

## DECLARATION OF THE VII FORUM OF THE PARLIAMENTARY FRONT AGAINST HUNGER IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN - MEXICO CITY

We, Members of the Parliaments and members of the Latin America and the Caribbean Parliamentary Front against Hunger (PFH), with the valuable participation of parliamentarians from Africa and Europe, gathered in Mexico City on November 9, 10 and 11, 2016, on the occasion of the 7<sup>th</sup> Forum of the Parliamentary Front against Hunger in Latin America and the Caribbean.

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### CONSIDERING

That the agenda of the States set the focus on the fight against hunger and malnutrition and on the food sovereignty of the nations, as it is stated in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and in its Goal 2 “End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture,” as well as in the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, which came into force on November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016; also, considering that in the Latin America and the Caribbean parliaments, laws on food and nutrition security and sovereignty have been approved and are under discussion.

That in the above-mentioned Agenda the legislative powers are crucial agents to end hunger and malnutrition, as it is reflected in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, when noting that the Members of the Parliaments perform a key role in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) by “enacting legislation, approving budgets, and ensuring accountability”.

That in the Special Declaration on the “Plan for Food Security, Nutrition and Hunger Eradication” of January 27, 2016, announced on the occasion of the IV Latin America and the Caribbean States Summit (CELAC) held in Quito, Ecuador, the Heads of State and Government of the region reaffirmed their commitment to the eradication of hunger and malnutrition, as an essential element in order to achieve sustainable development.

That the support for the Parliamentary Fronts against Hunger is expressed through numerous regional efforts, such as the Hunger-Free Latin America and the Caribbean Initiative; the Mesoamerica without hunger Programme; the PARLATINO-FAO Technical Cooperation Programme; the Central American and Dominican Republic Commission on Family Farming (CCAF) in the member states of the Central American Integration System (SICA).

That in the Political Declaration of the VI Forum of the Parliamentary Front against Hunger in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Lima, Peru from November 15 to 17, 2016, a call to all the PFH was made to continue legislating in order to make the human right to food effective, the development of sustainable agro-food systems, and the resilience of livelihoods, taking into account the effects of climate change and the strength of family farming.

## BEARING IN MIND:

The knowledge, strategies, and experiences that have had an effect on the success of the PFH and its consolidation, systematised in the annual planning, the audio-visual material, and the publications presented in this Forum to the members of the parliaments, civil society, and the academia among other actors.

All the declarations of the six previous PFH Forums, the resolutions and agreements reached during the IV PFH Planning Meeting held in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, on April 6, 7 and 8, 2016; the First Mesoamerican PFH Encounter, held in San Jose, Costa Rica, on August 24 and 25, 2016; and the International Forum on Climate Change and Food Security of the South American PFH.

## WE WILL CONTINUE WORKING ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF LEGAL FRAMEWORKS THAT PROMOTE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PUBLIC POLICIES AND THE PASSING OF BUDGETS THAT ENSURE THE FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY AND SOVEREIGNTY:

1. We will promote legal frameworks to end hunger and malnutrition, including framework laws in regional parliaments, such as PARLATINO, PARLACEN, and the Andean Parliament, covering various legislative subjects, such as health; education; economics; agriculture, fisheries, and aquaculture; social protection; human rights; gender; territorial development; environment and natural resources; among others.
2. We will contribute, from the parliaments, to strengthen the monitoring and tracking system of the Food and Nutrition Security in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as to develop comparative analysis of existing legislation to drive suitable laws.
3. We will work together with the Executive Powers, civil society, private sector, and the academia of our countries in order to contribute to the development of inter-agency public policies that aim at the convergence of social, productive, territorial, and environmental policies, considering a cross-cutting approach of participatory governance;
4. We will exercise our political oversight function to strengthen public service transparency and accountability systems in areas related to food and nutrition sovereignty and security.
5. We will promote measures of political overseeing in order to ensure the responsible and appropriate fiscal performance that guarantee a proper financing of policies and programs aimed at food and nutritional security and sovereignty, standing up for the suitable budget allocation and preventing cuts that affect the progressive realization of the human right to food, with full respect for the sovereignty of each country.
6. We will work together with budget-related commissions, making use of technical and political criteria, in order to ensure proper budgetary allocation, according to the economical capacities, to those programs that

affect food security and sovereignty, and with local legislative assemblies and local governments to ensure the allocation of resources, with a territorial perspective.

7. We will develop the necessary legislation in order to end hunger and malnutrition, considering the available financial and budgetary support required for its implementation.

**WE WILL CONTINUE PROMOTING APPROPRIATE NUTRITION AND HEALTHY EATING:**

1. The fight against overweight and obesity, especially for children and adolescents, will be a high priority in our legislative agenda; we will develop legal mechanisms oriented to give permanent access without interruption to healthy, nutritional, sustainable, assorted, and culturally suitable food to all the people, with emphasis on children, pregnant and breastfeeding women, elderly people, rural population, and indigenous communities among other priority groups.
2. We will propel legal and political frameworks that promote the development of sustainable and healthy agricultural and food systems, that seek the production of healthy, safe, assorted, and culturally suitable food, with special focus on the regulation of food for sale on the market through an informative and clear labelling that allows a proper exercise of the right to food by citizens.
3. We will develop legal instruments towards the implementation of public policies for promoting responsible food consumption, reduction of food waste during the consumption stage, and appropriate management of them; we will foster healthy diets, physical activity, and less consumption of ultra-processed food.

**WE WILL CONTINUE STRENGTHENING FAMILY, PEASANT-BASED, COMMUNITY, INDIGENOUS, AND AFRO-DESCENDANT AGRICULTURE TO END RURAL POVERTY:**

1. We will enhance the existing legislative frameworks and propel, when applicable, new regulations that strengthen family, peasant-based, community, indigenous, and afro-descendant agriculture as an strategic area for achieving food and nutrition security and sovereignty, developing mechanisms that ensure the appropriate financing of the sector, provision, short routes of local commercialization and public purchases of small-scale agriculture, access to water, the right of access to land, and the promotion of innovation for local food production and agricultural training, focusing on the rural woman.
2. We will promote differentiated productive, social, and agro-ecological policies to strengthen family farming due to the fact that we consider it as a productive sector that when counting with proper support, it can move away from subsistence situation and poverty; in this sense, we will seek the strategies of social and human development and of poverty reduction bring greater focus to the rural sector and to the indigenous communities and Afro-descendants, fostering social involvement and territorial development during its planning and implementation.

3. We will promote the ratification of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change in our countries, adopting the current legal frameworks and the existing institutions in order to a proper implementation of it; we will also require the polluting countries that integrate the Paris Agreement to take on commitments and obligations to reduce greenhouse gases (GHGs); we will develop legal instruments that allow the improvement of policies aimed at converging the agricultural and livestock productive development with the protection of the environment and biodiversity, for this purpose we will use existing instruments, such as the Voluntary Guidelines for Agro-Environmental Policies in Latin America and the Caribbean.
4. We will promote rural territorial development for the strength of small farming and environmental sustainability, since it is important when facing climate change, paying special attention to the protection of biodiversity by using existing binding and voluntary legal frameworks, such as the Paris Agreement and the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land and Forests.
5. We will focus efforts on actions that recognise the role of sustenance that vulnerable groups; such as women, youth, and indigenous have in family, peasant-based, community, indigenous, and afro-descendant agriculture by developing legal frameworks that allow to increment sustainably food production and to ensure decent jobs and equal opportunities to land ownership. We will promote mechanisms that strengthen the role of peasant and indigenous woman, and measures to stop the decline of rural labour force, especially from youth because of the lack of opportunities.
6. We will promote mechanisms that support the fair price through the public purchase of production, the partnership affiliation, and the improvement of the value chains; fostering, in turn, the elimination of the paradigm that assimilates family farming with subsistence agriculture and poverty. We recognise family farming's vital contribution to the climate change.

**WE WILL DEVELOP A COORDINATION MECHANISM WITH MEMBERS OF THE PARLIAMENTS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION FROM OTHER REGIONS OF THE WORLD:**

1. We will develop mechanisms of permanent dialog with members of the parliaments from other regions of the world in the fight against hunger and malnutrition, seeking political and strategic convergences and exchange of legislative experiences that enrich legislative performance, in order to promote and approve laws to guarantee the food and nutritional sovereignty and security, with adequate information of what we consume through the labelling of processed foods.
2. We will strengthen the existing PFH through the implementation of a model that facilitates the transition from the parliamentarians who finish their mandates and those who release them in their functions, and we will encourage the participation of parliamentarians in local, national, sub regional and regional forums to share legislative experiences in the area of food and nutrition sovereignty and security.

3. We will work on an instrument of joint collaboration between the Parliamentary Front against Hunger in Latin America and the Caribbean (PFH), involving key actors to facilitate this process, such as PARLATINO, PARLACEN, Andean Parliament, Pan-African Parliament (PAP), and the European Parliament. We will strengthen the joint work on communication strategies, material development, and mutual systematizations.

## **WE WILL CONTINUE PROMOTING NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCES TO END HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION**

1. We will promote the widest range of global alliances to achieve the eradication of hunger and malnutrition by 2030, strengthening our strategic alliance with cooperation agencies, international organisms, civil society organizations, as well as the Latin America and the Caribbean Parliament (PARLATINO), which as regional parliamentary entity has developed a joint strategy with FAO in order to support the PFHs; we will establish links with other regional integration organizations, such as the Union of South American Nations (USAN) and the CELAC, among others.
2. We will continue working with FAO as a strategic ally in the fight against hunger in the world and through the cooperation projects between FAO and the countries, through for instance, the Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation (AMEXID), the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), and the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC); with civil society organizations, such as Consumers International and the Alliance for Food Sovereignty; with researchers and academic associations, such as the Observatory of the Right to Food (ODA); and with other international organisms, such as the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO/WHO).

### **FURTHERMORE:**

We recognise the importance and urgency of reducing food and nutritional insecurity in Haiti. We consider as a strategic priority the contribution of the PFH, within its capabilities, to short, medium and long term with proposals and actions at institutional level in order to strengthen family farming; healthy, nourishing, and culturally suitable school feeding; the implementation of normative bodies that work on reducing the effects of climate change; and immediate access to adequate food from the Haitian population, with focus on the human right to food. We will make use of the tools and opportunities provided by the strategic alliance with FAO, international cooperation for development, and coordinated work with regional and sub regional parliaments to respond to this urgent need to support Haiti.

During 2016, we commit to deliver the work done by the Advisory Council of the PFH, related to the Definition of Food Sovereignty, directly to the President of the Dominican Republic Danilo Medina Sánchez, current President Pro Tempore of CELAC; we will also try to communicate this definition to Pope Francis and spread it in each of

our parliaments and States. We appreciate and consider as a fundamental aspect in the work of the PFH the respect to the sovereignty of each parliament, maintaining the unity for the achievement of food and nutritional security and sovereignty

We endorse the strategic alliance between the PFH and civil society organizations; we will continue developing permanent linking mechanisms to enrich the work of the PFH with the experience and knowledge of the civil society, considering the institutional organization of each PFH; in order to have a strong representation of civil society in the 8<sup>th</sup> PFH Forum; we will seek to have a previous specific meeting with the civil society.

We celebrate the progress of the Model Law on family farming and of the Model Law for the Reduction of Food Loss and Waste, which are under process of approval at the PARLATINO; the recent endorsement of the School Feeding Act in Honduras; and the progress of the Human Right to Adequate Food Law in Mexico. We support the legal initiatives of the PFH in Colombia that promote: the Bill of Rural Family, Ethnic, and Community Agriculture and the Draft Law of the National System of Food and Nutritional Security. We support the Popular Law initiative that creates a National Program for the Reduction of the Use of Agrochemicals in Brazil. We also welcome the passage of the Community and Popular Canteens Act passed in the Legislative Assembly of Mexico City; and the approval of the Law of Ancestral Lands and Territories and progress in the treatment of the Agrobiodiversity, Seeds and Agroecological Promotion Law, which is being submitted to pre-legislative consultation in Ecuador, among many other legislative advances.

We salute the proposal of the representatives of the Cortes Españolas, who offered to hold an international parliamentary meeting in the Kingdom of Spain, whose central theme is the fight against hunger and malnutrition; we, as the PFH in Latin America and the Caribbean are at the event's disposal, so that this project can yield results and develop successfully.

We appreciate the meetings of the Conference of the Parties on Climate Change (COP22) being held in these weeks in Marrakech, Morocco; and the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), to be held in Cancun, Mexico, in December 2016; we hope that these bodies will contribute to the development of national and regional strategies that address the issue of climate change and its impact on natural resources from a food and agriculture perspective.

We recognise the importance of international cooperation in making this event possible; we express thanks to the Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation, (AMEXID), the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC), and FAO because of the valuable contribution and permanent support.

We salute the unanimous appointment of the new Executive Coordinating Committee of the Parliamentary Front against Hunger (PFH), which assumes today its functions, composed of Mexican Senator Luisa María Calderón, Regional Coordinator; the Costa Rican Deputy Marlene Madrigal, Subcoordinator for Mesoamerica; the Paraguayan Senator Hugo Richer, Subcoordinator for South America; and the Minister Ceasar Saboto,

Subcoordinator for the Caribbean. We also welcome the unanimous designation of Uruguay as the host country for the 8<sup>th</sup> Forum of the PFH 2017.

We express gratitude to the Honourable Congress of the Union of the United Mexican States and to its national Parliamentary Front against Hunger, to the Government of Mexico, and to the Mexican people for the organization of this event and for the hospitality provided to all participating members of the parliaments.

Mexico City, November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016