



## **MINISTERIAL DECLARATION OF CELAC ON FAMILY FARMING AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

**San Salvador, El Salvador, December 13, 2017**

The member countries of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), gathered in San Salvador, El Salvador, on December 13, 2017, on the occasion of the IV Ministerial Meeting on Family Farming and Rural Development of CELAC, agree:

1. To urge all CELAC member states to strengthen the existing coordination mechanisms to achieve the coordinated implementation of the 2018 Action Plan (in annex), with the support of the Pro-Tempore Presidency (PTP).
2. To request the member states to reaffirm their commitment to the Ad-hoc Working Group on Family Farming of CELAC and to the Subregional spaces of policy dialogue for Family Farming, such as the Specialized Meeting on Family Farming of the Southern Common Market (REAF / MERCOSUR), the Central American and the Dominican Republic Commission of Family Farming of the Central American Integration System (CCAF / SICA) and the Andean Dialogue Group (GDA), strengthening the participation of the civil society.
3. To request the support and accompaniment of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Latin American Integration Association (ALADI) and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), for the identification of the 100 territories with the highest rate of hunger and undernourishment in the region, in order to prioritize the reactivation of the implementation of the FSN CELAC Plan in those territories, actively involving social organizations actively involving social organizations working in family farming.
4. To strengthen the mechanisms of South-South Cooperation and the exchange of experiences between the member countries and the different subregional integration organizations such as the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR), the Andean Community of Nations (CAN), the Central American Integration System (SICA), and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).
5. To reinforce actions on family farming and rural development, to contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), within the framework of the 2030 Agenda, in order to reduce poverty and inequality.

6. To reactivate, with the accompaniment and support of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the implementation of the Plan for Food Security, Nutrition and Hunger Eradication of CELAC 2025 (FSN-CELAC Plan) in the countries of the region, through the execution of national plans and strategies, and urge those countries that do not have these instruments to move forward on its elaboration.
7. To articulate efforts and deepen actions with the CELAC Working Group on the Advancement of Women to contribute to the implementation of the Gender Strategy of the Plan for Food Security, Nutrition and Hunger Eradication 2025, approved at the V Summit of Chiefs and Heads of State, held in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic in January 2017.
8. To recognize the vulnerability of CELAC states, particularly those in the Caribbean and Central America, to climate change, manifested in hurricanes, prolonged droughts, and other frequent and devastating extreme events that impact the capacity of family farming and sustainable production.
9. To adopt the *Regional Strategy for Integral Disaster Risk Management in the Agriculture Sectors and Food and Nutrition Security in Latin America and the Caribbean*, which provides a response to the request from CELAC in 2015, which it is expected to contribute to the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) to face the adverse effects of the phenomena associated with climate change.
10. To invite intergovernmental organizations on family farming and rural development, national systems and authorities responsible for disaster risk reduction and civil protection and other relevant actors, to work together to strengthen the resilience of the agricultural, livestock, forestry, aquaculture and fishing sectors, guaranteeing the food and nutritional sovereignty of our peoples, as well as the livelihoods of family farmers.
11. To recognize the progress made in different countries regarding the construction and implementation of public policies on family farming and rural development strategies and reduction of poverty and inequality, and the need to continue strengthening legal frameworks and generate the necessary institutional arrangements for its articulated implementation.
12. To strengthen public policies, particularly those that contribute to the development of agroecological family farming with cultural and territorial identity, and therefore to the economic, social and environmental sustainability of rural territories, with emphasis on communities in conditions of vulnerability.

13. To promote the participatory construction of public policies with a territorial approach with the active involvement of social organizations working in family farming and indigenous peoples in order to have instruments of an inclusive nature, supporting the initiatives and progress made by countries promoting family farming with the application of intercultural principles.
14. To encourage participatory construction and the implementation of public policies aimed at generating attractive opportunities for rural youth and families, promoting diversification and social and technological innovation regarding the dynamics of the territory.
15. To strengthen the articulation of programs and strategies of social protection and productive inclusion in the countries and rural territories in order to improve the quality of life of families and rural development, through intersectoral work.
16. To promote the access of family farming to productive assets, inclusive and pluralistic, financial and non-financial rural services, prioritizing strategic investments in social infrastructure, support for production in rural territories, to strengthen family farming, development rural development and overcoming territorial asymmetries, implementing changes to curricular programs with a food sovereignty and family farming approach, promoting of the value and benefits of family farming.
17. To facilitate the access of family farming to markets, through the strengthening of institutional purchasing programs, the promotion of local markets, the generation of links between rural, peri-urban and urban areas, the recognition of their cultural, social and environmental value.
18. To acknowledge the role of family farming in reducing food losses and waste, given its participation in all food systems, from production and sale to the assurance of proper family nutrition.
19. To follow up on the agreements reached at the Latin American and Caribbean Meeting of Rural Youth, held in Panama City in October 2017 and the rural youth agenda agreed upon at that meeting.
20. To recognize the importance of the efforts undertaken by PARLATINO in the elaboration of framework laws that contribute to the recognition, promotion and impulse of family farming, rural development and food and nutritional security.
21. The Ministers and Agricultural Authorities of CELAC recognize in a special way the work of FAO in the region, in priority areas related to the Human Right to Food, the reduction of poverty of our rural populations, mainly through the FSN CELAC Plan for the

achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, within the framework of the 40th Anniversary of the establishment of the National Offices of the Organization, in the countries of CELAC.

22. We highly appreciate the achievements of the Central American and the Dominican Republic Commission of Family Agriculture (CCAF) in support of the technical group on family farming and FSN, within the framework of the Central American Agricultural Council (CAC), through which progress has been made in the development of an institutional and legal framework for Family Farming, in the producers registry, spaces for dialogue, differentiated public policies and request the continuity of the support of the FAO to move forward with these initiatives.
23. The ministers and agricultural authorities acknowledge the participation of social organizations representing family farming in regional integration spaces, in drafting and implementation of policies to promote food sovereignty in the region
24. We suggest that all of the CELAC countries support the approval of the Decade of Family Farming in the United Nations General Assembly.
25. Request FAO to initiate the necessary steps to propitiate the establishment of a Technical Secretariat of the Ministerial Meeting on Family Farming and Rural Development of CELAC and the Ad-hoc Working Group, which would have as its main objective the follow-up of the current Plan of Work and its fulfillment, as well as providing support to the Pro Tempore Presidency in the programs, plans and activities in progress.
26. Adopt the Action Plan 2018 of the Ad-hoc Family Farming Working Group of CELAC in the terms of the attached document in annex 1 of this declaration.

The meeting also expresses its thanks to:

- FAO and the Ad-hoc Family Farming Working Group of CELAC for the support provided in the implementation of the 2017 Action Plan; and the organization of the IV Ministerial Meeting, reiterating the importance of keeping this support.
- The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) for its support in holding this meeting and its coordinated work with FAO and the CELAC member states, for the participatory construction of the *Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk*



*Management in the Agricultural Sector and Food and Nutrition Security in Latin America and the Caribbean.*

- The Pro Tempore Presidency of CELAC and the Government of El Salvador for the hospitality and facilities provided for the IV Ministerial Meeting on Family Farming and Rural Development of CELAC and its working group, held in San Salvador, El Salvador, on December 12 and 13, 2017.

27. Hold the V Ministerial Meeting on Family Farming and Rural Development of CELAC in Panama City, Panama in 2018.

**Appendix 1.**  
**Action Plan of the Ad-hoc Working Group on Family Farming and Rural  
Development of the CELAC 2018**

The Ad-hoc Working Group on Family Farming and Rural Development of CELAC, gathered on December 12, in San Salvador, El Salvador, adopts the Action Plan 2018, described below:

1. Draft a program for the promotion of South-South Cooperation on family farming topics and territorial rural development to contribute to the development of families and the reduction of rural poverty in the countries of the region.
2. To facilitate the exchange of experiences among member countries of the CCAF, REAF MERCOSUR, GDA and CARICOM on the following topics: a) family farmers registry; b) mechanisms for family farming inclusion in markets c) institutional purchasing systems; d) financial services for family farming.
3. Develop and implement, in collaboration with FAO and other partners, a research program aimed at studying the dynamics and transformation of rural poverty in Latin America and the Caribbean.
4. Build, in coordination with FAO and the Parliamentary Front against Hunger, a group of public policy proposals on social and technological innovation.
5. Support the Latin American Network of Rural Extension Services (RELASER) for the implementation of a platform for knowledge exchange on family farming and rural development, including the Caribbean subregion, with the objective of strengthening the work of rural organizations.
6. Support the elaboration of a training program for organizational strengthening and institutional capacity building on sustainable production of goods and services in silvo-agropastoral and aquaculture-fishing systems for family farming, to provide new opportunities for productive linkage.
7. Support the creation of a forum on agricultural production systems with an agro-ecological approach and biocultural diversity in the territories with a green jobs approach, including the most vulnerable population groups.
8. Support the implementation of the rural youth agenda agreed in October 2017 at the Regional Meeting on Youth in Latin America and the Caribbean.

9. Promote, with the support of the FAO, the strengthening of family farming through the implementation of awareness-raising actions that contribute to the prevention and reduction of food loss and waste, and the promotion of responsible consumption.
10. Promote, within the framework of South-South Cooperation, forums for discussion and exchange of experiences on the integration of fisheries and aquaculture in policies on family farming, in order to broaden the diversification strategies of family productive systems.
11. Prepare a manual on policy formulation for artisanal fisheries for the diversification of livelihoods, based on the identification of successful cases of productive inclusion in fishing communities of the region.
12. Support, in conjunction with the FAO and United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), an operational mechanism for the implementation of the Regional strategy for integral disaster risk management in agriculture sectors and food security and nutrition in Latin America and the Caribbean, which will give priority to identifying opportunities for South-South Cooperation between the countries of CELAC.
13. Organize in the first half of 2018 in Guatemala, the meeting for the execution of the operational mechanism of the Regional strategy for integral disaster risk management in agriculture sectors and food security and nutrition in Latin America and the Caribbean.
14. The ad-hoc Technical Committee of the Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Management will present its progress in the VI Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Management of the Americas, to be held in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, from June 20 to 22, 2018, to strengthen the role of the agricultural sector and family farming, in the regional efforts to implement the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030
15. Implement in an accelerated manner with the support and facilitation of FAO, initiatives and actions within the framework of the FSN-CELAC Plan that contribute to improve the quality of life of the population of the 100 territories identified as those with the highest rates of hunger and undernourishment in the region, with the participation of social organizations that work in family farming.
16. Strengthen and expand existing national spaces for policy dialogue on family farming and indigenous peoples, and implement producer registries in member countries.

