

LIMA DECLARATION

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

Lima, Peru, November 15, 16 and 17, 2015

We, members of the Parliamentary Front Against Hunger (PFH) in Latin America and the Caribbean gathered at the “**Sixth Forum of the Parliamentary Front Against Hunger in Latin America and the Caribbean**”, considering:

- That of a total of 795 million undernourished people in the world today, 35 million are located in Latin America and the Caribbean, regions that concentrate 10.9% and 5.5% of the population, respectively.
- That hunger often co-exists with other problems associated with malnutrition, such as obesity and overweight, as well as that other non-communicable and chronic diseases brought on by these conditions have become a serious public health concern in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- That although Latin America and the Caribbean has reached target 1.C of the **Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)** of “*reducing by half, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people suffering from hunger*”, the results show that there are significant differences between and within countries of the region.
- That the objective of eradicating hunger has been reaffirmed and strengthened in the global development agenda, embodied in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** adopted by the Heads of State and Governments at the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit held in New York, USA, September 25, 26 and 27, 2015.
- That these efforts are also set out in the **Plan for Food Security, Nutrition and Hunger Eradication 2025 of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States** adopted by the Heads of State and Governments of 33 Latin American and Caribbean countries, which deals with issues being discussed at this Forum.
- That the Parliamentary Front Against Hunger in Latin America and the Caribbean has continued to strengthen its ties with regional fora for parliamentary exchange, such as the Forum of Presidents and Speakers of the Legislative Branches of Central America and the Caribbean Basin (FOPREL); the Central American Parliament (PARLACEN); the Andean Parliament (PARLANDINO), and the Latin American Parliament (PARLATINO). The PARLATINO-FAO Technical Cooperation Project is being implemented with the latter to provide legislative capacity-building and support to PFHs for food and nutrition sovereignty and security.
- That the PFH in Latin America and the Caribbean has become a globally recognized benchmark for parliamentary dialogue and exchange, and this has helped to strengthen partnerships with legislators in other regions in the world, namely Europe and, as of this Forum, Africa and Asia-Pacific.
- That, as an upshot of the Hunger Free Latin America and Caribbean Initiative (HFLAC) launched in 2005 with the support of the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation, international cooperation has increased in recent years for the PFH through the **Brazil-FAO Program** and the **Mesoamerica without Hunger Program** funded by the Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation (AMEXCID).
- That the partnerships between PFHs and social and political stakeholders in countries in the region, sub-regions and the

region as a whole have become stronger, creating opportunities to work in conjunction with civil society organizations, such as **Consumers International**, and academia, as is the case of the Latin America and Caribbean **Right to Food Observatory (ODA)**.

- That, to date, 17 countries have established national chapters of the PFH: Argentina; Bolivia; Brazil; Colombia; Costa Rica; El Salvador; Ecuador; Guatemala; Honduras; Mexico; Nicaragua; Paraguay; Panama; Peru; Dominican Republic; Saint Vincent and the Grenadines; and Uruguay. Two regional-level PFHs, one in the Andean Parliament and the other in the Central American Parliament (PARLACEN), have hosted five regional Forums and three regional Planning Meetings.

As members of the Parliamentary Front Against Hunger in Latin America and the Caribbean, we reaffirm the commitments made at the five previous forums and declare:

1) In relation to CELAC's Plan for Food Security, Nutrition and Hunger Eradication 2025

- Our full support to CELAC's Plan for Food Security, Nutrition and Hunger Eradication 2025 (CELAC's FNS Plan) and reaffirm our commitment to use our legislative powers to ensure its effective application in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) related to hunger and malnutrition, and to contribute to regional and global efforts to overcome hunger and malnutrition.
- Our commitment to join forces with executive-level authorities at all levels of government in implementing CELAC's FNS Plan, as well as with other social actors, academia and other regional integration bodies, to foster inclusive governance in its execution, from a rights-based approach and gender-sensitive, intergenerational and intercultural perspective, with particular emphasis on indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants.
- That, in consensus with executive-level authorities in our countries, we will advocate for the development of appropriate legal frameworks and budgets, and for political monitoring and enforcement activities to ensure that the Plan is properly executed with a view to achieving its target of eradicating hunger and malnutrition in the region by 2025 and the full realization of the Right to Food.
- Our endorsement of the preliminary concept of "food sovereignty" developed by the Advisory Council of the Parliamentary Front Against Hunger in Latin America and the Caribbean, which draws on public policies and legislation that are in place in several countries in the region and illustrates the capacity of each country to freely determine their production, transformation, marketing and consumption policies and strategies for healthy, nutritious and culturally acceptable food, thus guaranteeing continuous regional self-sufficiency in the context of solidarity and complementarity.
- That we will continue to support the Advisory Council of the Latin America and Caribbean PFH and contribute to the successful conclusion of this process of conceptualization, drawing on existing definitions already adopted by civil society and other legislative bodies, such as those adopted in PARLATINO's Framework Law.
- That we will promote the development of mechanisms and systems to monitor and evaluate CELAC's FNS Plan using information and monitoring systems in our countries, and the implementation of the Plan regionally and sub-regionally.
- Our acknowledgement and gratitude to FAO for its support in preparing and developing CELAC's FNS Plan 2025, and request that FAO Country Representations oversee the process.

Nº 2: In relation to the process of political dialogue between the Parliamentary Front Against Hunger in Latin America and the Caribbean and the Asia-Pacific and Africa regions

- We will build stronger ties between the Parliamentary Front Against Hunger in Latin America and the Caribbean and

legislators in other regions, namely Africa and Asia-Pacific, and the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, and join forces in the fight against poverty, hunger and malnutrition, be it by deficiency or excess, with legislative bodies throughout the world, particularly in developing countries.

- We will continue creating national, regional and international spaces for inclusive dialogue where eradicating hunger and malnutrition are considered key elements in the development of comprehensive and inclusive public policies for the progressive realization of the Right to Food.
- We advocate the further incorporation of the Caribbean into the regional and sub-regional processes of these FPHs, with a view to moving forward in the dialogue between PFHs and legislators in non-Spanish-speaking countries in the Caribbean.
- Our request that FAO coordinate these initiatives and help strengthen the links between legislators in Africa, Asia-Pacific, the Caribbean, Latin America, and the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, so as to open the Seventh Forum of the Parliamentary Front Against Hunger in Latin America and the Caribbean with a concrete proposal on the platform to be developed for systematic inter-regional exchange.
- Our request that FAO and other cooperation agencies continue to support the people of Haiti in eradicating hunger, malnutrition and poverty. We consider that no progress can be made in the Caribbean in this regard if the situation in Haiti is not remedied immediately.

Nº 3: In relation to building commitments and policies aimed at ensuring the realization of the right to adequate food and food and nutrition sovereignty and security.

- We will continue to highlight the vital role family, community and rural farming play in food and nutrition sovereignty and security as key suppliers of food. We are hence tasked with promoting the development of regulatory frameworks and specific public policies that contribute to the sustainability of family, community and rural farming and small-scale production in the current regional context, and maximizing their comparative advantages and productive potential for the realization of the right to food and food sovereignty through local public procurement.
- We will apply regulations and legislative measures that promote the appreciation, recovery and dissemination of ancestral knowledge, and benefit small-scale family, associative and community farms, guaranteed fair and equitable redistribution of the land, water and access to seeds, with particular emphasis on the access of women to these natural resources and funding.
- We will protect the right of consumers to clear and accurate information on the quality and nutritional value of food available on the market so that they can make informed decisions on healthy and nutritious food.
- We will foster regional production and marketing strategies based on fair trade, promoting an economy based on knowledge exchange that offers greater advantages to small-scale fishing, beyond subsistence production.
- We consider school meals a vital element in the fight against hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition, and therefore have made a commitment to introduce regulations that will contribute to the realization of the right of children and youth to school meals. We will promote mechanisms of exchange between PFHs and opportunities for further legislative debate on school meals programs among countries that have achieved varying levels of progress in this area.
- We will focus our attention on national and local-level budget structures and review expenditures on food and nutrition security

to support the decision-making process so that enough resources are allocated to public policies and programs aimed at ensuring the progressive realization of the right to food.

- We reaffirm our conviction that social protection and promotion systems play a fundamental role in the fight against poverty, hunger and malnutrition. We hereby make a commitment to apply our legislative mechanisms to encourage multi-sector participation in formulating national policies and strategies, and generate programmatic ties between social and productive development policies in order to break the cycle of poverty and realize the right to food.
- We will promote the enforceability of the right to food and food and nutrition sovereignty and security, adapting justiciability mechanisms to ensure its effective realization; creating opportunities for dialogue and pooling resources to guarantee public and horizontal accountability.

In addition:

- We acknowledge that food and nutrition sovereignty and security are linked to climate change and its underlying anthropogenic causes, and reaffirm our commitment to developing the legal frameworks necessary to protect the environment and natural resources in our countries with a view to achieving food and nutrition security. We commend the 21st Conference on Climate Change (COP 21) to be held in Paris, France, November 30 to December 11, 2015, hoping that this event will generate a "Post Kyoto Protocol" regulatory framework that considers food and nutrition sovereignty and security one of its guiding principles. We also commend CELAC for presenting its regional perspective on the matter at this event.
- In this sense, we believe it is crucial to incorporate a comprehensive sustainability approach that considers environmental, social and economic aspects, including the establishment of payment methods for environmental services, the proper application of the regulations adopted for ecological and organic farming, and technological development and application, among other lines of action.
- We reaffirm our conviction that the protection of our genetic heritage, biosecurity and the promotion of ancestral knowledge, and their recognition as common goods are fundamental in ensuring food security and sovereignty, avoiding practices that give rise to market concentration, monopolies and single crop farming while safeguarding adequate and environmentally-friendly agro-ecological technologies.
- We draw attention to the participation of Civil Society Organizations, namely Consumers International and the members of the Right to Food Observatory, at the Sixth Forum of the PFH and ratify the need for the Front to work closely with these stakeholders.
- We affirm our commitment to advocate the social and political stability for our people in order to generate the opportunities to fulfill the aspirations projected in this document.
- We commend the formation of new PFHs in Panama and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and the reactivation of PFHs in Colombia and Paraguay. We also thank legislators from Africa and Asia present at this forum and invite and encourage them to promote the creation of parliamentary networks in their respective regions and country for food and nutrition security.
- We would like to thank the Senators from Spain for taking part in this Forum as well as the continued solidarity of the Spanish people. This support encourages us to continue working together in Latin American to eradicate hunger in the region and forge even closer ties.
- We draw attention to the concerted efforts with the PARLATINO, the extension of the PARLATINO-FAO Technical

Cooperation Project, as well as the participation at these fora and endorsement of regional laws that can be used as guidelines in our countries, namely the Framework Law on the Right to Food, Food Security and Food Sovereignty in 2012; the Framework Law on School Meals in 2013; and the Declaration on Family Farming developed by the Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries Commission and adopted in 2015.

- We acknowledge Ecuador's Guide to Good Business Practices for the Supermarket and Retail Sector and their Suppliers as a notable example of how markets can be regulated and how this has helped small and medium-scale producers, family and community farmers participate more fully as suppliers of large supermarket chains, and we urge legislators in the region to develop similar legislation.
- We declare our support for the delivery, dissemination, discussion and approval at the Andean Parliament of the Framework Law on Food Sovereignty for the Andean Region.
- We commend the efforts underway by the Congress of the Republic of Peru to adopt laws on food security, family farming and the promotion of wholesome food, and urge the Government of Peru to regulate and enforce them.
- We recognize the need to build a comprehensive and binding legal framework on wholesome food through a framework agreement.
- We view budgets earmarked for food security and sovereignty not as an expense but as a social investment and a means to overcome inequalities, thus, we pledge to maintain and progressively increase the budgets allocated to food and nutrition sovereignty and security, and during crisis situations as well, to realize the right to food. In addition, we will encourage the creation of the necessary mechanisms to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness and impact of these budgets in enhancing long-term planning and investment plans.
- We will encourage governments to earmark resources from the national budget for programs that will have a positive impact on poverty eradication and ensure the "intelligent management" of these budgets.
- We wish to highlight the support provided by international cooperation, especially the Spanish Agency for Development Cooperation (AECID) and the Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation (AMEXCID), which have been fundamental in positioning the PFH and in making this event possible.
- Our gratitude to the Peruvian people, their government authorities, and particularly the steering committee and members of the Congress of the Republic of Peru for their commitment to the realization of the right to food, reflected in the success of this event.
- We express our support to France, its people, government and national authorities, and condemn the recent acts of terrorism on French soil. Latin America and the Caribbean send a message of solidarity to the victims, and stress our commitment to dialogue and peaceful and fraternal coexistence.

Finally, the Sixth Forum of the Parliamentary Front Against Hunger in Latin America and the Caribbean has agreed to the following:

- The current members of the Executive Coordinating Commission of the Parliamentary Front Against Hunger in Latin America and the Caribbean –Regional Coordinator, Ecuadorian Assemblywoman María Augusta Calle; Sub-regional Coordinator for South America, Uruguayan Deputy Berta Sanseverino; and Sub-regional Coordinator for Central America, Mexico and the Caribbean, Salvadoran Deputy Mario Marroquín– have been unanimously ratified to continue serving on the Commission.

- The members of the Advisory Council who have completed their mandate, legislators Nazareno Fonteles of Brazil, Liliana Parada of Argentina, and Dora Zeledón of Nicaragua, have been unanimously ratified to continue serving on the Council.
- Mexico's proposal to host the Seventh Forum of the Parliamentary Front Against Hunger in Latin America and the Caribbean, submitted by Senator Lisbeth Hernández, coordinator of Mexico's Parliamentary Front Against Hunger, is unanimously endorsed.
- Note has been taken of the suggestion made by the members of Parliament of the Caribbean delegation to host the next Forums of the Parliamentary Front Against Hunger in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- Forum participants extend warm greetings to Uruguayan deputy XXXX, co-coordinator of the Parliamentary Front Against Hunger in Uruguay; chairperson of the PARLATINO Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Food Commission and founding member of the Parliamentary Front Against Hunger in Latin America and the Caribbean, and wish him a quick recovery so that he can resume the fight against hunger he has devoted his life to.

Adopted in Lima, Peru, November 17, 2015.

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