

## Note on the main outcomes

### Fourth Planning Meeting of the PFHs

*Spanish Cooperation Training Centre - Cartagena de Indias, Colombia  
April 6 – 8, 2016*



#### 1. PARLIAMENTARY FRONTS AGAINST HUNGER MOVE FORWARD IN THEIR 2016 AGENDA DRAWING ON THE CELAC 2025 FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY AND HUNGER ERADICATION PLAN AND THE 2030 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

More than 60 representatives of legislative bodies gathered at the Fourth PFH Planning Meeting held April 6-8 at the Spanish Cooperation Training Centre in Colombia to establish the priorities of the Parliamentary Front against Hunger in Latin America and the Caribbean for 2016.

Participating members of Parliament agreed to promote the creation of new Parliamentary Fronts against Hunger in the Caribbean and develop a plan of action that will help make headway in the CELAC 2025 Food and Nutrition Security and Hunger Eradication Plan and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), specifically the goal of eradicating all hunger by 2030.

The Fronts acknowledged that 11 of the 17 SDGs directly or indirectly touch upon actions the Fronts have been carrying out these past six years, an aspect that once again highlights the important role these fronts play in implementing the SDGs.

The event gathered legislators from 14 national Fronts<sup>1</sup> for the purpose of developing a work plan drawing on a process of debate and exchange consistent with the priorities defined in the Declaration of the Sixth PFH Forum held in Lima in 2015, on the basis of the particular circumstances of each country.

## 2. PFHS ARE RECOGNIZED AS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR FAO TO STRENGTHEN ITS REGIONAL INITIATIVES (RI)

National and regional planning activities of the Parliamentary Fronts against Hunger are consistent with the main targets defined in Regional Initiative 1: of “Support to the Hunger-Free Latin America and the Caribbean Initiative (HFLACI)”.

Fronts are built and developed on the basis of continuous political dialogue among parliaments in the region. This creates an opportunity to support countries in the development of legislation, regulations and policy aimed at fighting hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition.

The role played by FAO and the support it provides to the Fronts in national planning processes and in ensuring effective communication between representations and coordinating bodies with these legislative platforms should be noted, together with the support provided by the Regional Technical Secretariat of the PFHs at RLC, in the development of effective strategies for promoting these processes.

PFHs, both at a regional and national level, could eventually become important partners in other FAO Regional Initiatives (RIs) related to policy and law development.

This is reflected in the definition by Parliamentary Fronts of new thematic areas and lines of actions, such as the development of Family Farming laws and policy associated with RI2: “Family Farming and Inclusive Food Systems for Sustainable Rural Development”; and actions to strengthen the resilience to climate change, directly related to RI2: “Sustainable use of Natural Resources, Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Management.”

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<sup>1</sup> Countries in attendance were: Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Dominican Republic, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Uruguay.

A total of 17 national fronts and four regional bodies -Latin American Parliament (PARLATINO), Central American Parliament (PARLACEN), the Andean Parliament (PARLANDINO) and the Forum of Speakers of the Legislative Bodies of Central America and Caribbean Basin (FOPREL)- have been created since the Parliamentary Front against Hunger in Latin America and the Caribbean was launched in 2009.

### 3. FULL INCLUSION: PARLIAMENTARY FRONTS AGAINST HUNGER MAKE A COMMITMENT TO ESTABLISH PFHS IN EVERY CARIBBEAN COUNTRY BY 2017



Legislators from Barbados and Grenada expressed interest in creating country-level Parliamentary Fronts against Hunger. These Fronts, together with the one established last year in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG), will be the first Fronts formed in the Caribbean.

Parliamentarians at the meeting agreed to name Mr. Saboto Caesar, General Coordinator of the SVG PFH, permanent member of the Parliamentary Fronts' Executive Coordinating Committee and made a commitment to endorse and provide support to the SVG PFH in the creation of new fronts and for initiatives to fight hunger in every Parliament in the Caribbean. The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and other similar organizations will play a key role in this process.

*"This decision by the Fronts has awarded us full membership in the region. Latin America and the Caribbean is a unique and distinctive region, and the incorporation of the SVG PFH in the Executive Coordinating Committee is a milestone not only for the Fronts but also in the fight against hunger, food and nutrition insecurity, and malnutrition in the Caribbean,"* stated Minister Saboto Caesar, Member of Parliament of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and General Coordinator of the SVG PFH.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> These activities will require the ongoing support of the SLC and the establishment -as soon as possible- of a regional workgroup to provide the necessary resources for the activities of this national Front and for the development of new fronts in the Caribbean under the coordination of the Secretariat at RLC within the framework of the activities developed under the RI1 and their outcomes.

#### 4. PFHS SUSTAINED SUPPORT OF CELAC'S FNS PLAN<sup>3</sup> AND THEIR ENDORSEMENT OF THE DOCUMENT ON "THE CONCEPT OF FOOD SOVEREIGNTY" TO BE SUBMITTED TO CELAC'S CHAIR PRO TEMPORE

The Parliamentary Front against Hunger in Latin America and the Caribbean plays a key role in the application of a policy approach, both at a regional and sub-regional level, for the construction of public food and nutrition security systems; this will ensure that the PFH will be provided the resources necessary to implement the CELAC 2025 Food and Nutrition Security and Hunger Eradication Plan.

"The fight against hunger can only be effective if every stakeholder shares their experiences and is committed to changing the current state of affairs in our region," said Ecuadoran Assembly member María Augusta Calle, General Coordinator of the Parliamentary Fronts against Hunger.

During the Fourth Planning meeting, the PFHs reaffirmed their commitment to working together to translate the recommendations defined in CELAC's FNS Plan into practice. This has been demonstrated in the efforts to contribute to the conceptualization of Food Sovereignty and actions undertaken to strengthen Pillar 1 of the Plan<sup>4</sup> through the development and/or implementation of laws and regulations for Food and Nutrition Security in countries in the region, namely Costa Rica, El Salvador Honduras, Mexico, Dominican Republic and Panama.

- *PFHs and their contribution to conceptualizing the term "Food Sovereignty"*

In 2015, PFHs requested the support of the Parliamentary Fronts' Advisory Council<sup>5</sup> to conduct a "Study on the conceptualization of Food Sovereignty in Central American countries, Mexico, the Dominican Republic and South America," which was reviewed by all the Fronts and later published.

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<sup>3</sup> CELAC 2025 Food and Nutrition Security and Hunger Eradication Plan, adopted in January 2015 at the Second CELAC Summit.

<sup>4</sup> Pillar 1: Coordinated food security strategies through the formulation of national and regional public policies to face the challenges of food security (availability, access, use and stability), with a gender approach and incorporating a human rights perspective, in particular the Human Right to Food. Line of action 1: Strengthening institutional frameworks for Food Security and Nutrition (FNS).

<sup>5</sup> This Advisory Council for the Fronts was formed at the Fourth Forum held in 2014 in the Dominican Republic and is composed of former members of Parliament who have played a key role in the development of PFHs. Current members of the council are Liliana Parada, Dora Zeledón and Nazareno Fonteles.

The study draws on the most common definitions of this concept in laws, regulations and policies in the region, and provides an overview of the Fronts based on their policy praxis. It also examines the main variables and recurring elements in these definitions in order to shed light on the concept of Food Sovereignty. It provides guidelines for all Fronts on the concept highlighting its technical-political value based on the current situation and the diversity of views on the subject in the region to develop a systematic process of dialogue around policies in each country.

The document was endorsed by the Fronts at the Fourth Meeting and a request was made to the Executive Coordinating Committee to submit the document to the Chair pro tempore of CELAC, a post currently held by the Dominican Republic, as input from the Fronts.

## **5. PFHS WILL CONTINUE TO PROMOTE POLICIES TO STRENGTHEN FAMILY FARMING WITH THE SUPPORT OF FAOS RI2: “FAMILY FARMING AND INCLUSIVE FOOD SYSTEMS FOR SUSTAINABLE RURAL DEVELOPMENT”**

An agreement was reached to ensure that legal and policy frameworks that strengthen family, smallholder and community farming, which were reaffirmed as a key elements in the fight against hunger and malnutrition, continue to be developed focusing on the important role played by women and youth. The IR2 work team, headed by Luiz Carlos Beduschi, will provide assistance in this process and sent a video with a message of support and acknowledgement of the progress made by the Fronts.  
[See video](#)

The Parliamentary Front will join forces with the Latin American Parliament (PARLATINO) in 2016 to develop a “Framework Law for Family Farming”, as follow-up to the Declaration on FF adopted by PARLATINO in 2015, to guide countries interested in enhancing this key factor for food security, food production and rural development.

The idea is to develop a legal frame of reference to help nations take action and develop strategies to ensure the permanent implementation of –as a matter of national priority– family farming development policies and that they be considered a national priority.

A comparative study of regional FF laws conducted in conjunction with PARLATINO’s Family Farming Committee was presented at the Fourth Meeting drawing on these proposals. This study will provide valuable input for this process of policy dialogue and policy development.

## 6. PARTNERSHIPS WITH ACADEMIA AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS: THE FRONTS SIGN THE FIRST AGREEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING SINCE ITS INCEPTION



The Parliamentary Front against Hunger established a strategic partnership with the Right to Food Observatory (RFO) in Latin America and the Caribbean to promote the development of policy and legislation for the effective realization of the Right to Food.

An Agreement of Understanding was signed between academics and legislators in the region to establish common lines of action in the context of the fight against hunger and malnutrition following a multi-sector and local approach. FAO's support was requested, through its representations, in implementing this agreement both at a regional and national level. [See agreement](#)

In this context, consideration was also given to the importance of ongoing cooperation to strengthen partnerships with traditional partners such as FAO, the Specialized Meeting on Family Farming (REAF), the Pan American Health Organization–World Health Organization (PAHO-WHO) and other relevant global civil society stakeholders such as Consumers International and the Right to Food Observatory. They are key strategic partners in the development of lines of action for nutrition and regulatory frameworks (labeling, eating habits, food safety and quality, and taxes, among others).

## 7. STATE BUDGETS FOR FNS: A NEW LINE OF ACTION TO BE IMPLEMENTED BY PFHS



The Central American Institute for Fiscal Studies (ICEFI)<sup>6</sup> presented a report at the Fourth Meeting on its experience in assessing Peru's FNS strategy budget<sup>7</sup>. The study, conducted by the Multi-sector Food and Nutrition Security Committee (CMSAN) of Peru<sup>8</sup>, is an example of the tremendous progress the Fronts have made, giving precedence to issues that have an enormous impact on their agenda. [See presentation](#)

<sup>6</sup> The Central American Institute for Fiscal Studies (ICEFI) is a think-tank that conducts research on state policy in Central American countries and the region as a whole. The Institute publishes analyses, reports and technical studies independently from the government or any political party or civil society organizations. <http://icefi.org/>

<sup>7</sup> The National Food and Nutrition Security Strategy 2013-2021 is a document that draws on a public-private collaborative programs developed in compliance with Supreme Decree N° 102-2012-PCM of October 12, 2012, prepared by the Multi-sector Food and Nutrition Security Committee.

[http://infoagro.net/programas/seguridad/politicas/RegionAndina/Peru\\_Estrategia.pdf](http://infoagro.net/programas/seguridad/politicas/RegionAndina/Peru_Estrategia.pdf). This study was funded by FAO through the FAO-Brazil partnership project: *Support for National and Sub-regional Strategies for Food and Nutrition Security and Overcoming Poverty in Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean* (GCP/RLA/193/BRA).

<sup>8</sup> The Multi-sector Committee for Food and Nutrition Security (CMSAN) is composed of: Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (MINAGRI), Ministry of the Environment (MINAM), Ministry of Foreign Trade and Tourism (MINCETUR), Ministry of Social Development and Inclusion (MIDIS); Ministry of Education (MINEDU); Ministry of Women's Affairs and Vulnerable Populations (MIMP); Ministry of Production (PRODUCE); Ministry of External Affairs (RREE); Ministry of Health (MINSAL); National Assembly of Regional Governments; Network of Municipalities of Peru (REMURPE); National Board of Irrigation District Users of Peru; Peruvian National Agricultural Convention (CONVEAGRO); and the National Association of Small-scale Fishing Businesses of Peru (ANEPAP).

State Budgets for Food and Nutrition Security are a key element in the sustainability of actions proposed by Parliamentary Fronts against Hunger, therefore, it is imperative that legislators have access to these studies to help them identify and organize public investments in FSN, and develop strategic budget plans for FNS for 2016- 2025 in line with projected targets.

The 17 Fronts concurred in the important political and technical role they play as legislators in determining the budgets needed to finance food and nutrition security policies and programs, as well as in overseeing the management and use of these resources and their stability over time. Emphasis was placed at the Forum on the role played by legislative bodies in safeguarding budgets earmarked for social development and the fight against malnutrition.

Along these lines, the PFH resolved to request FAO's support in conducting a study on state budgets for FNS similar to the one presented by ICEFI, thus covering all PFH members and engaging them in a political dialogue based on evidence drawn from each country.

## 8. REVIEW OF REGULATIONS BY THE FRONTS TO IMPROVE THEIR OPERATIONAL CAPACITY AND PERFORMANCE



To ensure the sustainability and consistency of the PFH Executive Coordinating Committee (ECC) activities and to more effectively manage the additional workload that comes with bringing together all stakeholders in these Fronts, it is important to designate a spokesperson who can fill in for the Coordinator should they be unable to carry out their duties.



The possible extension of the terms of office of the General Coordinator of the PFH was also discussed as a way to ensure the consistency of regional-level activities and take full advantage of the capacities and experience acquired in office. A term of two years is proposed for Coordinating Committee members.

The 17 fronts present at the meeting endorsed these changes in the regulations and proposed several new points to be discussed and adopted by the Fronts during the month of April.

## 9. STRENGTHENING CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION AND DOCUMENTATION



Parliamentarians discussed the importance of communication to generate debate among stakeholders and to be able to follow through on the proposed PFH outcomes.

One of the lines of action aimed at strengthening partnerships and collaboration among participating legislators is the creation of two high-impact communications platforms. One is the website [parlamentarioscontraelhambre.org](http://parlamentarioscontraelhambre.org), which is still in a trial phase, and the other is a mobile application that will serve as a meeting point for those interested in learning more and sharing information about PFHs, their projections and achievements. Download [App Store](#) / [Google Play](#)

The need to embark on a more concerted effort to record and document the work carried out so far was also stressed. As an example of this, a session was held to present the book *“Contra el hambre, por la tierra y por el agua: Testimonio de una legisladora”* (Fighting back hunger and standing up for the land and water: a legislator’s statement) published by parliament member Guadalupe Valdez, coordinator of the Dominican Republic PFH.

## 10. PREPARING FOR THE SEVENTH FORUM OF THE PARLIAMENTARY FRONTS AGAINST HUNGER – MEXICO 2016



The primary objective of Parliamentary Fronts against Hunger is to develop and build a common agenda aimed at eradicating hunger and malnutrition in the region. One way to achieve this is to hold regular meetings where political issues can be discussed.

An example of this is the Forum of Parliamentary Fronts<sup>9</sup>, which is held on a yearly basis to discuss policy-related issues and to align processes and promote policy development for the effective realization of the Right to Adequate Food.

Mexico will host the Seventh Forum of Parliamentary Fronts this year, where the 21 currently-existing Fronts will meet with delegations from other continents to join forces and contribute, at a legislative level, to reducing the number of people facing food and nutrition insecurity in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The main output of this Forum will be a declaration, which will guide the actions of the Fronts in 2017.

<sup>9</sup> Five PFH Forums have been held since it was created in 2009: the first in Sao Paulo, Brazil (2010); the second in Bogota, Colombia (2011); the third in Guatemala City, Guatemala (2012); the fourth in Santa Cruz de La Sierra, Bolivia (2013); the sixth in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic (2014); and the sixth in Lima, Peru (2015).



Parliamentary Front  
Against Hunger



At the Fourth Meeting, Mexico's Parliamentary Front reported on the conceptual development and progress made in terms of the program for the Seventh Forum of the Parliamentary Front against Hunger. The Forum will be held November 8, 9, 10 and 11, 2016, and a field trip has been programmed for November 12.

Mexico's Parliamentary Front submitted for consideration a tentative agenda based on three key thematic areas: 1) Healthy Eating and Nutrition; 2) Family Farming and Rural Development for FNS; and 3) Institutional Frameworks and Public Policies for FNS. A video of invitation to the Forum and corporate logo were also presented at the event.

The decision to hold activities at this Forum to commemorate the International Year of Pulses was also adopted.



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