
SPECIAL DECLARATION ON TRADITIONAL AND SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS, KNOWLEDGES AND PRACTICES

The Heads of State and Government of Latin America and the Caribbean, on the occasion of the VII Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), held on January 24, 2023, in Buenos Aires, Argentine Republic;

Considering that there are no single models of food production, and that all of them must continue to coexist harmoniously in accordance with local realities, adapting to phenomena caused by climate variability for the benefit of producers and consumers, positively appreciating the richness of their diversity, and without the imposition of single production models, which will affect food security and traditional food production systems.

Emphasizing that the traditional, sustainable and resilient food systems of our countries are part of the solution to the challenges of sustainability since they generate food, ecosystem functions, favor the territorial roots and development of our countries and are highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change and the loss of biodiversity, global phenomena for which developed countries have a historical and current responsibility.

Reaffirming that the multiple international crises have caused disruptions in supply chains, affecting key elements of agri-food systems, such as the production, processing, distribution and marketing of food, affecting food systems that guarantee the right to food, food security, nutrition, the systems of life and the health of our peoples.

Stressing that Goal 2 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development on "ending hunger, achieving food security and improving nutrition and promoting sustainable agriculture", is consistent with the objectives of the Plan for Food Security, Nutrition and Eradication of Hunger 2025 of CELAC.

Considering that the "Report on the state of food insecurity in the world 2022", carried out by FAO, mentions that in 2021 the number of people suffering from hunger increased by 150 million since the outbreak of the pandemic and that "this increase reflects the exacerbated inequalities between and within countries, due to an uneven pattern of economic recovery between countries and the loss of unrecovered income by those most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic".

1. **Reiterate** the objective of the CELAC 2025 Food Security, Nutrition and Hunger Eradication Plan to "achieve concrete results that translate into significant improvements in the quality of life of our peoples, aimed at eradicating poverty, especially, extreme poverty, that guarantee food security and nutrition, with a gender approach and respecting the diversity of eating habits, to face the challenges of food security and nutrition with a view to eradicating hunger and enjoying the Right to Food, especially of all sectors in a situation of vulnerability";

2. **Recognize** that Sustainable Food Production Systems based on Traditional Agriculture, also known in other countries of the region as Family Farming, that support resilience and inclusion are an improvement in food systems, and an alternative solution to solve global food problems. Likewise, they allow recovery through diversified production, generating sustenance and local and regional consumption, being a crucial means to alleviate hunger and malnutrition and thereby ensure life systems, especially for populations in vulnerable situations.

3. **Considering** that Food Production Systems together with the inter-scientific dialogue between the academic science and traditional and local knowledge contribute to achieving sustainable agriculture in line with the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals, they **highlight** the contribution of agriculture and sustainable livestock farming to food security, economic development and territorial roots.

4. **Reaffirm** the commitment to strengthen Food Production Systems based on Traditional Agriculture, also known in other countries of the Region as Family Agriculture with traditional practices and knowledge of each region that support ensuring the systems of life of populations and promote sustainable development, contemplating food security, poverty eradication, the right to food, as well as the environmental dimension and their respective systems of life, among others, since these have been important in mitigating the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. At the same time, they encourage the use of new technologies friendly with nature to increase crop production, respecting the genetic material preserved in each country of the Region.

Buenos Aires, Argentina, January 24, 2023