



FIRST FORUM OF THE PARLIAMENTARY FRONT AGAINST HUNGER LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

We, members of Parliament, Congress and Legislatives Assemblies from Latin America and the Caribbean, along with representatives from the Civil Society, have assembled at the First Forum of the Parliamentary Front against Hunger in Sao Paulo, Brazil on the 4th and 5th of March of 2010, to strengthen the Parliamentary Front against Hunger (PFH) and its mission. Therefore:

CONSIDERING THAT

In Latin America and the Caribbean there are approximately 53 millions of people who suffer hunger, of which 9 million are children under 5 years old with chronic malnutrition.

Latin America and the Caribbean is a region that produces enough food for all of its population, making hunger and undernourishment are not a problem of availability, but of the existing inequality in the access to food.

The Right to Food is a Universal Human Right, which means that every person has the right to be free from hunger with physical and economic access at all times to adequate food in quantity and of quality.

The Salvador de Bahia Statement (December 2008), signed by 33 countries from Latin America and the Caribbean make explicit its support for the Hunger-Free Latin America and the Caribbean Initiative, and made a commitment to promote “actions to ensure food and nutritional security, through public policies that foster rural development, sustainable production of food, its safety, distribution and commercialization”.

In December 2008, the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (OP-ICESCR) came into effect and has been signed by several States from Latin America and the Caribbean.

At the Conference of Panama City held on the 3rd and 4th of September, 2009, upon launching the Parliamentary Front against Hunger, members of parliament agreed to create a Working Group to ensure the parliamentary work on food security issues.

The Sixth FIPA Plenary Meeting assembled in Ottawa on the 25th of September, 2009, suggested the “promotion and establishment of a Parliamentary Front against Hunger in each Member Parliament, a necessary step to advance the development of a food security policy that is both sustainable and equitable for all”.

During the Parliamentary Meeting held on the occasion of the World Food Security Summit in 2009, congress members determined that “we, the members of parliament, hold an important key to find solutions to hunger issues (...) there are many things that we as parliamentarians can do, such as adopting legal frameworks and draft laws to protect the right to food”.

The participant countries at the World Food Security Summit of 2009 reaffirmed “the right of all to have access to safe, sufficient and nutritious food, consistent with the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security” and added that the realization of the Right to Food will also depend on the legislative work oriented to its institutionalization.

The XXV Ordinary Assembly of PARLATINO, held on December 3rd, 2009, approved the Latin American Declaration on Human Rights, which established that “the Right to Water is a fundamental Human Right, inherent to life and human dignity” and it added that “every Latin American has the right to sufficient food to ensure a healthy physical and mental development”

At the Latin American and Caribbean Unity Summit, in the context of the 21st Rio Group Summit and the 2nd Latin American and Caribbean Summit on Integration and Development, held in Cancun, Mexico, countries agreed to “strengthen integration processes in the food sphere and combine efforts to support the Hunger-Free Latin America and the Caribbean Initiative 2025”.

The eradication of hunger is a urgent goal which requires effort and commitment of all the members of society.

WE DETERMINE TO

1. Create a Coordinating Commission integrated by different parliamentary bodies such as PARLATINO, PARLACEN, PARLAMENTO ANDINO, FIPA, COPA and congress members from other legislative powers.
2. This Commission will be responsible of coordinating the Parliamentary Front against Hunger, with different parliamentary bodies from both the national and local levels. The FAO and the HFLAC Initiative will provide assistance to support the legislative initiatives.
3. The members of the commission will hold a meeting during the second quarter of 2010 to establish a Working Plan, taking into consideration the 2009 Action Plan. A second Forum of the Parliamentary Front against Hunger is scheduled for the first semester of 2011. Representatives from the civil society will participate in the organization of the event.
4. Promote the establishment of Parliamentary Fronts against Hunger (PFH) in every country.
5. Create a permanent online forum in a web page with the support of FAO where every member of the PFH can participate.
6. Strengthen the Parliamentary Front against Hunger (PFH) as a network of members of congresses from Latin America and the Caribbean, committed to place the struggle against hunger in the region at the top level of their political and legislative agendas.
7. Reaffirm the fundamental role of the Civil Society in the design, execution and assessment of strategies against hunger; therefore, we call upon all organizations to participate in national forums to reinforce the national and international dialogue among all actors related to the food security and food sovereignty issues.
8. Urge the sensitization of the legislative powers at sub national and national levels in order to incorporate the Right to Food into the legal and institutional framework permanently.
9. Promote the creation of mechanisms to eliminate obstacles in the purchasing process from family agriculture to strengthen this kind of rural activity, with special emphasis in school feeding programs. To support to the civil society in the request to the United Nations for the creation of a international day of Family Agriculture.
10. Strengthen the different levels of South-South and triangular Co-operation on food security and food sovereignty for promote the exchange of resources and knowledge about effective strategies, in accordance with the requirements of every country or sub Region, including the recuperation of traditional and ancient products that are culturally appropriate.
11. Recognize the importance of women participation in the fight against hunger and in the work for food sovereignty and food security. The PFH will promote mechanisms to increase the participation of women, with the objective of gender equality.

APPENDIX

1. Commission for Coordination of Parliamentary Front against Hunger

The Commission will be integrated for the following members of congress

- Jose Carlos Cardoso

President, Commission of Agriculture of Latin American Parliament - PARLTINO

- Nazareno Fonteles

President of the Parliamentary Front for Food Security - Brazil

- Luis Castilla

President, Commission of Health of Central American Parliament - PARLACEN

- Fausto Lupera

Vice-president of Andean Parliament

- René Arce

Senator from Mexico and member of FIPA

- Ferdy Berganza

Deputy from Guatemala

- Pedro de la Cruz

Assemblyman from Ecuador

Advisers

- Carla SánchezArmas, parliamentary adviser from Mexico

- Rubén Vélez, General secretary of Andean Parliament

- Representative of PARLATINO

2. Second Forum of the Parliamentary Front against Hunger

México will host the 2nd Forum of the Parliamentary Front against Hunger during the first half 2011, where the legislatures will account the advances reached in the period.

3. Solidarity with Haiti and Chile

We, Parliamentarians and representatives of Civil Society assembled in the First Forum of the Parliamentary Front against Hunger, declare our solidarity with the peoples of Haiti and Chile, due to the latest earthquakes. We reaffirm the important role of parliaments and congresses to define measures oriented to the reconstruction of those countries.