



Proposal from the Ibero-American parliaments for the UN Food Systems Summit - 2021

INDEPENDENT DIALOGUE 03/08/21



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



Parliamentary Front
Against Hunger

initiative
HUNGER-FREE
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN



Mesoamérica
sin
Hambre
Cooperación política
para la seguridad alimentaria

AMEXCID
AGENCIA MEXICANA DE COOPERACIÓN
INTERNACIONAL PARA EL DESARROLLO

IBERO-AMERICA AND COVID 19

Since the outbreak of the pandemic, food security and sustainable agriculture have become issues of absolute priority for cooperation agendas aimed at a transformative recovery in Ibero-America.

The data is alarming: international organizations warn that in Latin America and the Caribbean there has been a sharp increase in unemployment and poverty, which has led to major setbacks in the fight against hunger and malnutrition. According to the latest reports collected by FAO during 2020 in the publication *"The state of food security and nutrition in the world"*, there are 59.7 million Latin Americans and Caribbeans with hunger and 113 million who cannot afford a healthy diet. Meanwhile, advances in childhood obesity and undernutrition, anaemia in women of reproductive age, and obesity in adults have been paralysed or the situation is worsening¹. Spain and Portugal are not escaping this scourge, in Europe the prevalence of food insecurity and the gender gap in this area have also increased.

EL PODER DE LOS PARLAMENTOS

Parliaments can play a very relevant role in the fight against hunger and malnutrition. They have the power to install the Sustainable Development Goal 2 "Zero Hunger" (SDG2) at the top of the public agendas of their countries and make it a strategic issue in response policies to the COVID 19 crisis. This, through the approval of adequate laws and budgets, and political control actions so that the legislation is complied with and has a greater scope and impact.

To achieve the above, processes with broad inclusive social participation, that involve academia, the private sector, producers and all the actors that make up the food systems are essential.

PROPUESTA PARA LA CUMBRE DESDE LOS PARLAMENTOS

The Secretary General of the United Nations, António Guterres, has summoned all actors in society to be part of the 2021 Food Systems Summit, the purpose of which is to promote actions to achieve healthier, more sustainable and inclusive agri-food systems.

¹ "State of food security and nutrition in the world 2021"
<http://www.fao.org/3/cb5409es/cb5409es.pdf>



Faced with this call, Ibero-American legislators held an independent dialogue with the purpose of contributing to the Summit through a series of parliamentary recommendations, taking into account their experience and commitment in relation to:

- 1) The lines of work and actions carried out in recent years by the [Frentes Parlamentarios contra el Hambre de América Latina y el Caribe \(PFH-ALC\) \(PARLIAMENTARY FRONTS AGAINST HUNGER LAC\)](#). This has allowed results of great impact such as the approval of dozens of laws against hunger and malnutrition with a greater budget and supervision for their proper compliance.
- 2) The agreements established by the PFH-LAC in spaces of political dialogue (national and regional) on food security and sustainable agriculture in times of pandemic.
- 3) The coordination of Ibero-American actions of a parliamentary order as a result of the relationship between the PFH-LAC, the General Courts of Spain and the Assembly of Portugal, and instances such as the European-Latin American Parliamentary Assembly (EUROLAT).
- 4) The approach to new lines of work and key themes for the eradication of hunger and malnutrition, such as: gender equality, the recognition of indigenous peoples, innovation for sustainable rural development and the fight against the serious effects of climate change, among others.

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RECOMENDACIONES PARLAMENTARIAS

The recommendations are structured based on the the [5 action tracks \(cinco vías de acción planteadas por la Cumbre de los Sistemas Alimentarios 2021\)](#) and to an additional transversal path that was considered relevant to add for the achievement of the proposed objectives.

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Route of Action 1: Ensure access to healthy and nutritious food for all: The Right to Adequate Food as an engine for the transformation of food systems.

Regarding track 1, it is proposed to promote State public policies, with broad social participation, that contribute to the realization of the Right to Adequate Food, through:

- **The incorporation of the Right to Adequate Food in the Constitutions of the Ibero-American countries.**

The Constitution is the rule of highest hierarchy within the legal system of a country, it usually prevails when there are changes of government or political situations. (...) In Latin America and the Caribbean 15 countries enshrine the Human Right to Food included explicitly in their constitutions. They are Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay and Suriname².

² Information extracted from the Legal Guidance Notes for parliamentarians against hunger in Latin America and the Caribbean prepared by the Law Service for Development of FAO together with the "Project to Support the Initiative Latin America and the Caribbean without Hunger 2025" from the Spanish Alliance – FAO, <http://www.fao.org/3/cb0448es/cb0448es.pdf>



- Achieving that the Right to Food reaches the Constitution ensures that all the laws of that country are harmonized with it and that the Right is for everyone, from birth to death.

Some examples: the PFH of Brazil promoted the [Constitutional Amendment N 64 of the year 2010 to the Political Constitution of 1988 \(Enmienda Constitucional N 64 del año 2010 a la Constitución Política de 1988 \)](#) and the PFH of Mexico worked on the approval of the [constitutional recognition of the Right to Food \(reconocimiento constitucional del Derecho a la Alimentación\)](#) in 2011. In 2021 [El Salvador](#) seeks to ratify this right in its Constitution and the Chilean Chamber of Deputies has been working on this incorporation since 2019.

- Continue promoting legislation, budgets and political control actions that consolidates different institutions that ensure the permanent realization of the Right to Food and the promotion of healthy, sustainable and inclusive food systems.

Some examples: Food security and sovereignty laws such as those of [Honduras](#), [Nicaragua](#), [Perú](#), [Portugal](#) and [República Dominicana](#), [PARLATINO](#) and [PARLANDINO](#) also have Model Laws or Normative Frameworks in this area. It is worth noting that El Salvador has a Bill on the matter, whose approval is expected in 2021.



- The strengthening of the School Feeding Programs (PAE), increasing their budget, coverage and control actions.

School feeding contributes to improving nutrition and nutritional education for boys and girls. It also contributes to the generation of local wealth through public purchases from family farming and local producers.

Some examples: the PFH-ALC have promoted school feeding laws in [Bolivia](#), [Brasil](#), [Ecuador](#), [Honduras](#), [Guatemala](#) and [Paraguay](#); and related laws, such as: the Glass of Milk Law of [El Salvador](#), Regulation of School Feeding in [Uruguay](#), Law that promotes adequate nutrition in Educational Centres in [Panamá](#), Law for the Promotion of Healthy Eating for Boys, Girls and Adolescents of [Perú](#), among others. [PARLATINO](#) also has a Model Law in this area.

- Legislative initiatives that promote breastfeeding during the first six months of life and early childhood development.

Some examples: in this area the work carried out in [El Salvador](#), [Paraguay](#) and [Uruguay](#) and Peru (the latter country through the Front of the Municipal Council against Hunger of Metropolitan Lima).



Action track 2: Shift to sustainable consumption patterns.

Food systems with better informed consumers, more aware and with better consumption habits.

Regarding track 2, it is proposed to promote parliamentary actions that take care of the health of consumers, improving their consumption habits through:

- The promotion of legislation to reduce food loss and waste (PDA Laws) so that food is produced and consumed responsibly.

It is estimated that a third of all food produced ends up in the garbage can of consumers or sellers³, or is spoiled due to poor transport or collection systems. This can be reduced by making this problem visible to society and generating policies that consider different fiscal stimuli that encourage the reduction of food loss and waste, and the donation of these.

Some examples: [Argentina](#), [Colombia](#) and [Perú \(Lima\)](#) They have PDA Laws, and Guatemala and Costa Rica are working on bills on the matter. PARLATINO, for its part, has proposed in 2021 to develop a Model Law on PDA. In relation to food donations, the PFH-LAC has promoted different legislations in [Argentina](#), [El Salvador](#) and [Paraguay](#).



³ According to the information of this Summit.



- The generation of a political agenda that seeks the development of legislation and programs that promote the consumption of fruits and vegetables.

Se trata de una acción alineada al Año Internacional de las Frutas y las Verduras instalado. It is an action aligned with the International Year of Fruits and Vegetables installed by the United Nations General Assembly (Resolution A / RES / 74/244).

Some examples: In 2021, the Chilean Chamber of Deputies approved an innovative [healthy school feeding bill \(proyecto de ley sobre alimentación escolar saludable\)](#) presented by the PFH, which aims to ensure healthy menus that incorporate a greater amount of fresh foods, including fruits and vegetables, and offer vegan or vegetarian food options. PARLATINO, will promote a statement on this topic.

- The promotion of legislation that ensures quality information for the consumer.

Policies are recommended to regulate poorly nutritious foods, restricting their advertising to boys and girls, and promoting healthy habits and nutritional education.

Some examples: from the PFH-LAC, different laws have been promoted in this area, such as the Law for the promotion of a healthy diet in [Bolivia](#) and the Sodium Consumption Regulation Law of [Argentina](#). Several countries have food labeling laws, such as the cases of [Chile](#), [Colombia](#), [Ecuador](#), [México](#), [Perú](#) and [Uruguay](#). To date Argentina, Costa Rica, Guatemala and Paraguay are working on bills on the matter. At the regional level, PARLATINO has approved the [Framework Law for Latin America on the regulation of advertising and promotions of food and non-alcoholic beverages aimed at children and teenagers \(Ley Marco para América Latina sobre la regulación de la publicidad y promociones de alimentos y bebidas no alcohólicas dirigido a los niños, niñas y adolescentes\)](#). Meanwhile, at the local level, El Frente del Concejo Municipal Against Hunger of Metropolitan Lima promoted the ordinance in 2021 healthy environments, which encourages healthy habits and physical activity in educational centers and restaurants.



Action track 3: Boost nature-positive production.

Consolidated family farming digitized and sustainable to transform Food Systems.

In general, the proposal of the Ibero-American parliamentarians in relation to Track 3 of the 2021 Food Systems Summit is to promote parliamentary actions in favour of family farming and the sustainable use of environmental resources in production, food processing and distribution, through:

- The promotion of legislation that strengthens sustainable agriculture by promoting its production and consumption from the local level, allowing the improvement of national production and the reduction of the carbon footprint, as well as its effects on the environment.

Sustainable agriculture can reduce deforestation, contribute to the health of terrestrial ecosystems, and (...) provide indispensable livelihoods for people around the world⁴.

Some examples: the PFH-LAC has promoted family farming laws in [Argentina](#), [Colombia](#), [El Salvador](#), [Ecuador](#), [Panamá](#), [Paraguay](#) and [Perú](#). At the local level, it motivated the approval of the Family Farming Law in Mexico City and, at the regional level, the Model Laws or framework on family farming in PARLATINO and PARLANDINO. In the same way, he has promoted laws that promote the conservation of agrobiodiversity such as the [Organic Law of Agrobiodiversity, Seeds and Promotion of Sustainable Agriculture of Ecuador](#) (*Ley Orgánica de Agrobiodiversidad, Semillas y Fomento de la Agricultura Sustentable de Ecuador*) and the [Federal Law for the promotion and protection of the native corn of Mexico](#) (*Ley Federal para el fomento y protección del maíz nativo de México*). Brazil, for its part, is promoting legislation to reduce the use of pesticides and promote the organic and agroecological transition.

⁴ According to the information from this Summit



- The promotion of legislation that ensures the adoption of technology and the digitization of family farming in rural areas.

Specifically, it is proposed to promote policies that promote science, research and innovation for the sustainable development of rural territories, as discussed in a meeting between the coordination of the PFH-LAC and the Director General of FAO QU Dongyu in October 2020⁵.

- Promote legislation and research to ensure the sustainable use of water.

Water scarcity affects more than 40% of the world's population, and this percentage is expected to increase. Therefore, it is necessary to promote legislation, research and budgets to ensure the sustainable use of this resource.

Some examples: on this issue there is legislation approved and promoted by the PFH in [Ecuador](#) and [Uruguay](#). It is also worth noting that in 2020 Costa Rica managed to include the Human Right to access to Water within its Constitución, that the PFH of Mexico is working on the General Water Law Project and has supported PARLATINO in the the [Model Law of Community Water and Sanitation Systems \(Ley Modelo de Sistemas Comunitarios de Agua y Saneamiento\)](#), that the PFH of Mexico is working on the General Water Law Project and has supported PARLATINO in [Regional Framework Law referring to the Human Right to Drinking Water and Sanitation. \(Ley Marco Regional referida al Derecho Humano al Agua Potable y Saneamiento\)](#).

⁵ More information about this meeting at <http://www.fao.org/americas/noticias/ver/es/c/1311618/>



- The promotion of regulations related to agroecology and sustainable production.

Some examples: the PFH-LAC has promoted in Ecuador the [Organic Law of Agro-biodiversity, Seeds and Promotion of Sustainable Agriculture \(Ley Orgánica de Agro-biodiversidad, Semillas y Fomento de la Agricultura Sustentable\)](#) and the [Organic Law for the Development of Aquaculture and Fisheries \(Ley Orgánica para el Desarrollo de la Acuicultura y Pesca\)](#), and in Uruguay the [Law for the Promotion of Agro-ecological Production \(Ley de Fomento a la Producción Agroecológica\)](#). In this area, PARLATINO has the [Artisanal Fishing Model Law \(Ley Modelo de Pesca Artesanal\)](#) and PARLANDINO with [Regulatory Framework to Fight Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing and Promote Sustainable Development of Maritime Resources in Member Countries \(Marco Normativo para Luchar Contra la Pesca ilegal, no declarada y no reglamentada y Fomentar el Desarrollo Sostenible de los Recursos Marítimos en los Países Miembros\)](#).



Action track 4: Advance equitable livelihoods

Consolidated rural territories and with Family Farmers emerging from poverty and transforming food systems.

Regarding track 4, the Ibero-American parliamentarians propose to carry out political and legislative work that strengthens small producers, fosters the development of value chains and promotes responsible investment for agriculture in the most vulnerable territories, for source of:

- The promotion of fiscal and territorial policies to help small and medium farmers.

It is recommended to aim for actions that achieve greater and better responsible and sustainable investments, fiscal policies to promote distributive equity of land and legal



certainly, the promotion of entrepreneurship, the development of public-private partnerships and access to credit for family farming.

- The promotion of legislation that develops value chains that give national

Some examples: in this area, the legislative work of the PFH-LAC achieved in [El Salvador](#), [Honduras](#), [Paraguay](#), [Uruguay](#) and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (the latter country has carried out a high-impact action to ensure investment in agriculture and food security through the creation of the [Zero Hunger Trust Fund \(Fondo Fiduciario Hambre Cero\)](#)). In the same way, the work of the Front of the Municipal Council against Hunger of Metropolitan Lima is valued, which enforces the laws at the local level.

- The promotion of legislation that develops value chains that give national and regional comparative advantages to countries.

Some examples: in this area El Salvador has the [Law of Creation of the Trust for Food Sovereignty \(Ley de Creación del Fideicomiso para la Soberanía Alimentaria\)](#) and the rescue of the agricultural sector that seeks to increase the level of modernization of the agri-food chains and strengthen the agricultural and agro-industrial sectors, in order to improve the national food supply. Likewise, the Law that establishes the organization and operation of the agri-food chains of Panama (Ley que establece la organización y funcionamiento de las cadenas agroalimentarias de Panamá).

- Continue promoting public purchases of family farming with sufficient resources and supervision.

Agriculture is the sector in which more people work in the world; not in vain it supports 40% of the world's population. (...) Some 1,500 million people live in households whose



subsistence depends on a smallholding; many of these households suffer from extreme poverty.⁶

Some examples: in this line it is worth highlighting the [Law by which mechanisms are established to promote the participation of small agricultural producers and peasant, family and community agriculture in the food purchase markets of Colombia](#) ([Ley por la cual se establecen mecanismos para promover la participación de pequeños productores agropecuarios y de la agricultura campesina, familiar y comunitaria en los mercados de compras de alimentos de Colombia](#)).

- Prioritize responsible investment for sustainable agriculture on the agendas of the countries by generating new capacities in parliaments, executives, social actors and the private sector.

Some examples: with the support of FAO, Spanish Cooperation and the Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation (AMEXCID), the PFH-LAC has participated in training sessions on the incorporation of the Principles of the World Food Security Committee for the Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems (CFS-RAI)⁷ and has continued [A Practical Guide for Advisers and Parliamentarians on Responsible Investing](#) ([una Guía práctica para asesores y parlamentarios sobre inversión responsable](#)), product of which PARLATINO and FAO worked during 2020 in the [Joint statement for increasing responsible investment in agriculture and food systems in the face of the COVID-19 crisis](#) ([Declaración conjunta para el aumento de la inversión responsable en la agricultura y sistemas alimentarios ante la crisis del COVID-19](#)).

⁶ According to information from the Summit.

⁷ See more at <http://www.fao.org/in-action/responsible-agricultural-investments/our-work/trabajando-con-parlamentarios/es/>



Action track 5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress.

More resilient Food Systems for the benefit of all

The proposal of the Ibero-American parliamentarians in relation to Track 5 of the 2021 Food Systems Summit is based on the promotion of initiatives that ensure access to healthy food for the entire population and that protect small producers, who are part of the most vulnerable population groups to the effects of climate change and the COVID-19 crisis.

- Make food visible on national agendas as a central component of the response to the COVID -19 crisis and its recovery.

Some examples: with the aim of positioning on the political agenda of the countries the importance of not neglecting the fight against hunger and malnutrition in times of pandemic and post-pandemic, in 2020 the PFH-LAC spoke internationally through an [open letter \(carta abierta\)](#) signed by more than 400 parliamentarians. PARLATINO statements were also generated on the [international food distribution \(distribución internacional de alimentos\)](#), the [family farming in the context of Covid19 \(agricultura familiar en contexto de Covid19\)](#) and the [responsible investment in food systems in the face of the COVID19 crisis \(inversión responsable en sistemas alimentarios ante la crisis del COVID19\)](#), and a [Declaration of PARLACEN \(Declaración de PARLACEN\)](#) on food production in the face of the COVID-19 crisis





- Promotion of legislation and budgets related to agricultural insurance that increase the resilience of small and medium producers.

Some examples: In Paraguay the PFH is promoting the [Agricultural Insurance Bill](#) ([Proyecto de Ley de Seguro Agrícola](#)) which is currently awaiting adjudication.

- Promotion of regulations, incentives, budgets and public policies that ensure access to food in times of crisis.

Some examples: the PFH-LAC has promoted policies on access to food in times of pandemic in [Costa Rica](#), [El Salvador](#), [Honduras](#) and [Panamá](#).

- Generation of legislation that articulates food security and the fight against climate change.

Some examples: along this line, the work of the PFH of Paraguay that promoted the [PROEZA Law](#) ([Ley PROEZA](#)), which proposes to the world a new way of facing climate change and combating its effects on the rural population living in poverty and extreme poverty⁸. The approval in PARLATINO of the [Model Law on climate change and food security](#) ([Ley Modelo de cambio climático y seguridad alimentaria](#)).

⁸ More information at <http://www.macrofinanzas.com.py/presentaron-ley-no-6466-proeza-beneficia-ra-17-100-familias/>



Cross-cutting path to achieve the 5 pathways:

Gender equality and more parliamentary alliances (national and international) to transform Food Systems

Given the pressing reality that we are living as humanity, the catastrophic figures and current projections that indicate that three decades will be reversed in the fight against hunger and malnutrition, it is necessary to consider adding a cross-cutting path to achieve the 5 courses of action proposed by the Food Systems Summit 2021. This new path is aimed at reducing the gap in gender in food and nutrition security, to the inclusion of indigenous peoples and to the promotion of parliamentary alliances throughout the world under the slogan: without the scope of Sustainable Development Goal 5 “Gender Equality” (SDG5), we will not achieve SDG2.

Therefore, and with the aim of following up on the commitments of the Summit on Food Systems, the Ibero-American Parliaments propose:

- Work to reduce the gender gap by promoting legislation on food and nutrition security with a gender perspective.

It is recommended to work on laws that ensure adequate budgets aimed at providing rights and public goods (technical assistance, credit, training, among others) to rural

women. In the same way, it is important to point out that promoting the inclusion of indigenous communities is fundamental in the discussion and implementation processes that arise from the transformation of Food Systems.

- **Promote the inclusion of indigenous peoples and interculturality** in the discussion and implementation processes that arise from the transformation of the Food Systems. This, to take advantage of their knowledge, especially regarding more environmentally friendly forms of production.
- **Promocionar Frentes y Alianzas Parlamentarias como plataformas plurales en contra del hambre y la malnutrición en los Parlamentos nacionales y regionales.**

Some examples: it is suggested to promote, from the Parliaments, the development of spaces for dialogue of multiple national, regional and global actors that position and carry out political and legislative work in favour of SDG2 and SDG5, as was carried out in the First Parliamentary World Summit against Hunger and Malnutrition held in the Senate of Spain in 2018.





- Create the Ibero-American Parliamentary Alliance for SDG2 and SD5, made up of the PFH-LAC, the General Courts of Spain and the Assembly of Portugal, whose purpose is to promote actions that aim at concrete results in the area of food security and sustainable agriculture with gender approach, exchanging knowledge, lessons learned and successful experiences, and helping to increase international cooperation to meet the challenges of the 2021 Food Systems Summit in order to leave no one behind.

Signed on August 3, 2021

Representative of the PFH-ALC
Representative of the General Courts of the Kingdom of Spain



This proposal was validated in a participatory process that had the contributions of 18 parliamentarians from Spain and 13 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, including: representatives of national congresses and regional parliaments such as PARLATINO, PARLANDINO and PARLASUR. It is a document that was worked on online, discussed and approved in a virtual meeting on August 3, 2021.



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