as the creation of the Peruvian chapter of the Parliamentary Front against Hunger.

Welcomes the presence of Angola at the Fourth Forum. The Front supports the food and nutrition security strategy-building process and the participatory governance systems that the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries are currently developing. We reaffirm our commitment and support to this initiative and call on all parliamentarians from this community to participate in this process.

Commends the participation for the first time of members of the Spanish Parliament at the Forum of the Parliamentary Front against Hunger, and expresses the desire that this will provide us the opportunity to establish closer ties between parliaments and our work together

to strengthen the processes of cooperation and exchange in this joint struggle against hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition.

Reaffirms the commitment to address the challenges that the post 2015 development agenda requires of us as an international community, and to engage in efforts to reinforce the Sustainable Development Goals.

Acknowledges the hard work and results of the MERCOSUR Special Meeting on Family Farming (REAF), which includes small-scale fisheries and the aquaculture industry, and the progress made by PARLATINO in the effective implementation of legislation and institutional platforms for dialogue and the formulation of public policies for family (which includes small-scale fisheries and the aquaculture industry), peasant, indigenous and community-based farming. The Forum thus suggests that concrete measures be taken to coordinate the respective agendas, with the understanding that REAF is a strategic partner in the fulfillment of its objectives to fight hunger and malnutrition.

Welcomes the universities gathered at the Fourth Meeting of the Right to Food Observatory held in San José, Costa Rica, November 6 and 7, and reaffirms the importance of working in coordination with the academic sector in the implementation of policies with a right-to-food approach.

Expresses its gratitude to the Integrated Portal on Food and Nutrition Security in Central America (PRESANCA II) of the Central American Integration System (SICA), and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), for their support in organizing the V Forum of the Parliamentary Front against Hunger.

Expresses its gratitude to the Dominican people, their authorities, and in particular the country's Congress, represented by the presidents of the Senate and Chamber of Deputies, for all their support, hospitality and commitment to this collective struggle, which has been an essential element in the success of this Forum.

Finally, we take note that on November 4, 2014, in the context of the meeting of the Extended Steering Committee, the following was approved:

1. The establishment of an Advisory Council with the mandate to give advice to the Extended Steering Committee on any issue it deems necessary.
2. The renewal of the Executive Coordinating Commission as follows:
 - Coordinator: María Augusta Calle, National Assembly member, Ecuador.
 - Vice-coordinator for Central America, Mexico and the Dominican Republic: Mario Marroquín, Member of Parliament, El Salvador.
 - Vice-coordinator for South America: Bertha Sanseverino, Member of Parliament, Uruguay.

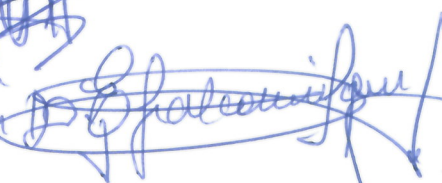
3. The Sixth Forum of the Parliamentary Front against Hunger will be held in Lima, Peru, in 2015 and will be organized with the support of the Peruvian chapter of the Parliamentary Front against Hunger, recommending that the issue of small-scale fisheries shall be addressed at the next PFH Forum.




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DE AMÉRICA LATINA Y EL CARIBE


DECLARACIÓN


Maria Ezequiel Sequeira Nicaragua 
Osvaldo Cruz Santos 

Pamela Falconi Loqui 

David Armando Reyes O. 


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DECLARACIÓN

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Marlyn Sánchez

Julia A. Sánchez

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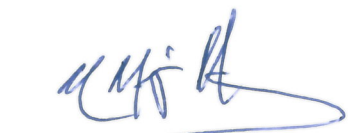
DECLARACIÓN


~~Janer Cambronero~~ Costa Rica
~~Marco A. Pineda~~ Guatemala
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~~Nelson~~ Nelson ~~Benitez~~ - Paraguay
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~~Abel~~ Abel Cabezas Barrera (El Salvador)
~~Luith~~ Luith Elizabeth Reyes




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El Salvador
Senador



Dip Ingrid
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LILIANA ARADA
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Olivia Argentina Valle Villalta


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José Luis Cardón
Parlatino - Uruguay

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Candida Jaquez Lebrón - Universidad RD

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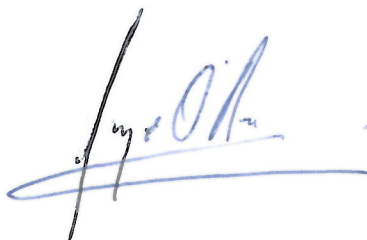
Luis Caciari  Presencia II El Hambre

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