

IICA



REPORT OF THE NINTH
REGULAR MEETING
OF THE INTER-AMERICAN
BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

Santiago, Chile

12-16 October 1997



WHAT IS IICA?

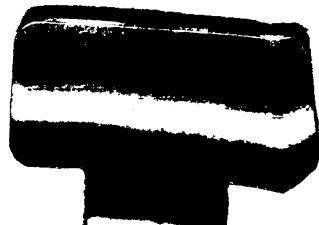
The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) is the specialized agency for agriculture of the inter-American system.

As a hemispheric technical cooperation agency, IICA can be flexible and creative in responding to needs for technical cooperation in the countries, through its thirty-four Technical Cooperation Agencies, its five Regional Centers and Headquarters, which coordinate the implementation of strategies tailored to the needs of each Region.

The 1994-1998 Medium Term Plan (MTP) provides the strategic framework for orienting IICA's actions during this four-year period. Its general objective is to support the efforts of the Member States in achieving sustainable agricultural development, within the framework of hemispheric integration and as a contribution to human development in rural areas.

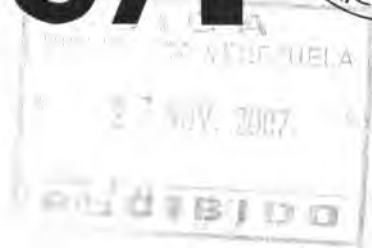
The Institute's work is aimed at making changes in agricultural production, trade and institutions and in the people who work in the sector, using an integrated and systemic approach to development, which is based on competitiveness, equity and solidarity as the key to achieving the sustainable development of agriculture and rural areas.

The Member States of IICA are: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, The Bahamas (Commonwealth of), Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, the United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela. Its Permanent Observers are: Arab Republic of Egypt, Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, European Communities, France, Germany, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kingdom of the Netherlands, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Poland, Romania, Russian Federation and Spain.



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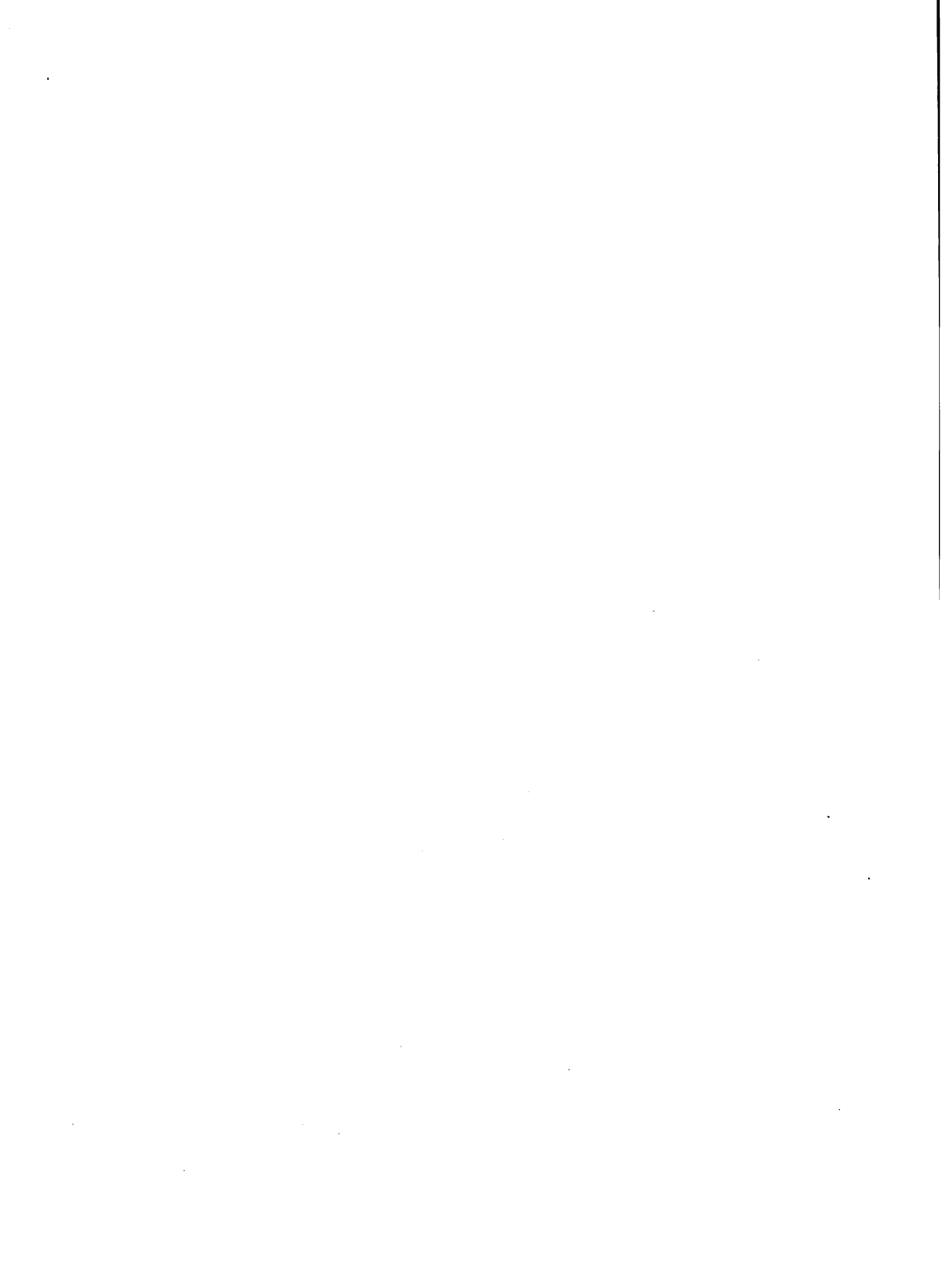
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**MINUTES OF THE NINTH REGULAR MEETING
OF THE INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**



IICA/JIA/ACTA 9(IX-0/97)
12 October 1997
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**MINUTES OF THE NINTH REGULAR MEETING
OF THE INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE
Santiago, Chile, October 12-16, 1997**

PREPARATORY SESSION

- 0.1 **The Preparatory Session of the Ninth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) was held on October 12, 1997 at 18:50 in the Gala Room of the Hotel Carrera, in Santiago, Chile. The meeting was chaired by the Representative of Costa Rica, Mr. Ricardo Garron Figs, Minister of Agriculture and Livestock, in his capacity as Chairman of the Eighth Regular Meeting of the IABA.**
- 0.2 **In this session, the Heads of Delegation reached agreement on the following items:**
- 0.3 **Election of the Chairman and Rapporteur of the Meeting**
- By acclamation, the Plenary elected Mr. Carlos Mladinic Alonso, Representative of Chile and Minister of Agriculture and Livestock, as Chairman of the IABA. He was nominated by the Representative of Honduras.**
- The Representative of Mexico nominated Mr. Raul Alegret, Representative of Venezuela, for the position of Rapporteur. Mr. Alegret was elected by acclamation.**
- The two officials took their place at the head table.**
- 0.4 **Agenda of the meeting**
- The agenda presented in Document IICA/JIA/Doc.211(97)rev. was approved.**

0.5 Membership of the Credentials Committee

The Representatives of Argentina, Barbados, Guatemala and Suriname were elected to make up the Credentials Committee.

0.6 Membership of the Style Committee

The Representatives of Trinidad and Tobago, Brazil, Canada and El Salvador were elected to make up the Style Committee, for the English, Portuguese, French and Spanish languages, respectively.

0.7 Working Committees

A working committee for the selection of external auditors was established, made up of the Representatives of Colombia, Costa Rica, the United States of America and Uruguay. It was also agreed to form others as might be necessary during the meeting.

0.8 Deadline for the Presentation of Proposals

The Board set October 13 at 18:00 as the deadline for the presentation of proposals. The deadline did not apply to draft resolutions relevant to topics under discussion.

0.9 Duration of the Working Sessions

It was agreed that all working sessions should end at 19:00.

0.10 Duration of the Meeting

The Plenary agreed that the meeting should end on October 15 at 18:00.

0.11 Order of Precedence of the Member States

The order of precedence was established following the Spanish alphabetical order, beginning with Chile, the country elected to chair the meeting.

0.12 Other Business

The Representative of the United States asked for a list of the draft resolutions that would be discussed during the working sessions. The Technical Secretary replied that it would be distributed during the course of the evening.

0.13 The Chairman invited participants to attend a reception on the second floor of the Hotel Carrera.

0.14 The Preparatory Session was adjourned at 19:15.

INAUGURAL SESSION

1.1 On October 13, 1997, at 09:20, Mr. Eduardo Frei, President of the Republic of Chile, opened the inaugural session of the Ninth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture in the former Congressional Palace in Santiago, Chile. He welcomed the participants and thanked them for participating in the meeting and the Second Ministerial Forum "Agriculture in the Americas on the Eve of the Twenty-first Century: Challenges and Opportunities." He underscored the significance of this event for Chile, given the importance of agriculture and the rural milieu in the development of his country. He noted that the enormous challenges facing the sector must be addressed collectively in a context characterized by homogeneous economic policies that share common elements, such as the opening of markets, the strengthening of civil society and support for the export sector. He made reference to the fact that, in the international trade accords, agriculture is the sector that has been slowest to open up and in which the greatest barriers still exist worldwide. Nonetheless, he stated that the conditions needed for economic opening should be created, with a view to solving the problems of the rural population, including: the modernization of the sector as a whole; transparent economic policies; improvements to make production competitive; and the establishment of common rules among all nations. He stated that it is necessary to improve living conditions in the countryside in order to avoid migration by the rural population, particularly young people. He also said that the state should ensure that its social and economic policies work in harmony to assist the most disadvantaged agricultural sectors, creating conditions that will make them competitive while promoting environmental sustainability. He proposed some areas of action for IICA, including support for the nations involved in negotiations to create the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA), and in the multilateral negotiations of the World Trade Organization (WTO) slated to begin in 1999. He concluded his address by inviting

participants to continue working on behalf of the development of agriculture in member countries.

- 1.2 Mrs. Josette Altmann, First Lady of Costa Rica, read a message from the President of the Republic of Costa Rica José María Figueres Olson in which he referred to the First Forum of Ministers of Agriculture “Agriculture in the Americas on the Eve of the Twenty-first Century,” held in 1995, when concern was expressed regarding some outstanding aspects of the performance of agriculture in the region. He added that this wide ranging and productive dialogue should continue during the Second Forum of Ministers of Agriculture, to take place during this meeting, enriched by the participation of the leaders of private-sector organizations and representatives of international organizations and professional associations. He stated that the Forum was an opportunity to ensure discussion of agricultural issues at the highest political level and that this requires the preparation of proposals that, at the national level, influence socio-economic policies and reflect the interests and underscore the importance of agriculture. At the hemispheric level, it is necessary to find solutions to problems shared by several nations. He emphasized that, in a context characterized by integration and the globalization of economies and societies, transforming challenges into opportunities demands the establishment of alliances with other sectors, to: i) promote social development, ii) articulate the different players involved in production-trade chains, and iii) ensure that the relations between the natural resource base and society allow for the harmonious coexistence of both over the long term. He considered that it would be pertinent for the Presidents and Heads of State of the Americas, who will be meeting shortly in Chile, to receive an unequivocal signal from the Ministers of Agriculture gathered at this meeting of the IABA. Specifically, he called for this Forum to be used as a means of reaching agreement on actions at the hemispheric level, as a complement to the process initiated at the Miami Summit; to instruct the Ministers of Trade to consider agriculture explicitly in work to establish the FTAA by the year 2005; and that the IICA be tasked with providing technical support to the process and use its organizing capabilities to build consensus on and coordinate agricultural cooperation and the involvement of the different players of the private sector and civil society. He concluded by expressing his wishes for success in the deliberations of the Ninth Regular Meeting of the IABA and in the different workshops of the Second Inter-American Forum on Agriculture.

- 1.3 The General Director of the IICA thanked the President of the Republic and the Minister of Agriculture of Chile for the opportunity to share with the agricultural community of the Americas the dreams, fears and hopes involved in confronting the enormous challenges and opportunities posed by the changing conditions in the international economy. He also thanked the leaders

who accepted IICA's invitation to consider the advisability of articulating and institutionalizing an inter-American alliance intended to foster the transformation and sustainable revitalization of the agricultural sector, reposition the sector, based on its new vision and role, and link it with the other sectors of the economy. He referred to the Second Ministerial Forum "Agriculture in the Americas on the Eve of the Twenty-first Century: Challenges and Opportunities" and noted that this was a historic occasion which could give rise to substantive elements for defining a common platform for a new institutional framework and the macro- and sectoral actions needed to meet the challenges the agri-food sector will face in the next century. He commented that developments around the world over the last decade had opened up opportunities for reactivating agricultural exports and the expansion of local markets, and that the time has come to tap the opportunities offered by international trade. Nonetheless, he noted that there are barriers to achieving these goals. He placed special emphasis on the tremendous challenge of effectively linking the state, civil society and the market. He added that the political and economic changes taking place in the Americas continue to revolve around regional integration. In this sense, he explained that, within the framework of the declaration of the Plan of Action of the 1994 Miami Summit, IICA proposed a strategy for repositioning agriculture on the eve of the twenty-first century, which today is more valid than ever. He reiterated that the time had come to design a common strategy and a joint plan of action for the transformation and revitalization of agriculture, so that both could be studied and approved by the Presidents and Heads of State of the region during the upcoming Summit to be held in Chile. He expressed his hope that this meeting of ministers and the inter-American agricultural community would serve as a historic point of departure for the establishment of the aforementioned alliance and the drafting of guidelines for the plan of action, and for recognizing that education and food will be the basis for bringing about, in the twenty-first century, economic, trade, institutional, and, above all, human transformations.

- 1.4 Mr. Ricardo Garrón, Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of Costa Rica and Chairman of the Eighth Inter-American Board of Agriculture, thanked the Government and the people of Chile and expressed his satisfaction at the fact that the Forum was being held in such a hospitable country. He noted that, since the Meeting of Presidents and Heads of State held in Miami in 1994, where the creation of a Free Trade Area of the Americas was agreed upon, the work of the ministries of agriculture and the institutions associated with agriculture had changed profoundly and that the emphasis had shifted from productivity to competitiveness, from technological research to agricultural production chains, from the farm to the market. He indicated that comparative advantages appear to make more sense in the agricultural area than in any other economic activity, even though this sector is the most sensitive to trade

opening. He noted that the real challenge is to convert the process of opening into an economic, social and environmental success and that gradualness, simultaneity, symmetry and equity are fundamental aspects in turning the problem into a solution. He indicated the need for a change in attitude, so that international negotiators shift from dogmatic opening to intelligent opening, so that small producers shift from the farm to organizations, so that organizations shift from protest to proposals, so that technicians shift from working for the producers to working with them. Next, he explained that IICA's support for the region's agricultural organizations had been of enormous value and that it will be an ally in meeting today's challenges. He added that this is the organization that has provided permanent and solid technical and administrative support to implement decisions, coordinate efforts and plan joint strategies. He indicated that IICA has had the difficult task of developing a common language (standardizing nomenclatures, tariff codes, quality standards and health requirements) and developing modern communications and informatics systems. He noted that IICA, in coordination with the Chairmanship of the IABA, has a new mission: to conduct analyses, put forth proposals and lead the transformation of the agricultural sector of the Americas. He added that food security, gender-related issues and sustainable development are the other major topics which must be addressed in conjunction with the process of opening. He stated that the incorporation of the private sector into this forum is a clear symbol of IICA's new direction and expressed his conviction that the private sector's contribution is essential to defining clear policies. Lastly, he welcomed The Bahamas as a new IICA member country.

- 1.5 Mr. Carlos Mladinic, Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of Chile and Chairman of the Ninth Inter-American Board of Agriculture, welcomed the participants. He then highlighted the importance of fulfilling, at least in part, the tasks handed down by the Presidents of Costa Rica and Chile, noting that it will not be easy if the goal is to contribute to economic, political and social development. He noted that agriculture changes daily and that its future is marked by uncertainty. He commented that while in some countries people are paid to destroy food, in others many people die of hunger. He added that much more money is spent on food for dogs and cats and on dieting in developed nations than what is spent on food in poor nations. Lastly, he noted the importance of ensuring that food reaches all of the world's inhabitants.

FIRST PLENARY SESSION

2. **The First Plenary Session was called to order at 11:50 on Monday, October 13, 1997 in the Gala Room of the Hotel Carrera in Santiago, Chile, under the chairmanship of the Minister of Agriculture of Chile, Mr. Carlos Mladinic.**
- 2.1 **First Ladies**
- 2.1.1 **The Chairman welcomed the First Ladies of Chile and Costa Rica, Mrs. Martita Larraechea de Frei and Mrs. Josette Altmann de Figueres, respectively, and invited them to present the results of the Forum of First Ladies held in Panama during the first week of October 1997.**
- 2.1.2 **Mrs. Josette Altmann de Figueres thanked the Inter-American Board of Agriculture for the invitation to attend and noted how the role of first ladies and wives of heads of state had evolved over the past decade, moving away from protocol and social welfare to support for the promotion and development of global strategies on behalf of the most disenfranchised sectors of society.**
- 2.1.3 **She noted that the situation of rural women had been included on their agendas in view of the importance of the issue in alleviating poverty and fostering the economic development of the countries. She said that the first ladies were aware that the role of rural women in production had to be strengthened if agriculture were to be modernized, diversified and made more sustainable. As a result, a regional proposal supported by IICA and designed to bolster the integration of rural women into educational, productive and commercial activities had been unanimously approved during the Forum of First Ladies.**
- 2.1.4 **On behalf of the Pro-Tempore Secretariat of the Forum and in keeping with point No. 9 of the Declaration of Panama, she asked the ministers of the IABA to lend their political, technical and financial support to this regional proposal.**
- 2.1.5 **The Chair offered the floor for comments on the proposal by the First Ladies.**
- 2.1.6 **On behalf of his Government, the Representative of Venezuela expressed support for the proposal and the efforts of the First Ladies to achieve recognition for the frequently overlooked participation of rural women in agricultural production chains.**
- 2.1.7 **The Alternate Representative of Panama expressed her support for the proposal on behalf of the First Lady of Panama, who had served as the Pro-Tempore Secretary for the Forum in Panama. She said that rural development was a**

prerequisite for the eradication of poverty and that such development was only possible if support was provided to rural women. She noted that financial resources had been secured in Panama to prioritize and increase the visibility of women's work in the countryside.

- 2.1.8 The Representative of Uruguay expressed his support for the initiative and stated that his country was acutely aware that the family, which brought together young people, producers and women, was the foundation for rural development. For agricultural enterprises to be efficient, all of these actors had to play key roles in the decision-making process. He noted that in December 1996 the Executive Branch had created an Honorary Commission for Rural Women with the support of the public and private sectors.
- 2.1.9 The Alternate Representative of Mexico congratulated the First Ladies and seconded the proposal. She said that the role of rural women was important due both to their participation in production and to the cultural values they transmit to their families. She stressed that evidence shows that the higher the educational level of women, the greater their impact on demographic policy. She was delighted that IICA had supported the proposal. She remarked that support was being provided to rural women in her country, guaranteeing them the right to land through a program based on an alliance for the countryside.
- 2.1.10 The Representative of Belize acknowledged the importance of the initiative of the First Ladies. He said that it was important to support the activities of rural women and noted that in his country women were the leaders in the market for goods and services and cottage industries.
- 2.1.11 The Representative of Trinidad and Tobago supported the proposal and noted that a prime example of her country's recognition of the contribution made by women was her presence as head of Trinidad and Tobago's delegation.
- 2.1.12 The Representative of Brazil also expressed support for the proposal and pointed out that since 1996 the President and First Lady of Brazil had been supporting a national family agriculture program that had benefited 700,000 rural families through loans and technical assistance. These families' products were now more competitive and, as a result, they had been able to remain in the countryside and lead a dignified existence.
- 2.1.13 The Representative of Colombia said that his government was a strong, committed and enthusiastic supporter of the proposal. Several years previously, Colombia had created an Office for Rural Women under the auspices of the Ministry of Agriculture to facilitate linkages between rural women and productive activities. There was also a capital development fund to extend

loans, provide an increasing amount of ongoing training, and strengthen organizations with a view toward making women's participation more effective.

2.1.14 The Executive Secretary of the Inter-American Commission on Women, Mrs. Margarita Roque, said that the proposal of the First Ladies placed rural women at the center of their communities, and that this concept was the key to women's comprehensive development. She underscored the need for political and financial support to bring it to fruition.

2.1.15 The First Lady of Chile thanked the Plenary for its endorsement of the proposal and said that she was proud to see that the true importance of rural women was now being recognized. She declared that it was time to move from words to action and noted that the next meeting of First Ladies was to be held in Chile and that they would be monitoring the progress of the proposal.

2.2 Presentation by the Representative of Canada on the withdrawal of Canada from IICA.

2.2.1 The Representative of Canada thanked the Government of Chile for its hospitality. He explained to the Plenary that he had been elected to parliament in June 1996 and appointed Secretary of State for Agriculture and Food. He noted that his country had strong links with the economies of the hemisphere and promoted numerous business exchanges among the different countries of the Americas. He pointed out that his government had recently signed a free trade agreement with Chile and that Canada had participated in the initial stages of the negotiations for the creation of the FTAA.

Canada would also be hosting the next meeting of the Organization of American States (OAS). However, given the challenges confronting his country, Canada had been obliged to put its public finances on a sound footing and reconsider its participation in international organizations. IICA had been one of the organizations affected and, as of December 31, 1998, Canada would cease to be a member of IICA. He stressed that this should not be interpreted as a lack of interest by Canada in the agricultural sectors of the Americas and acknowledged that this decision represented a challenge for the other member countries and obliged them to identify new forms of cooperation and funding to complete the Institute's transformation and modernization process.

2.2.2 The Representatives of Brazil, Venezuela, Paraguay and Mexico expressed their regret over Canada's decision to withdraw from IICA and the hope that over the next 15 months Canada would reconsider its decision. They noted that

a process of transition was under way and that Canada was a country with a key role to play in achieving food security in the developing nations. Furthermore, at a time when economic integration was becoming increasingly important, they were concerned at the withdrawal of a country that provided a balance within the Institute.

- 2.2.3 The Representative of Belize accepted Canada's position. However, given that sixty percent of IICA's member countries were developing nations and that their agricultural sectors were a source of food and trade, he asked the Government of Canada to consider the possibility of signing bilateral agreements with other countries.
- 2.2.4 The Representative of Haiti felt that it was not the time to discuss Canada's decision in depth, but stressed that all options for negotiation with the Canadian government should be exhausted. He said that IICA should consider a new institutional structure given the challenge posed by the withdrawal of that country as a member of the Institute.
- 2.2.5 The Representatives of Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago expressed disappointment at not having been able to persuade Canada to reconsider its decision. They noted that the Caribbean region had benefited from Canadian cooperation and proposed that Canada consider changing its status so that it could continue to be a member of the Institute, even if in a different capacity, and, should it hold to its decision, withdraw as of the year 2000.
- 2.2.6 The Representative of the Dominican Republic said that he respected Canada's decision but requested that the Board approve a draft resolution urging Canada to reconsider its decision. This proposal was seconded by the Representatives of Bolivia and Saint Lucia. The latter suggested that a similar draft resolution be presented by the Prime Ministers of the Caribbean countries at the next meeting of the Commonwealth.
- 2.2.7 The Representative of Honduras, on behalf of the Central American nations, expressed concern at Canada's decision. He noted the success that those nations had achieved in their integration and structural adjustment processes, particularly in the case of their agricultural sectors and the modernization of institutions. He called upon Canada to consider establishing a schedule that would facilitate the harmonization of integration policies with the Central American region.

- 2.2.8 The Representative of Uruguay, as Chairman of the Seventeenth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee held in July, noted that the issue of Canada's withdrawal had been discussed in detail during that gathering. He agreed with all of the arguments presented for Canada to reconsider its decision and shared the concern of all the MERCOSUR (Southern Common Market) countries.
- 2.2.9 The Representative of Chile said that his Government respected Canada's decision but, in light of the new challenges IICA will face in responding to the requests made by the Presidents of Costa Rica and Chile, he urged Canada to analyze and reevaluate its position within the context of the institution's new responsibilities.
- 2.2.10 The Representative of Costa Rica proposed, on behalf of the ministers of agriculture of Central America, that a motion be presented to the presidents of the Americas in order that the Prime Minister of Canada be urged to reconsider the decision at the Presidential Summit in April 1998.
- 2.2.11 The Representative of Colombia remarked that market liberalization was based on interdependence among nations. Canada, Mexico and the United States of America accounted for 17% of international trade relations. In addition, Canada maintained bilateral trading links with the majority of the member countries. For those reasons, he urged the Government of Canada to reconsider its withdrawal.
- 2.2.12 The Representative of Canada stated that he would present all of the arguments put forth to his fellow Cabinet Ministers next week.

2.3 Report of the Credentials Committee

The Representative of Guatemala presented the report of the Credentials Committee and announced that the credentials submitted by 34 delegations had been found in order.

2.4 Election of the Director General

- 2.4.1 The Technical Secretary briefly explained the electoral process, explaining that nominations had been received from the governments of the Dominican Republic (Carlos E. Aquino), Uruguay (former Minister of Agriculture Roberto Vázquez Platero) and Peru (Dr. Carlos Pomareda). On September 4, 1997, the Government of Uruguay had withdrawn the name of Dr. Vázquez Platero, and on October 6, 1997, the Government of Peru had withdrawn the name of Dr.

Pomareda. Therefore, in accordance with the terms of IICA's regulations, the election would fall to current Director General Carlos E. Aquino.

- 2.4.2 The Representative of Costa Rica referred to the decisions of the governments of Uruguay and Peru to withdraw their candidates and moved that Mr. Aquino be elected by acclamation. The delegates, observers, and others present responded by rising to their feet and receiving the Director General's reelection with a round of applause.
- 2.4.3 The Representatives of the United States and Honduras expressed their satisfaction in supporting the candidacy and in view of the evident unanimity, expressed their wholehearted support for Mr. Aquino in his second term at the helm of the Institute.
- 2.4.4 A number of countries took the floor to express their congratulations to the Director General. The Representative of Uruguay explained that his country's interest had been to revitalize the Institute and support it through a difficult time of transition, and that this desire had led to the decision to withdraw the Uruguayan nomination. Nevertheless, he reiterated the merits and qualifications of former Minister Roberto Vázquez Platero. He also expressed his satisfaction with IICA and with the Director General's vision of the Institute's future role. Finally, he thanked Costa Rica for having understood his country's position and stressed Uruguay's interest in strengthening IICA.
- 2.4.5 The Representative of Peru congratulated the Director General and wished him the greatest of success in his new term. The Representative of Belize, speaking as Chairman of the Standing Committee of Ministers Responsible for Agriculture of the Caribbean countries, praised the Director General for the work done in the region. He particularly approved of the Director General's success in pooling IICA's resources with those of many universities in the interest of bringing development to the countries. The Representative of Saint Lucia added his words of congratulations to the Director General, noting that IICA had become well established and trusted in his country, and expressed great admiration for the Director General's work. He pledged his country's continued support. The Representative of Canada, in his words of congratulations, stressed that the Director General had won great credibility, and that this would be an important asset for the Institute in the new term.
- 2.4.6 The Representative of the Dominican Republic, speaking on behalf of his government, the public and private sectors of agriculture of his country, and on his own behalf, thanked the other countries for supporting the Dominican candidate to head the Institute for four more years. He extended the apologies of the Secretary of State for Agriculture, who had been unable to attend

because of unforeseen circumstances, and expressed his hope that the Director General would continue working for integration in the Caribbean and Central America, and pursue processes leading to the formation of FTAA 2005.

- 2.4.7 Finally, the Chairman, speaking as Representative of Chile, wished the best of success to the Director General in his second term.
- 2.4.8 The Director General took the floor to give a statement of acceptance. When he had been elected to his first term, four years earlier, he had interpreted this decision by the countries as a statement of belief in the important role that small countries play in the Institute and the inter-American system. He thanked all the Member States in advance for the support he anticipated during the upcoming term, which he knew would be fraught with challenges, opportunities and difficulties. He stressed that no Director General could achieve progress unless the stakeholders in the Institute became fully involved, and acknowledged that the Member States themselves had invested much in IICA. He pledged to continue the process of building a new institutional culture to meet the challenges of the day.
- 2.4.9 He then reviewed the financial progress made in the Institute. Four years earlier, many countries had been reporting significant arrearages in quota payments, but now only a few remained, and these few would soon finish bringing their accounts up to date. He expressed his gratitude to all the Member States for their support, and especially to the delegation of the Dominican Republic and President Leonel Fernández. He thanked IICA's staff, noting that transparency and participation were very important if the Institute is to succeed. He reiterated his commitment to service, and to building strategic alliances as a way to make the best possible use of limited resources. The Director General then thanked the governments of Uruguay and Peru for their support and for continuing to take an active interest in IICA.
- 2.4.10 The Director General joined the delegations in expressing his wish that Canada would remain in the Institute. IICA had divided the hemisphere into five subregions, he explained, to reflect the structure of the subregional trading blocs. Without Canada, the northern subregion would lose balance, as would the entire Institute structure. He closed by expressing his eagerness to take on the challenge of defining new parameters for the agricultural sector, and hoped for the support of all the countries.
- 2.5 The Chairman thanked the Director General for his words and adjourned the First Plenary Session at 14:00.

SECOND PLENARY SESSION

3. **The Second Plenary Session was called to order on Monday, October 13, 1997, at 16:25.**
- 3.1. **Report on the Seventeenth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee**
- 3.1.1. **The Chairman of the Executive Committee, Roberto Rodríguez Pioli, from Uruguay, explained that he would merely summarize the report of the 1996 and 1997 Executive Committees, distributed as Document 223. He noted that the resolutions of the Executive Committee had emerged after extensive discussion, analysis and consensus-building by delegates and observers, and hoped they would be endorsed by the Board.**
- 3.1.2. **He said that the main item of discussion had been institutional transformation. The Committee had set up a special working group of 10 Member States, two from each subregion, drawn by lot. The group had met in February and July of 1997, and had set up subgroups to meet, discuss, and report back to the Seventeenth Regular Meeting of the Committee. Three topics were assigned to the subgroups: 1) restructuring of the budget, financial measures, and financial control; 2) raising the professional level of human resources and making better use of Institute staff; and 3) institutional strengthening.**
- 3.1.3. **After receiving the reports of these subgroups, the Committee had agreed on three basic premises that IICA should adopt for its work. The first was that technical cooperation should be the driving force of everything IICA did and was the key to success in all other areas. He then defined technical cooperation as something that improves the capabilities of technicians and institutions in the public and private sectors and added that this meeting was clear testimony of this emphasis, as the private sector was notably present. The second basic premise was that the process of decentralization must continue and deepen. The third was that attention must always be trained on agrifood production and agroindustry as continuous chain, with all production sectors eventually leading to agroindustry. The final link in the chain was inevitably the consumer, whose food needs and quality expectations must always be the guiding force for producers.**
- 3.1.4. **He went on to say that the Executive Committee had then discussed how such a transformation should take place, and agreed that it should revolve around four key issues. The first was policies and trade, where national and regional markets should remain highly transparent. The second was technical innovation. The third was agricultural health, which was critical for the**

agroindustrial chain. The fourth was sustainable modernization of agricultural production and agroindustrial systems. The Executive Committee had also discussed at length how the functions and responsibilities should be divided among the three levels of IICA—headquarters, regions and countries. The Chairman of the Executive Committee completed his report by explaining that the resolutions of the Committee would be distributed the following day, so they could be discussed for approval on the morning of Wednesday, October 15.

3.2. Report of the Committee for the Selection of External Auditors

3.2.1. The Minister of Agriculture of Colombia gave the report of the Committee for the Selection of External Auditors. He explained that the four countries on the Committee (Costa Rica, Uruguay, the United States and Colombia) had been assigned to select an audit firm for IICA and CATIE. Of the six companies that had submitted bids, only Peat Marwick Mitchell had specified the deadline for presenting their final report. Because the audit firm was expected to meet this requirement, the Committee had agreed unanimously to recommend this bid. The Institute's financial and audit authorities concurred. There being no discussion, the plenary accepted the report of the committee.

3.3. Reports from the Ministers of Agriculture

The next item of business was to hear reports from various delegates concerning the state of agriculture in their countries.

3.3.1. Presentation by the Representative of Venezuela

The first to take the floor was the Representative of Venezuela. He explained that historically, although the mainstay of his country's economy had been agriculture, the sector had been displaced by the discovery of oil in the 1920s. Today the sector provided only five percent of the GDP and rural populations were migrating rapidly to industrial urban areas. Only nine percent of the economically active population now worked in agriculture, and 11 percent of the population lived in rural areas. For many years, the sector had been propped up with oil income under the import-substitution model based on heavy subsidies and protectionist policies. Agriculture had become very capital intensive, using high levels of technology and very sophisticated machinery and equipment. Pressure on the land had been relieved by an agrarian reform process that granted government-owned land and expropriated private properties to small- and medium-scale producers. However, the sector was characterized by a distorted market, poor use of resources, inappropriate land use, and a heavy fiscal burden.

The country had undertaken a structural adjustment program beginning in 1989, with severe repercussions for agriculture. Interest rates had soared, financing evaporated, and investment dried up. However, the sector had begun to rebound, and a transition period had begun three years ago. The impact of trade liberalization and of dismantled subsidies had been cushioned by greater flexibility in the financial system, more participation by private capital, enticing incentives, and improved infrastructure. At the same time, official structures were transformed to improve efficiency, seek consensus, give more authority to the private sector, and decentralize functions to the regional and local levels.

Although the discovery of oil had initially been detrimental to agriculture, today, several decades later, oil revenues were being used to strengthen agriculture and make the sector more competitive through training, technology, infrastructure, communications and information. Attention was focused on penetrating world markets with highly specialized production, and moving toward integration into the Andean Community, as a step toward formalizing FTAA 2005.

In the meantime, the sector continued to post modest growth rates. It remained stable when other sectors struggled to survive, when the GDP fluctuated wildly, and when the economy experienced sharp swings. He stressed that reconversion would take time, but efforts were aimed at forging a chain linking production to storage, distribution and marketing. To ease the process, multi-sectoral commodity-based councils had been set up to analyze each chain.

The Representative of Venezuela closed by saying that his country was advancing toward globalization, competitiveness, liberalization and trade opening, taking care to build consensus and avoid moving too quickly.

3.3.2. Presentation by the Representative of Nicaragua

The Representative of Nicaragua began by explaining that Nicaragua was an eminently agricultural country, and on January 10, 1997, the government had introduced a process of economic reactivation based on agriculture. Past economic models, overlooking the critical position of the sector, had tended to marginalize rural areas, focusing exclusively on industrial urban areas. In April 1997, the Minister of Agriculture had issued guidelines for the development of agriculture, the objectives of which are to fight poverty, guarantee food security, and reconcile human society to nature. This called for restructuring the economy to eliminate the anti-agricultural bias and open the way to compete on international markets. The goal was to make agriculture more attractive and profitable, so as to be able to feed the population and

produce an export surplus. Tax reform measures included the elimination of import tariffs on production inputs. Improvements were already evident, and the nation seemed on its way to its stated goal of resuming its position as the bread basket of Central America.

The country had lived through many difficult years, but the people had closed the door on war and were determined to work toward reconciliation. The technological gap was significant, with consequent low productivity and high poverty. The Representative made a call for continent-wide solidarity to improve technology and raise production. He mentioned a campaign to strengthen primary schools as the driving force of development, and a drive to bring small farmers into the economy through credit, market access, and better knowledge. The Representative closed by thanking Chile for its hospitality and emphasizing the common culture that united the two countries.

3.3.3. Presentation by the Representative of Mexico

The Representative of Mexico extended the greetings of his country's Secretary of Agriculture, Francisco Labastida Ochoa, who had been unable to attend because of emergency conditions in the wake of Hurricane Paulina. He then read a statement by Secretary Labastida.

Mexico was convinced of the importance of combining efforts to improve rural life. The country was strengthening its democracy and social justice in rural areas, but rural life would not improve unless agriculture is strengthened. The government was developing a two-pronged strategy. The first line of action was to meet social needs, especially health, education and infrastructure. The second was to support agricultural activities through better technology, more capital, more services, better training and greater mechanization.

Thirty production programs had been introduced to work in such areas as increasing the use of improved seed, introducing more tools, raising milk production by planting pastures, introducing early, more resistant varieties of coffee, and improving rubber production. In fact, basic grain crops had improved by 18 percent from 1996 to 1997, and by the end of the year, the country anticipated new records in the sugar cane, coffee and vegetable harvests. Mexico believed in a free international market, and was convinced it would lead to greater productivity. Certain risks were inevitable, including efforts by some countries to eliminate trade barriers on less than scientific grounds, imposing their own standards. This was a new form of protection that should be avoided on international markets if all countries were to have equitable access. He therefore encouraged the countries to promote free and fair markets.

Mexico fully supported the transformation process taking place in IICA, and hoped that the Institute would continue and even widen its efforts in this direction. The Representative looked ahead to the twenty-first century as a time for inter-American economic integration and that every Member State needed to do its part so that agriculture could become a powerful source of development.

3.3.4 Presentation of the Representative of Colombia

The Representative of Colombia noted that the poor of his country were mainly concentrated in the rural sector and that there was also a serious problem due to the existence of guerrillas in that sector. He indicated that Colombia had restructured its agricultural production by reducing the importance of transitory crops as compared to permanent crops and livestock. This has led the public sector to join efforts with trade associations and producers' organizations to chart a common course for his country's agricultural sector into the future. Twelve priority actions have been identified, including efforts to secure more harmonious relations and peace; the definition of consistent policies aimed at improving competitiveness, profitability and productivity; the development of human talent, progress in science and technology, and investment in public services and infrastructure (roads) in rural areas.

Finally, he emphasized that the most important goal in working with the small farmer organizations and trade associations was to establish a "win-win" philosophy, in order to jointly define a "beacon" for the agricultural sector of his country.

3.3.5 Presentation of the Representative of Costa Rica

The Representative of Costa Rica stated that, from the institutional point of view, the public agricultural sector in his country had become considerably smaller and was currently attempting, with the same amount of resources, to strengthen those areas most weakened in the process. He indicated that efforts to integrate sector institutions include the implementation of joint projects, which calls for physical facilities to be shared in some regions of the country. He also mentioned that significant progress had been made in the "Infoagro" project, aimed at establishing small information stations in the different regions. Likewise, he referred to the integration of actions with social sector institutions, which have better funding, to support production activities. With regard to the program to modernize and diversify production, he indicated that basic agricultural centers had been established to integrate producers' groups,

with a view to working together to market their products. He identified gender issues and sustainable agriculture as other areas in which the agricultural sector had carried out important actions in Costa Rica.

3.3.6 Presentation of the Representative of Belize

The Representative of Belize stressed the fact that the objective of agriculture in his country is to provide its population with food and contribute to the generation of foreign exchange, with a view improving living conditions. He explained that a unique feature of Belize is that 75% of its population is young. Thus, through suitable technical education, great progress can be attained in its agricultural sector. He indicated that agriculture in his country had undergone changes, including improvements in the production of seeds and the opening of new agricultural schools, that have allowed the country to reduce its volume of imports. He underscored that efforts have been made to facilitate the access of students from Belize to universities in the region, and made special note of the support received from IICA and CATIE.

3.3.7 Presentation of the Representative of Paraguay

He underscored the importance of agriculture in his country and indicated that one of the cornerstones of his government's economic policy is to promote the well-being of the population, within the framework of full freedom and effective market operations. This calls for private enterprise to play a leading role and for the state to provide a clear, stable legal and institutional framework, so as to reduce the uncertainty of the agents of the private sector. He stressed that fiscal, exchange rate, monetary and financial measures were taken in order to bring about the changes needed to enhance competitiveness in both regional and global markets. He stated that the transformation of production is a complex operation and should be managed efficiently. In this regard, he explained that the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock operated in step with the Program to Modernize the Agricultural and Forestry Sector (PROMADAF). He noted that Paraguay is in the process of transforming the structure of institutions of its production sectors, and will adapt that structure to the strategic decision to make exports the catalysts of the country's development, through the trade relations established in already completed and future negotiations.

He emphasized his country's commitment and willingness to do everything possible during the Ninth Regular Meeting of the IABA to achieve its expected results.

3.3.8 Presentation of the Representative of Bolivia

The Representative of Bolivia stated that in recent years his country's national policy has been focused on overcoming macroeconomic disequilibria and promoting change in the domestic economy (structural adjustment). He stated that the current government was directing its actions and policies toward improving the living conditions of its population and fostering economic growth and human development. He indicated that the performance of the agricultural sector was sluggish compared to the rest of the economy, due to the effects of indiscriminate trade opening and the lack of adequate support for production activities in the sector. At the institutional level, the agricultural sector is trying to regain its role in the determination of national policy, with the restitution of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Rural Development, which is responsible for issues related to agriculture, livestock, forestry production, fisheries, agroindustry, the management of renewable natural resources, rural development and alternative development. He underscored that agenda of the Bolivian agricultural sector includes such issues as: (i) the development of a new public-private institutional framework; (ii) the design and implementation of national services to support production (health, irrigation, seeds, technology) and the sustainable management of natural resources; (iii) the preparation and implementation of programs and projects for specific sectors and areas; (iv) monitoring of integration and international trade projects; (v) the proper operation of domestic markets, including agribusiness coordination. He concluded his address by mentioning the goals Bolivia expects to achieve, such as: to modernize the agricultural sector and improve living conditions in the rural milieu; to create a competitive agricultural sector; to fully integrate agriculture into the international context; and to replace the coca-based economy.

3.3.9 Presentation of the Representative of Panama

The Representative of Panama presented the apologies of the Minister of Agricultural Development of his country, who could not be present at this important meeting. He expressed his congratulations to the Minister of Agriculture of Chile on his election as Chairman of the Ninth Regular Meeting of the IABA, and Dr. Carlos Aquino on his re-election as Director General of IICA. He referred to the fact that his country was implementing a development model based on trade opening and integration. In this regard, the agricultural sector is implementing measures aimed at supporting modernization and improvements in the rural milieu, and at mitigating the adverse effects economic opening might have on different agricultural sectors. In the area of institutional modernization, Panama seeks to diversify and modernize the operation of producers and reinforce basic technical assistance

and agricultural health services, through the involvement of private enterprise in the execution of four basic components; (i) technology generation and transfer; (ii) agricultural health and quarantine services; (iii) support services to agribusiness; and (iv) land titling. He emphasized the search for solutions to the socioeconomic problems of underprivileged sectors of the population, by involving rural men and women in decisions affecting their future. He stated that his government was promoting and supporting the creation of a center for the collection, processing and distribution of agribusiness and agriculture products, which would facilitate access by third countries to national markets and enable them to add Panamanian agricultural products to their exports. He stressed his country's commitment to the First Ladies' initiative of carrying out a hemispheric project aimed at incorporating rural women into agricultural production systems.

He emphasized that, in light of rapid scientific and technological progress, which was making it necessary to change prevailing paradigms, Panama offers an alternative through the "Ciudad del Saber" (City of Knowledge), an international educational facility, created by occupying areas and infrastructures that were used for military purposes and which are today at the service of peace. Finally, he invited the delegates to coordinate their efforts and strengthen their capacity to work jointly toward the solution of common problems, with a view toward attaining sustainable agricultural development, eliminating acute poverty and securing the effective modernization of agriculture, in order to provide a better quality of life for the people of the region.

3.3.10 Presentation of the Representative of Saint Lucia

The Representative of Saint Lucia spoke of the importance of maintaining IICA as a unifying force during the transition to a new millennium. He noted that the increasing complexity of international trade relations and its adverse effects on banana trade had played a role in the contraction of his country's agricultural sector. He stated that new the environment in which agricultural trade is taking place posed a challenge for the sector. On the one hand, it was striving to maintain its access to the banana market and to identify alternative uses (e.g., flakes, fiber) while, on the other, it was attempting to diversify agricultural production. He explained that the sector's production structure had changed; the amount of land used for agriculture had diminished; and small holdings of fewer than 5 acres had increased, currently representing some 70% of all farms. He added that the sector accounted for 23% of direct employment, and the banana industry employed 60% of the total agricultural labor force. He went on to say that the quality and quantity of production had

been improved by increasing the productivity of land and improving production techniques. He also said that the agricultural sector must be linked to tourism and agroindustry, to serve as a springboard for the development of self-sustaining, creative and innovative rural enterprises. Within that context, the type of sustainable development being sought would not only bring environmental stability, but also social equity, political democracy and balanced growth. He noted that the plan for the sustainable development of Saint Lucia's agricultural sector was based on a strategy for creating synergies between production and the market. The major areas addressed by that strategy were market promotion and development, agroindustrial development, the improvement of productivity through the adoption of appropriate technologies, and the organization of producers. The Representative went on to say that Saint Lucia needed greater market access and expressed his government's interest in establishing commercial ties with countries in South and Central America. In closing, he suggested that IICA play an important role in promoting exchanges of scientific and technological expertise, and information in the areas of market access, the processing of agricultural products and institutional transformation.

3.3.11 Presentation of the Representative of Guatemala

The Representative of Guatemala underscored the importance of the agricultural sector for his country, inasmuch as it generated 25% of the gross domestic product, employed 58% of the economically active population, and was the largest source of foreign exchange revenues.

However, its growth in recent years had been sluggish. He noted that the major challenges to be met included the fulfillment of commitments assumed under the peace agreement, the creation of mechanisms for the completion of the government plan, and the reinforcement of the National Commission for Agricultural Development, which served as a consultative body that brought together all the different agricultural production sectors. He stated that Guatemala wished to strengthen the sanitary measures applying to trade and attributed a great deal of importance to training of human resources for increasing productivity. The Representative then spoke of the need to reconcile the aims of agricultural development with those of environmental protection and natural resource conservation, and noted that both land-use planning and legislative measures had an important role to play in that connection. He said that the modernization of the Ministry of Agriculture was seen as a tool for addressing the challenges faced by the country's agricultural sector, explaining that the modernization process included four areas: the enactment of a forestry law, the transformation of the development banking

system, the restructuring and modernization of the national research institution and the administrative transformation of the Ministry of Agriculture.

3.3.12 Presentation of the Chair of the CIDI

Mrs. Sarah Horsey-Barr, Chair of the *ad hoc* Commission of the Inter-American Council for Sustainable Development of the Executive Secretariat for Integral Cooperation Development (CIDI), spoke on what the inter-American system wished to accomplish in general, and regarding sustainable development in particular. She stated that the relationships between societies and governments, between society and the private sector, and among multilateral organizations were important elements in the work of the organization. She noted that IICA and the OAS had undertaken joint activities on a number of occasions and could also do so in the field of sustainable development, and went on to reaffirm the need for organizations working in related areas to complement each other's efforts. The Santa Cruz Declaration and the strategic plan for 1997-2001 furnished a conceptual framework for the aims of the program on sustainable development and provided avenues for joint undertakings. She indicated that 80% of the funds earmarked for the issues of sustainable development, the environment and agriculture came from external sources. During the Summit of the Americas on Sustainable Development held in Santa Cruz, specific responsibilities had been assigned to the OAS, one of which was to monitor the commitments made. She noted that some ministries had not yet submitted their progress reports and urged them to do so, reminding them that those reports had to be submitted in advance of the meeting scheduled for April in Santiago, Chile. In closing, she reiterated the Council's recognition of the progress achieved by IICA and stressed the importance of complementary efforts.

3.4 The Chairman adjourned the Second Plenary Session at 19:00.

**SECOND MINISTERIAL FORUM
AGRICULTURE IN THE AMERICAS ON THE EVE OF THE
TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES**

PANEL DISCUSSION

4. The Technical Secretary called the Forum to order at 09:35 on Tuesday, October 14, 1997.

The Chairman of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture explained that the purpose of the forum was to provide ideas and guidelines that would orient IICA's actions over the following two years. He then introduced and welcomed the first guest speaker, Dr. Peter Timmer.

4.1 Presentation of Dr. Peter Timmer

Dr. Timmer emphasized that most of his experience had focused on the role of agriculture in economic development in Asia. He then shared the following ideas:

Prospective Trends in Agriculture in the Era of Globalization

The key to development has always been getting prices right, usually through market mechanisms. Today it is clear that markets alone are not enough, and sometimes the state must intervene with corrective measures. Getting the prices right is necessary, but not sufficient, for development. The first challenge is to reconcile two differing but complementary viewpoints: 1) that economic growth and social stability depend on agriculture; and 2) that economic growth and social stability depend on macroeconomic conditions, structural transformation, signals and prices from world markets, and open trade. In fact, both points of view are essential.

This meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture is concerned with four issues, to wit: sustainability, equity and poverty alleviation, competitiveness and institutional restructuring. While some of these can be addressed effectively by the public sector, the ministries of agriculture also need to be aware of those that are out of government hands. In order to begin understanding which they can control and which they cannot, it would be useful to examine three basic forces that drive the agricultural sector. All these

forces need to be understood if the countries are to participate in the international economy without becoming victims of it.

The first is a set of **historical forces** which have led to the formation of a network of institutions and a policy structure linking agriculture to the rest of the economy. As a result, rising productivity in agriculture tends to push up income levels in the rest of the economy. Thus, agriculture continues to be extremely important to the overall process of economic growth.

The first of the historical forces is **structural transformation**, which has featured three processes of particular interest. First, as industrialization advances, the share of agriculture in the economy tends to shrink. This is a pervasive, universal phenomenon, but only over the long term. Over the short run, agriculture may actually expand its share of the economy as trade is liberalized and agricultural productivity gains counteract the traditionally strong urban bias. In fact, productivity tends to grow faster in agriculture than in industry.

The second feature of structural transformation is **urbanization**, an inexorable trend worldwide, accompanied by acute income disparities between urban and rural areas. Regardless of whether people migrate to flee rural poverty, or to seize opportunities in urban zones, the trend forces countries to rely on import markets if they hope to improve food security.

The third feature of structural transformation is the commercialization of agriculture and the increasingly prominent role of agribusiness. Subsistence farmers are reeling under competitive pressures from low-cost commodity producers all over the world, and few are able to obtain income advantages from basic staples. Instead, more profits are to be had from food processing and specialized foods.

A second historical force, after structural transformation, is the **role of agriculture in economic growth**. Three different views have been posited to explain linkages between agriculture and the rest of the economy. The Lewis linkages focus on factor markets, especially labor and capital, and reveal the ways in which higher productivity in agriculture is reflected in the rest of the economy. Johnston-Mellor linkages look at product markets and the productive interactions by which industry and agriculture, by supplying one another with products, both grow more quickly. Non-market linkages are based on

relationships among different sectors. For example, growth in agriculture improves the general food supply and nutritional levels, which in turn improves the overall economy. In another example, food security has a direct impact on social stability. Likewise, countries that have eased the profound urban bias in economic policy experience faster growth both in agriculture and in other sectors because resources are allocated more efficiently.

The second set of forces to which countries must respond is **market forces**, as international and domestic markets tend to converge through market globalization. These forces are reflected in both demand and supply.

First of all, all market economies are driven by demand. Consumers send signals by spending their resources, and producers read these signals and produce accordingly. Although consumer demand can never be predicted with certainty, economic planners must understand a few basic forces that drive demand. First of all, population growth has slowed worldwide, although it will continue to rise for another 10 to 12 years, necessitating continued production of staple foods. Secondly, income levels are rising and even poor countries can anticipate strong economic growth if they adopt sound policies and investment programs. More worrisome, however, is the question of how this increased income is to be distributed. Thirdly, distribution and marketing are being transformed and prices are bound to respond. It is uncertain whether the century-long decline in staple grain prices will continue, or whether higher population growth, environmental concerns and water shortages will reverse this trend. In the fourth place, with the onrush of globalization, consumer tastes are changing in favor of fast delivery, off-season access to fresh produce, and high degrees of diversity. All this calls for highly sophisticated food production and delivery systems. Fifth, many new end uses are now available for agricultural commodities, ranging from food and feed to fuel, sweeteners and factory inputs. These alternative uses require low-cost, abundant supplies.

On the supply side, the main issue is productivity growth. A great deal of confusion also surrounds the proper spheres of the public sector and the private sector. Four factors are relevant. In the first place, farm inputs traditionally were chemical, biological or mechanical. Today, however, agriculture has become more management-intensive and technologies are knowledge-based. It is not clear how farmers will acquire the knowledge they need. Secondly, many new kinds of agricultural technology now exist, and the region faces the great challenge of developing research capacities in such fields as genetic

engineering and biotechnology. Third, environmental and sustainability issues raise many complex problems and demand new institutional capacities to monitor trends and enforce existing regulations. Fourth, rural infrastructure continues to be a critical need, and it is not clear who will cover the costs of irrigation, water management, rural roads, communications and electricity, so that investment will be attracted to rural areas. Telephone communication, in particular, is crucial for minimizing the risk of price exposure. Because these investments will actually boost the entire economy, through lower food prices and higher industrial productivity, they must be considered socially profitable. The key to attracting investment to rural areas are investment in rural human capital, secure land tenure and property rights, and functioning input markets.

The third and final set of forces is **political forces**. These vary considerably from one country to another, and have been intensified in many cases by the advent of democratic movements. Four in particular are common to most countries.

The first set of political pressures involves differential income levels between rural and urban areas and the failure of economic growth to filter down to the poor. Sensing that they have been left behind, farmers migrate to the factory. Indeed, recent studies have shown that where the gap in income distribution is wide, productivity gains in the overall economy are seldom felt by those in the lowest quintile of the income structure. However, in economies with narrower income gaps, agriculture tends to stimulate overall growth better than industry for all income groups, and the poor are more likely to benefit.

The second political force is the need to maintain food security and price stability. While this is universally understood, little consensus exists on the role of domestic production versus the role of food imports. Two conflicting facts are clear. First, price stabilization, even under a modest protection regime, can speed economic growth. Second, most government efforts to stabilize farm prices have proven very costly and even detrimental to the budget, economic growth, and an efficient marketing system. The only correct response to this contradiction must depend on the particular situation in each country and on its institutional capacity, and be infused with a sense of political realism.

The third set of political pressures derives from global competition and its tendency to provoke a political backlash. Such a backlash can be warded off if

the government takes care not to offer unrealistic promises, finds ways to compensate those who may be hurt by free-trade policies, and keeps factor markets flexible, usually through education, retraining and unemployment subsidies for farmers and laborers.

The fourth set of political pressures is the outcry for food safety. Part of the answer to this concern lies in science, which is developing simple techniques to protect the food supply. Most problems with food safety stem from poor hygiene in food processing operations and from transplanting traditional food preparation techniques into larger industrial-scale operations.

These, then, are the historical, market and political forces that will drive agricultural trends into the twenty-first century. Historical forces can be ignored at the risk of letting history repeat itself. Market forces can be ignored at the price of slower growth and greater poverty. Political forces can be ignored only until democratic processes displace those making decisions. While it may not be necessary for government leaders to become outright populists, they should all recognize the very real pressures and risks of international market participation and trade opening, and find economically sensible ways to cope. Such political problems require an understanding of causes, and courage to take action in time.

4.2 Questions from the Representatives

After Dr. Timmer completed his presentation, the delegates were invited to ask questions.

- 4.2.1 The Representative of Saint Lucia asked the speaker to elaborate on his ideas about transmitting international prices to farmers. Dr. Timmer responded that he had worked in Southeast Asia to avoid letting international price changes be transmitted on a daily basis, as this can be very destabilizing. Instead, the goal was to introduce new price levels smoothly, over the long term. In the years from 1989 to 1995, severe reductions occurred in border prices of key commodities and as a result, prices plummeted after liberalization. If domestic farmers and consumers are to respond successfully to price instability, he explained, they must have credit markets and risk markets; in this way, openness would create fewer problems. However, in the absence of such markets, measures to cushion international price instability could prove very beneficial, assuming they were designed appropriately and implemented

efficiently. If such measures were ill conceived, it would be better not to take them at all.

- 4.2.2 The Representative from Dominica asked whether the rapid pace of trade opening might encourage the formation of monopolies, which themselves were contrary to the idea of free trade. Dr. Timmer responded that producers and companies faced with open markets and competitive pressures need to compete aggressively if they hope to survive. This could, in fact, lead to the formation of monopolies. However, if a national-level monopoly or oligopoly faces global competition and enjoys no artificial protection, the result certainly would not be anti-competitive. The real question is whether liberalization is introduced too suddenly, as it is difficult for countries to adapt rapidly to change.
- 4.2.3 The Representative from the United States asked how more investment could be drawn into the rural sector. Dr. Timmer replied that private investment did not necessarily meet social needs or yield social benefits. The public sector needs to play a direct role in investment, including a modern public research apparatus and investment in rural human capital, property and land-tenure rights, and water rights, if private investment is ever to begin flowing into the rural sector.
- 4.2.4 The Representative of Argentina asked what might be the role of a new agricultural round in the World Trade Organization. He was concerned about the impact such a negotiating round might have on food importing countries, and about whether food security would be affected by agricultural liberalization. He was also concerned about small peasant producers. Dr. Timmer responded to the question about food imports by explaining that profound disagreements persisted concerning the possibilities for a successful agricultural round. The United States would need to play a leading role, but may not have the political mandate to do so. Liberalization of agricultural markets was not likely to be a popular cause among the electorate. Several importing countries, especially Japan and Korea, had also expressed stiff opposition to greater opening. The issue was very controversial, and the task would be difficult.
- 4.2.5 Regarding peasant agriculture, he said that his experience in Asia was not always consistent with the case of Latin America and the Caribbean. In Asia, farmers with very small plots of land were fully integrated into the market and

very knowledgeable about it. In Latin America, they tended to be smallholders not active in the market economy and using few inputs. Market skills and connections could perhaps be developed over the course of at least one full generation, but the dual structure in Latin American agriculture would make it extremely difficult.

- 4.2.6 The Representative of Colombia pointed out that, while many countries had liberated their economies rapidly and thoroughly in the early 1990s, protectionism persisted in developed countries. He asked what could be done in the absence of reciprocity and in the face of such sudden transformation. Dr. Timmer answered that for countries and companies that had developed management techniques, the US market was wide open to products from every sector of the economy. The key was to learn how to penetrate it. He pointed out that international forums such as this one were ideally suited for revealing the pressures and expressing demands for reciprocity. However, he added, opening was good for every national economy, even if trading partners did not reciprocate. Clear signals from the world economy were extremely important to stimulate economic growth, so he urged the countries to remain open.
- 4.2.7 The Representative of Mexico began with a comment to the effect that public policies were needed to counteract trade liberalization and its impact on labor, capital relations and wages. He asked Dr. Timmer what specific recommendations he could make to help them respond to the inevitable challenges in trade and structural adjustment. Dr. Timmer agreed that opening was causing serious problems for urban/rural relations, and this was why a backlash had been felt. He urged the countries to remain open and continue to fine-tune the markets as problems arose. Labor and capital markets needed to be more flexible, and this was the message he had hoped to convey. He also reminded the countries that they always had the option of closing borders, but that such a move would exact a very high cost on economic growth and the poor. A more pressing need was to link economic growth to the alleviation of poverty, usually through agricultural development. The state's most critical role was to maximize benefits and minimize backlash and economic displacement.
- 4.2.8 The Chairman of the IABA then called a coffee break before the Forum continued.

4.3. Presentation by the Minister of Agriculture of Chile Mr. Carlos Mladinic

Mr. Mladinic stated that an inverse relationship often exists between economic growth and adjustment and the agricultural sectors, adding that growth and adjustment are not the causes of the slow-down in the agricultural sector and suggested that, without adjustment, the cost to the sector could be higher. He noted that in adjustment processes, there is a tendency to reduce food prices for consumers, which has a sharp impact on producers.

He commented that in the move to a free market system, prices for agricultural products fluctuate in step with the previous situation; that is, if protection levels were high, prices could fall or, if prices were controlled for political reasons, they could rise.

He stated that, due to the characteristics of developing nations, economic growth is of benefit to the agricultural sector, since the consumption of such foods as dairy products and meat increases as incomes rise.

He indicated that agricultural development must be sustainable and that production must be made profitable by effecting sustained and equitable improvements in the quality of life, based on appropriate environmental conservation and protection measures that will ensure that future generations will be able to fulfill their expectations.

He further commented that the benefits of development must reach the inhabitants of the rural milieu in an equitable fashion. In this regard, he indicated that it was necessary to do away with the link between rural poverty and agricultural poverty. He questioned whether rural poverty could be overcome by increasing agricultural incomes and concluded that it could not. Developed nations usually discriminate between urban and rural poverty, favoring the former. This leads to a better quality of life in urban areas and explains rural-urban migration.

As countries develop, it is natural for the importance of the primary agricultural sector to decline and, as the agricultural sector develops, for the size of the labor force to shrink as technologies come on line. In developing countries, the problem is that the workers who leave the agricultural sector are displaced from the rural milieu while in developed nations, an important segment of the rural population is not engaged in agricultural activities.

He added that in today's context of globalization, economic growth in the agricultural sector depends fundamentally on two variables: competitiveness and internationalization. With regard to the former, he stated that production techniques need to be improved both on and off the farm. To that end, it is necessary to improve production management and trade, introduce new technologies, and improve human resources training and financial management.

In terms of the internationalization of the sector, he suggested that every nation -some more than others- has the capacity to export and that all can benefit from the liberalization of world markets by strengthening the links of the agricultural production chain. For this to occur, developed nations need to both open their markets and end their subsidies, or competition will fail to benefit developing nations. He made special note that trade barriers and production subsidies in developed nations cause political pressure that works against the process of economic opening in the region.

Nonetheless, there is a great difference between the protective measures of developed nations and those of developing countries. Producers in developing nations make adjustments to improve their competitiveness and overcome the barriers imposed by developed nations. However, when developing nations apply protective measures, it is their own consumers who end up paying the price. He underscored the need to move forward in all possible forms of economic opening (unilateral, bilateral, regional).

He reiterated that to be successful, the challenges facing the agricultural sector must be tackled over a sizeable period of time, which is very difficult. He stated that little has been invested in restoring deteriorated natural resources and that incentives are needed to conserve natural resources and biodiversity in order to ensure their availability for future generations. He underscored the need to protect plant and animal resources. In this area, IICA can be of assistance in identifying technical standards that facilitate regional exchanges. He maintained that non-destructive production practices and a reduction in the intensive use of agricultural chemicals (that affect the soil) must be fostered.

In addition, he proposed that the future tasks of IICA include the drafting of technical health standards; support for member countries in their preparations for upcoming trade negotiations; the drafting of quality standards; and the harmonization of technical standards.

The speaker indicated that close collaboration with the private sector is important in the new context. Given the market's importance in the region, only the private sector is poised to answer such questions as what and how much to produce. In this connection, the state can help create the environment but it is unable to define prices for agricultural products: that is a task for the market. He made special note of the role of information in an increasingly open world and to the benefits of recent technological progress in this field.

He concluded by indicating that we need to be intelligent in identifying and embracing the values of developed nations while defending the culture, values and identity of the region's peoples.

4.4 Statements by the Delegates

4.4.1 The Representative of Argentina proposed that the statements by the five remaining countries slated next for presentation during the Second Plenary Session be suspended so as not to delay the opening of the Second Ministerial Forum workshops. Although, the motion was seconded by Canada and Haiti it was agreed to continue with the presentation of the United States of America.

4.4.2 The Representative of the United States indicated that his country was part of a group of 34 countries united by growing integration, free and open markets, and shared concerns related to the environment and food security. He stated that IICA is an organization that has the support and trust of his government and that, thanks to the leadership of Dr. Carlos Aquino, it is now a modern institution capable of responding to the needs of the farmers of the Americas.

He said that there is the conviction in the United States that market liberalization, biotechnology and sustainable agriculture contribute to food security. He pointed out that a law was drafted in 1996 which offered the possibility of competing and winning on world markets; however, it was the farmers who, through innovation, technology, research and export promotion, succeeded in placing their products on foreign markets.

The Representative added that President Clinton has attached high priority to the approval of the "fast track" authority in order to negotiate with the World Trade Organization and to speed up the establishment of the Free Trade Area of the Americas. He underscored the importance of having all the countries in the hemisphere eliminate or reduce agricultural practices which produce

market distortions, including the undue use of sanitary and phytosanitary restrictions. He agreed with the Director General of IICA that responsible biotechnology is a tool to be used in the fight against world hunger in the next millennium.

He considered that top priority should be attached to sustainable development, to the preservation of forests, soils and fisheries resources, and to reducing the pressure of the population on natural resources. The Representative stated that President Clinton considers global climatic change a reality, and felt it was important for the ministers of agriculture to find the best way to monitor such change and help farmers to adapt. Finally, he emphasized that IICA must assume a leading role in several of the complex aspects of agriculture, given the fact that the Institute has demonstrated its competence in fields such as training, education and technology. He envisaged a strong and productive relationship between IICA and his country in the twenty-first century.

The Chairman announced that the groups making up the workshops of agriculture ministers, of the agri-business sector, and of international organizations would be established forthwith, and adjourned, at 12:00, the panel discussion of the Second Ministerial Forum: Agriculture in the Americas on the Eve of the Twenty-first Century.

5. International Organizations Workshop

5.1 Workshop for Ministers of Agriculture

- 5.1.1 During the ministerial workshop, the ministers of agriculture and heads of delegation expressed their points of view regarding the topics addressed by the two panel members in the morning session. As topics of importance for agriculture in the Americas on the eve of the twenty-first century they identified, among others: the creation of the FTAA; food safety; sustainable agriculture, including the impact of climatic changes; the participation of the private sector at the hemispheric level; training and education, as well as technology and know-how, including biotechnology developments; the need to modernize and diversify agricultural activities; the incorporation of technology to enhance competitiveness; the development of infrastructure required for agricultural export activities; and the need to improve the conditions offered to private foreign and local investors. Lastly, attention was called to the urgent need to tackle the problem of rural poverty.

- 5.1.2** The ministers also underscored the political and institutional reforms under way in their countries, making reference to national experiences and drawing important conclusions regarding the challenges to be faced and the topics to be included on an agenda for agriculture in the Americas on the eve of the twenty-first century. They also mentioned some areas in which IICA could support the countries.
- 5.1.3** To complement the views presented by the ministers of agriculture, Dr. Carlos Aquino, Director General of IICA, reported on the results of an inter-American consultation conducted by the Institute in 32 countries, involving some 400 leaders from the agricultural sector, representing the public and private sectors, organizations of civil society, academia and international agencies. He called attention to the high degree of similarity between the strategic topics pinpointed by the ministers and those identified through the consultation, and expressed interest in conducting similar consultations on a yearly basis. He announced that the findings of the consultation, as well as the conclusions of a number of technical studies conducted by IICA's Technical Management Unit in support of these workshops, were available for the ministers, both as printed publications and on compact disc.
- 5.1.4** In concluding the ministerial workshop, agreement was reached on ten recommendations to be included as the principal points of the Inter-American Agenda for Cooperation, in support of the formulation of national strategies for the development of agriculture and the rural milieu. These recommendations would be presented during the plenary of the Forum.

5.2 Workshop for International Agencies

- 5.2.1** The Deputy Director General of IICA, Mr. Larry Boone, as moderator of the workshop, welcomed the participants, referred to the objectives and logistics of the workshop and introduced the panel members:

ECLAC:	Mrs. Martine Dirven
IDB:	Mr. Bladimir Radovic
IBRD:	Mr. Alberto Valdes
FAO:	Mr. Santiago Funes
IFAD:	Mrs. Raquel Peña
IICA:	Mr. Ariel Rivera
Gov. of Chile:	Mr. Fabio Villalobos

He then announced that Mr. Fabio Villalobos, from the Ministry of Agriculture of Chile, would be the Rapporteur of the workshop.

- 5.2.2 Each of the panel members made a presentation on his/her respective agency, describing its mission, vision, organization and *modus operandi*. They also referred to certain specific issues as follows.
- 5.2.3 The representative of ECLAC described the current and future activities of the agricultural development unit in connection with the CAN, a computerized information system on competitiveness being installed in the countries, and explained other systems related to technology generation and transfer, the land market and access to same by small farmers.
- 5.2.4 The representative of the IDB explained that 15% of the resources of the IDB are earmarked for the agricultural sector, which is in second place, after the energy sector. He described the different projects the IDB supports in Chile and offered a progress report on the Agricultural Technology Fund, which 16 countries have joined.

He underscored the Bank's efforts to combat poverty and to bring small farmers into the mainstream.

- 5.2.5 The representative of the IBRD (World Bank) described the actions being taken by the Bank in the rural sector, the negative and positive experiences of the past, and the new line of thinking, which has been translated into a program entitled "From Vision to Action," which addresses topics such as poverty alleviation, increased production, sustainability, etc.

He mentioned a retroactive evaluation that revealed the poor performance of Integrated Rural Development projects, global funds for agricultural loans and the irrigation programs.

Given these experiences, the Bank was proposing a plan of action with a broader approach to the rural sector, in which agriculture becomes one component and emphasis is placed on water management, rather than irrigation, closer relations with clients and increased participation by NGOs. This constitutes a new approach to rural development.

To this end, a document (CAS) is prepared for each country, and the agenda is expanded to include topics such as women, agrarian reform, etc.

- 5.2.6** The representative of FAO referred briefly to the mechanism for FAO-IICA coordination, as well as similar efforts with other agencies. He then referred to the situation in the region and to the role of agriculture, the new development style and other matters, on which he distributed a document (attached).

Next, he mentioned the three most important issues for FAO in Latin America: food security, international trade and sustainability. He described the joint missions carried out and the advisory services provided for policy formulation.

Lastly, he explained the new components of FAO, including the services offered on Internet.

- 5.2.7** The representative of IFAD mentioned that the Fund would soon be celebrating its twentieth anniversary, and that its efforts continue to focus on combating rural poverty. She went on to make a thorough presentation on IFAD and its approach to rural poverty.

- 5.2.8** The representative of IICA spoke about the process that has been under way for the last four years, and made reference to IICA's experience in the late 1970s. He explained that the modernization process was undertaken in response to changes in the economic context (globalization, economic opening and competitiveness).

- 5.2.9** In closing, he underscored the need for a new approach to technical cooperation, and the role of strategic topics and mechanisms for inter-agency collaboration in such cooperation.

- 5.2.10** At the conclusion of the presentations by the international agencies sitting on the panel, the moderator opened the floor for presentations by the other institutions in attendance.

- 5.2.11** The first to speak was Mr. Keith Andrews, Director of the Pan American School of Agriculture "El Zamorano," who described the new approaches to broad-based personal education, noting that some of the School's actions are complementary to those mentioned by panel members when they address the political realm (role of the state and strengthening of civil society) and the

technical realm (scientific progress in informatics and communications). During his presentation, a document on the School's activities was distributed. He underscored the priority the current administration attaches to the promotion and strengthening of strategic alliances, the use of informatics and communications technology (networks, teleconferences, basic information platform, etc.), and the new guidelines provided by the mandates issued at the Presidential Summits (Miami, Santa Cruz, Santiago).

- 5.2.12 Next, Mr. Gabriel Carranza, representing Texas A&M University, made a presentation on activities with IICA, and on plans for opening a training center at IICA Headquarters.
- 5.2.13 Mr. Fernando Chaparro, of the Agricultural Technology Fund, described the expectations for the Fund as well as progress that has been made in setting it up.
- 5.2.14 At the conclusion of these presentations, the moderator opened the floor for questions and comments. In response to some of the questions, the representative of IFAD reported on the use of Internet as a mechanism for exchanging information and experiences. The representative of the IBRD expanded on this topic, noting that, in addition to Internet, television also plays an important role, since the poor have more televisions than computers.
- 5.2.15 The representative of the IDB referred to the Bank's exchange program (CT-INTRA), noting that each agency has mechanisms for coordination, even though it is easier to do so in the field, at the country level.
- 5.2.16 Mr. Jose Monterroso, representing SICTA, announced that his institution was planning to create an agricultural information and ongoing technology transfer system among the countries of Central America. He then distributed a document on the topic.
- 5.2.17 In response to a question regarding the approach of financial agencies to combating poverty, the representative of the IDB responded that, together with the Governors of the Bank, priorities are set and country-by-country programs are designed that address a wide range of sectors financed by the IDB.

- 5.2.18 The representative of the IBRD explained that according to a document on rural poverty recently published by the Bank, more attention is given to urban poverty at the governments' request.

The moderator stated that during the plenary session of the Forum, the rapporteur Fabio Villalobos would present the recommendations of this workshop. He thanked all for their participation and adjourned the workshop at 17:50.

5.3 Agribusiness Sector Workshop

The participants agreed to recommend the following:

5.3.1 On the roles of the public and private sectors

Today's new scenarios require creative and ongoing dialogue between the public and private sectors aimed at facilitating decision making based on the general interests of each nation, improving the operation of organizations in the agribusiness sector and strengthening their role in dealing with the public sector.

In an open, competitive economy, the state must provide clear, stable, precise rules that ensure efficient transparency and equilibrium in the fair play of the market, avoiding the distortions imposed by some nations through subsidies, dumping and quotas, as well as domestic distortions stemming from *de facto* monopolies (dominant market positions) that are highly injurious to agriculture. Joint organizations or commissions must be created to prevent distortions in trade, and in which the private sector can participate actively.

The implementation of permanent public policies for the agricultural sector is a requisite for all nations, particularly at a time when they are facing a globalized economy and economic rivals who do not always follow the rules of the game in international trade. Agricultural subsidies in developed markets hinder the free market and hurt agriculture in the nations of the region. For this reason, the public sector, in conjunction with the private sector, must design and implement appropriate mechanisms to protect the sector.

We believe it is of the utmost importance the state, in taking on the task of modernization, consider the inequalities in the sector, which seriously hinder

efforts to enhance the competitiveness of the region's agricultural sectors. The State plays a major role in creating equal opportunities for all social and production strata in rural areas.

Associations are an effective and efficient option for tackling the challenge of modernizing the sector. They are an excellent way to manage business and ensure participation and the representation of the economic and social interests of agriculture. A renewed vision of agriculture and the rural milieu requires a new institutional framework, based on new relations between the public and private sectors, as well as a greater role for and the strengthening of the latter.

Joint efforts by the public and private sectors will be key to implementing the changes needed for the entrepreneurial development of farms and to make them competitive enough to face the challenges and tap the opportunities arising on international markets.

5.3.2 On the Agenda for Action

The representatives of the private sector of the hemisphere agree on the following agenda, which should guide: a) the development and actions of our organizations; b) the emphasis on joint private-public sector efforts; and c) international cooperation, particularly from IICA:

Globalization and International Trade

The agribusiness sector must join in the processes of integration and opening, characterized by the proliferation of bilateral, subregional, hemispheric (FTAA 2005) and worldwide trade agreements, governed internationally by the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Within this context, the primary topics on the agenda are: a) studies on the future impact of these processes on the agricultural sector; b) analyses of and information and training on the new technical and environmental standards for agri-food systems; c) international trade and mechanisms to safeguard against distortions or unfair trade practices; d) the participation of agribusiness organizations in trade negotiations on the hemispheric agenda; f) development of domestic and new markets; and g) competitiveness and the environment.

Institutional Transformation and Strengthening

Current global economic trends demand a change in the institutions that deal with agricultural and rural development. These changes make it necessary to re-define the sector's organizations, which must assume functions that were previously the domain of the state.

From this perspective, the most important subject areas are: a) the new roles and functions of the private sector; b) the modernization of the public agricultural sector and its effect on the agribusiness sector; and, c) new mechanisms for linking the public and private sectors, with special emphasis on means of participation and reaching agreement.

Addressing Inequalities: Equity

There seems to be agreement that poverty and rural indigence, in addition to being an ethical dilemma, involve aspects related to efficiency. The widespread presence of poverty and inequality in the hemisphere's rural areas may constitute serious obstacles to making the sector more competitive.

The principal topics on the agenda in this area are: a) the design of a classification system for small producers in the Americas, which would be of use in designing differentiated policies; b) agricultural/non-agricultural articulation; c) opportunities for business development in the small-farm sector; d) access to financing; and e) closer relations among the state, civil society and the market through initiatives aimed at strengthening local agri-food systems within the context of microregional development and with a view to participating in efforts to alleviate rural poverty.

Training of Human Resources

The transformation in production, trade and institutions required for the sustainable development of agriculture and the rural milieu demand unprecedented efforts by our countries and sectors. The development of capabilities and skills requires training for public and private-sector personnel engaging in agriculture-related activities.

In this area, the key issues are: a) analysis and evaluation of technical and professional training programs for agribusiness organizations, and b) initiatives

on and mechanisms for acquiring the new capabilities needed to modernize private-sector organizations.

Scientific and Technological Cooperation

Within the context of globalization, where innovation and scientific and technological development constitute the foundation for economic growth, scientific and technological cooperation become a prerequisite, and an opportunity that the agricultural sectors of the region must tap.

The principal issues in this area are: a) innovation as a key element in competitiveness and b) new types of scientific and technological cooperation.

5.3.3 Links Between IICA and the Private Sector

The representatives of the private sector participating in the Ninth IABA agree to recommend to the Inter-American Board of Agriculture that it give IICA a mandate that will enable it to incorporate and institutionalize support for and technical cooperation with the private sector.

Within this context and in order to make this mandate effective, the delegates suggest the establishment of a mechanism for consulting with the private sector that will identify and prioritize areas for joint efforts.

5.3.4 Establishing a Network of Agribusiness Organizations

The establishment of a network of agribusiness organizations to promote horizontal cooperation within the sector and facilitate technical and financial support from international organizations emerged as one of the most important agreements of the Agribusiness Workshop held during the Ninth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture.

This network should assist the agribusiness sector to develop strategic thinking, obtain information, receive training on relevant topics and adopt a position vis-à-vis the new regulations and initiatives in the international arena, especially related to bilateral, multilateral and regional negotiations.

The representatives of the private sector agree to create a working group that, with the support of the IICA, will prepare a proposal for the organization and operation of an agribusiness network.

This working group will be composed of: Rural Confederations of Argentina, National Confederation of Agriculture of Brazil, National Confederation of Small Farming Federations of Chile, Chamber of Agriculture and Agroindustry of Costa Rica, Dominican Agribusiness Board, National Confederation of Rural Producers of Mexico, Paraguayan Chamber for Cereal and Oilseed Exports, the Rural Association or the National Mercantile Chamber of Products (both of Uruguay), National Federation of Livestock Breeders of Venezuela, Inter-American Confederation of Livestock Breeders and Farmers, Latin American Association of Agriculture, Andean Agricultural Confederation and the Caribbean Agribusiness Association.

The participants agreed that the IICA is the appropriate organization for promoting and supporting the initiatives arising from this Workshop.

6. PLENARY OF THE FORUM

6.1 The Second Plenary Session of the Forum was called to order on Tuesday, October 14, 1997, in the Gala Room of the Hotel Carrera

The Chairman requested that the rapporteurs read out the recommendations of their respective workshops.

6.2 Report of the Workshop of Ministers of Agriculture

- 1. Support for repositioning agriculture within the new institutional framework being defined in the summit meetings of Presidents.**
- 2. Importance of prioritizing hemispheric issues which are important for agriculture, and of the need to conduct annual fora on these issues.**
- 3. Training to analyze the positive and negative impacts of liberalization and opening, so as to prepare for the next agricultural round of the WTO and the FTAA.**

4. Study and reflection on topics related to the modernization of the institutional framework for agricultural and rural development.
5. Support and training on rules of origin, quality and plant health issues, to support negotiations and improve competitiveness.
6. Development of agricultural technological innovation and extension systems.
7. Design and development of information systems using modern telecommunications systems.
8. Mandate to IICA to consolidate its capacity for reflection and prospective analysis, in order to support the countries by providing strategic proposals that will enable them to anticipate issues of interest to agriculture and trade.
9. Need to emphasize the components of equity, gender, the rural family and food security in policy proposals, to provide countries with the necessary analytical elements to design these components.
10. Support in managing natural resource and sustainable development, with particular emphasis on aspects related to water and soil resources.

6.3 Recommendations of the International Organizations Workshop

1. International technical and funding organizations are undertaking institutional transformation processes so as to adapt to economic and social changes and to the challenges stemming from the new demands posed by their users.
2. There is broad consensus on the priority issues that must be addressed, although there are different methodological and operational approaches which, nonetheless, enhance the possibility of inter-institutional cooperation.
3. Policies implemented by international organizations show growing concern for increasing the involvement of the countries and the beneficiaries of cooperation in their technical assistance projects, both in the preparation and the execution of such projects.

4. The inter-institutional experience acquired, mostly of an inter-agency nature, is important and can create opportunities for multi-agency cooperation in specific subject matters.
5. Experiences in cooperation with the private sector, non-governmental agencies, and regional and local governments are important and provide fertile ground to increase inter-institutional cooperation.
6. The conclusion drawn is that international organizations already possess formal mechanisms for cooperation; however, it is also acknowledged that informal inter-institutional mechanisms and channels of cooperation (both bilateral and multilateral) need to be reinforced by making full use of communications technology. In this respect, the establishment of working groups is proposed to promote dialogue and exchanges in connection with important topics, to enhance the efficiency of their actions.

6.4 Recommendations of the Agribusiness Sector Workshop

1. To adopt as strategic and program guidelines in IICA's new Medium Term Plan the provision of support and technical cooperation to the organizations of the private agricultural sector, strategic guidelines for which were established in the Agribusiness Workshop held as part of the Ninth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture.
2. To instruct the hemispheric Agribusiness Advisory Committee to advise IICA's governing bodies regarding the support provided to agribusiness organizations and to coordinate collaboration between them and the activities of IICA and other organizations.
3. To contribute to the efforts of the private sector to establish an Inter-American Agribusiness Network, as an instrument for promoting horizontal cooperation in the sector and facilitate contributions by IICA and other agencies.
4. To facilitate relations among the state, civil society and the market, through initiatives aimed at strengthening local agri-food systems, within the framework of microregional development, in order to participate in the struggle against poverty.

5. To promote strategic alliances with other international funding and technical cooperation agencies, as well as with cooperation agencies in member and observer countries, with a view to implementing these recommendations.
 6. To facilitate the efforts of the working group comprising: Rural Confederations of Argentina; National Confederation of Agriculture of Brazil; National Confederation of Federations of Small-Farmer Cooperatives of Chile; Chamber of Agriculture and Agroindustry of Costa Rica; Dominican Agribusiness Board; National Confederation of Rural Producers of Mexico; Paraguayan Chamber of Cereal and Oilseed Exporters; Rural Association or Mercantile Chamber of Products (both of Uruguay); National Federation of Livestock Breeders of Venezuela; Inter-American Federation of Livestock Breeders and Farmers; Latin American Agricultural Association; Andean Agricultural Federation; and Caribbean Agribusiness Association, in drawing up a proposal on the organization and operation of the agribusiness network.
 7. To co-sponsor a meeting of the working group in order to evaluate and follow up on the recommendations of this workshop. This meeting could be held as part of the Fourth Business Forum of the Americas, within the framework of the Fifth Ministerial Meeting of the Free Trade Areas of the Americas (FTAA), scheduled to be held in February 1998 in San Jose, Costa Rica.
- 6.5 The plenary session of the Forum was adjourned at 19:30 on October 14.

THIRD PLENARY SESSION

7. The Third Plenary Session of the Ninth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture was called to order at 09:30 on October 15, 1997, by the Technical Secretary, who introduced the Director General, Carlos E. Aquino.
 - 7.1 Message of the Director General
 - 7.1.1. The Director General began his presentation by thanking the government of Chile for hosting the meeting, and expressed IICA's solidarity with the country

in view of damage and deaths suffered in the earth tremor the previous evening.

- 7.1.2. He then presented his management report to the Board, sharing his vision of IICA as a hemispheric network of 34 countries participating as true partners. He underscored the external backdrop of globalization and market liberalization, and the internal environment, including processes of institutional change and increased participation by the private sector. He presented a number of graphs depicting changes and trends in the Institute's financial and human resource endowment, as well changes in the organizational structure. He described how decision-making authority and resources had been decentralized to the Regional Centers and Technical Cooperation Agencies and outlined changes in the program structure since 1985.
- 7.1.3. The Director General then summarized initiatives to strengthen IICA's finances and stressed efforts to build strategic alliances with countries, universities and development aid agencies. He described activities to project IICA's image outside its walls, including stronger relations with certain countries and organizations, and a number of new periodical publications, and mentioned some of the advances that had been made in technical cooperation activities. He summarized the situation in each of the Institute's geographic subregions, highlighting a few specific activities: Northern (building stronger ties); Central (developing cooperative efforts); Caribbean (combating pink mealy bug, work with rural women); Andean (developing an agricultural health network) and Southern (consolidating cooperative programs).
- 7.1.4. He closed his message by describing high-priority issues for the twenty-first century, including a new dimension and vision with a focus on production, trade and agricultural health. He then invited the representatives to ask any questions.
- 7.1.5. The Representative of Panama described new facilities being made available to IICA in that country, as well as specific projects under way there. The Director General agreed and described another project already in the planning stage for Panama.

7.2 Biennial Report of CATIE

- 7.2.1** The Chairman invited the Director General of CATIE, Mr. Rubén Guevara, to give a biennial report on the Center's work. Mr. Guevara took the podium and began by stressing the good relations that CATIE had enjoyed with the IABA, as CATIE's General Assembly, and with IICA over the past two years. He described CATIE's budget structure, emphasizing that the Center had achieved a healthy balance between the basic budget and the project budget. He went on to outline some of the technical work being done. The graduate school was drawing a great deal of interest, with more applicants than ever before for the Master's and Ph.D. programs. Additionally, over 6,000 people had benefited from other training programs and demand continued to outweigh capacity.
- 7.2.2** He described research achievements in the five technical areas of CATIE's program, with special emphasis on pest and disease control, environmental protection and sustainable production, forestry, biodiversity, and the socio-economic and environmental implications of resource use. He also mentioned outreach activities, including three periodical publications, and described the Center's initiatives to build better working relations with IICA and the member countries. He explained that CATIE was building strong alliances with universities and research organizations, based on cofinancing and shared project implementation. He closed his report by thanking the Center's host country, Costa Rica, CATIE's Board of Directors, staff, and IICA, especially the Representatives in the Technical Cooperation Agencies.
- 7.2.3** The representative of St. Vincent and the Grenadines congratulated the Director General of CATIE for presenting such a thorough report and asked two questions regarding same: How can CATIE's work in the genetic breeding of bananas be transferred to the Caribbean? How many students from CARICOM have received or are receiving training at CATIE?
- 7.2.4** The Director General of CATIE stated that he did not know that exact number of CARICOM students, but that there might be five or six. Regarding the first question, he explained that there were two channels for transferring CATIE's work on genetic breeding for bananas: INBAP, a specialized agency, and CIRAD, a French cooperation agency. He informed those present that a folder with information on CATIE's actions had been distributed at the beginning of the session.

7.3. Biennial Report of CARDI

- 7.3.1 The Executive Director of the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI), Mr. Hayden Blades, announced that Suriname and Haiti had joined CARDI and that it would be increasing its actions in Cuba. He stated that this was the last year of implementation of a restructuring program approved in 1994, which defined the areas for the Institute's work. He made reference to specific advances in each of these areas, underscoring, among other things, the incorporation of the private sector into the science and technology system, the program for reciprocal technical cooperation among member countries, the creation of an Advisory Committee, success in slowing the spread of tropical pests that have affected the countries of the Caribbean, preparation of post-harvest codes, the establishment of low-cost information and research networks, and progress in obtaining authorization to issue ISO standards.
- 7.3.2 He emphasized that cooperation between CARDI and IICA provided a framework for the execution of annual projects, 14 of which were currently under way. He stated that these actions were agreed to by the Director General of IICA and the Executive Director of CARDI and respond to the mandates of their governing bodies, and that these efforts represent an exemplary model of cooperation. On behalf of the Board of Directors and the personnel of CARDI, he congratulated Dr. Carlos Aquino on his re-election, and thanked Dr. Arlington Chesney, Director of the Caribbean Regional Center, for his work with CARDI. He concluded his remarks by urging members to approve the draft resolution in support of the small farmers in Montserrat, who have suffered the devastating effects of recent volcanic eruptions.
- 7.3.3 The Representative of St. Vincent and the Grenadines congratulated IICA and CARDI for the actions taken to eradicate the pink mealybug, and invited them to continue providing technical and financial assistance to control pests that spread beyond national boundaries. Also, on behalf of the countries of the English-speaking Caribbean, he expressed gratitude for the technical and financial support received in the areas of trade and technology transfer applicable to bananas.
- 7.3.4 The Representative of St. Lucia echoed the sentiments of his colleagues and offered his condolences to the Minister of Agriculture of Chile for the victims

of the previous evening's earthquake. He thanked and congratulated the security personnel, IICA and the Government of Chile for their efficient efforts in protecting the lives of the delegates to the IABA meeting during the earthquake. The Minister of Agriculture of Chile accepted, on behalf of the people of Chile, the condolences offered by the Representative of St. Lucia.

- 7.3.5 The Representative of Dominica and Barbados joined their colleagues from St. Vincent and the Grenadines and St. Lucia in congratulating CARDI, and offered their condolences for the victims of the earthquake.
- 7.3.6 The Chairman proposed a change in the order of business, to begin the study of certain draft resolutions, which was accepted.
- 7.4 Approval of Draft Resolutions
- 7.4.1 The Technical Secretary indicated that first draft resolutions submitted to the consideration of the plenary would be those issued by the Executive Committee related to financial and budgetary matters.
- 7.4.2 The Chairman submitted the following draft resolutions to discussion: "Approval of the 1998-1999 Program Budget and Establishment of the Corresponding Quotas," "1995 and 1996 Financial Reports of the Institute and Reports of the External Auditors," "Second and Third Reports of the Audit Review Committee," "Establishment of IICA Patrimonial Fund and Adoption of its Statute," "Additional Financing of Activities Requested of IICA by the Member States," and "Policy on Indirect Administrative and Technical Costs (CATIs)."
- 7.4.3 The Technical Secretary asked the Director of DIPRAT to explain the draft resolution "Approval of the 1998-1999 Program Budget and Establishment of the Corresponding Quotas." The Director of DIPRAT clarified that this draft resolution quoted literally the recommendations issued during the Seventeenth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee on this topic. He noted that the Executive Committee had approved a detailed Program Budget for 1998 and a more general one for 1999 and had appointed a working group made up of representatives of five Member States to define the funding of the Regular Fund and the Quota Scale for 1999. He offered to answer any questions the delegates might have regarding this draft resolution.

- 7.4.4 The Representative of St. Lucia asked which Caribbean country was in the working group. He was informed that Trinidad and Tobago had been selected.
- 7.4.5 The Representative of the United States of America congratulated IICA on presenting a draft budget that was truly transparent in that it clearly showed how resources would be used. He expressed his satisfaction with the fact that there was a clear emphasis on the funding of hemispheric activities and voiced approval of the draft resolution, but made it clear that his country would not accept an increase in its percentage or absolute share in the funding of IICA's regular budget.
- 7.4.6 The Representative of Honduras also expressed his condolences for the victims of the earthquake. In recognition of the excellent job done by Dr. Carlos Aquino as Director General of IICA, the vote of confidence represented by his re-election and bearing in mind the cost of living, he proposed that the Director General's remuneration be adjusted.
- 7.4.7 The Chairman said that, while not disregarding the proposal of the Representative of Honduras, it was necessary to go on to study the next set of draft resolutions: "Offer of the Government of Bolivia to Donate Offices in the Casa de la Agricultura," "Designation of External Auditors for the 1998-1999 Biennium," "Election of Member of the Audit Review Committee," and "Bank Financing."
- 7.4.8 The Representative of Bolivia announced the willingness of his country to donate physical facilities to IICA, in support of its cooperation with the agricultural sector, and to establish the "Casa de la Agricultura Boliviana." He stated that he felt confident this gesture would elicit a reciprocal response among international cooperation agencies, particularly to support the development of agriculture.
- 7.4.9 The Representative of the United States of America stated that he did not support the draft resolution "Bank Financing" since, by law, his country cannot fund the payment of interest on debts incurred by any international agency. However, even though his country did not intend to block approval of this draft resolution, he was asking that his objection be recorded in the minutes.
- 7.4.10 The Director General explained that only twice in the past, and after consultation with the United States of America, had this type of financing been

sought, adding that he believed it would not be necessary to do so in the coming year. In any case, he added, should it be necessary to resort to bank financing, the Member States would be consulted in advance. To this end, he suggested that they contact the members appointed to the working group to study the funding of Regular Fund and the quota scale for 1999.

- 7.4.11 The Chairman announced the approval of the draft resolutions submitted to the plenary, with the exception of the draft resolution "Bank Financing." The Representative of Chile proposed that, to overcome the problem of this draft resolution, the Institute request that the Executive Committee grant authorization to resort to bank financing. The Director General explained that this option posed a practical problem since the Executive Committee usually meets in June or July, and that the times funding had been sought it was due to a crisis that arose in January 1994. He reiterated his belief that it would not be necessary to resort to the line of credit, adding that this draft resolution could be withdrawn, but that it was necessary to foresee all possible situations.
- 7.4.12 The Representative of Honduras voiced his support for this draft resolution, noting that such financing might be necessary should the Institute experience a cash-flow crisis as a result, perhaps, of delays in the payment of member country quotas.
- 7.4.13 The Chairman asked the Representatives of Chile and the United States of America if they would agree to the draft resolution's being approved as submitted. Both countries gave their consent, but the Representative of the United States of America stated that his opposition to such approval should be recorded in the minutes.
- 7.4.14 The Chairman presented the following set of draft resolutions, recommended by the Executive Committee, at its Seventeenth Regular Meeting: "1995 and 1996 Annual Reports," "Amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), of the Executive Committee, of the General Directorate, and to the Staff Rules, the System for the Determination of Remuneration for IICA Personnel and the Financial Rules to Facilitate the Transformation and Operations of the Institute," "Report on the Status of the Resolutions of the Eighth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture," "Establishment of IICA Associate Status" and "Regulations for Implementing Article 24 of the Convention on the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture." These resolutions were approved as read.

- 7.4.15 The Chairman presented for consideration the draft resolution “General Power of Attorney of the Director General.” The Technical Secretary asked the Legal Advisor to explain the reasons for same. The Legal Advisor explained that whenever a Director General is elected, the IABA grants a general power of attorney bestowing the powers and authority required to fulfill all the responsibilities inherent in the position. The draft resolution was submitted to a vote by the Chairman and it was approved.
- 7.4.16 The Chairman presented the draft resolution “Medium Term Plan for IICA for the 1998-2002 Period.” The Director of DIPRAT explained that this plan was an invaluable asset for executing the actions of the Institute and providing guidance for the institutional transformation process. In his judgment, though most of the former Medium Term Plan continued to be valid, it was necessary to incorporate the inputs of the Ministerial Forum held in September 1995 and those of the present IABA meeting. He recommended that the necessary adjustments be presented at the next Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee, to be held in 1998. The Representative of Barbados recommended a change in the wording of operative paragraph 1 in the English version. The draft resolution was approved, with the stylistic change proposed by the Representative of Barbados.
- 7.4.17 The Chairman proposed that, instead of a draft resolution regarding Canada’s membership, the Chairmanship of this IABA send a note containing the opinions and comments calling for the government of that country to reconsider its decision to withdraw from IICA. This motion was approved.
- 7.4.18 The Chairman presented the following draft resolutions for consideration: “Amendments to the Regulations for Conferring the Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector,” “1996-1997 Inter-American Agricultural Medal,” “Inter-American Award for the Participation of Women in Rural Development,” and opened the floor for discussion.
- 7.4.19 The Representative of Belize asked that the topic of rural youths be included with the topic of women’s participation. The Chairman announced that a draft resolution dealing specifically with rural youths was being prepared. Once this matter had been cleared up, the resolutions were approved as presented.

- 7.4.20 The Chairman presented to the consideration of the IABA the draft resolution "Date and Site of the Tenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture." The Representative of Brazil recalled that at the Seventeenth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee the representative of his government had offered Brazil as the site of the next IABA meeting, and reported that his government had ratified this offer. The meeting would be held in Brasilia, tentatively in October 1999. The Representative of the Dominican Republic voiced his support for holding the meeting in Brasilia. The Representative of Haiti also expressed agreement and suggested that in the future, consideration also be given to countries of the Northern and Caribbean Regional Centers, to provide more variety in the venue of the meeting. The draft resolution ratifying Brasilia as the site of the Tenth Regular Meeting of the IABA, to be held in October 1999, was approved.
- 7.4.21 The Representative of Colombia announced that the representatives of the Andean Group had prepared the draft resolution "Implications of the El Niño Phenomenon" and explained the purpose of same. The Chairman opened the floor for discussion of this draft resolution.
- 7.4.22 The Representative of the United States of America noted that his support of this draft resolution was dependent on its not requiring an increase in the budget, although he was in agreement with a possible reallocation of resources. The Chairman proposed adding the following to the draft resolution: "to increase the specific budget allocation for climatic disasters, in accordance with the resources available in the approved Program Budget." The Representative of Colombia voiced approval for this modification, and the draft resolution was approved as amended.
- 7.5 Election of the Representative of the IABA to the Board of Directors of CATIE
- 7.5.1 The Chairman opened the floor for comments on the nominations of the representatives of the IABA to the Board of Directors and the Council of Ministers of CATIE. The Representative of Costa Rica proposed that Dr. Whetten Reed, who had been a member of the Board of Directors of CATIE for two years, for re-election.
- 7.5.2 The Representative of Bolivia explained that his government had nominated Mr. Jaime Muñoz Reyes, a highly qualified candidate to occupy a position on

the CATIE Board, adding that, in the interest of reaching consensus, and in the hope that there would be another opportunity in the future, his country would withdraw the nomination. The Representative of Trinidad and Tobago announced that his country was withdrawing its candidate, and offered his support for the candidate from the United States of America, Dr. Whetten Reed.

7.5.3 It was agreed to appoint Dr. Whetten Reed as representative of the IABA to the Board of Directors of CATIE. The Representative of the United States expressed his thanks on the appointment of Dr. Reed and his confidence that Dr. Reed's knowledge and dedication would surely be of benefit to CATIE. He thanked the Representatives of Bolivia and Trinidad and Tobago for withdrawing their candidates.

7.6 Election of the Representative of the IABA to the Council of Ministers of CATIE

7.6.1 The Chairman asked for nominations. The Representative of Costa Rica noted that the Council of Ministers of CATIE had recommended that Brazil be re-elected as the representative of the IABA to this body. It was agreed to re-elect Brazil as the representative of the IABA to the Council of Ministers of CATIE.

7.7 Amendments to the CATIE Charter

7.7.1 After introducing the draft resolution "Amendments to the Charter of the Tropical Agriculture Research and Training Center (CATIE)," the Chairman gave the floor to the Representative of Costa Rica, who reported that the Council of Ministers of CATIE had decided to review its statutes and submit proposed amendments to this meeting of the IABA. He added that the proposed changes were aimed at helping the Center to adapt to new conditions and at preventing political interference in the Center's teaching and research activities. Nonetheless, he considered that it was important for CATIE not to disconnect itself from the policies and interests of the countries. He explained the changes contained in Appendix A of the draft resolution and stated that in the fourth paragraph the word "permanent" should be replaced with "remnant." He pointed out that the time frame proposed for the life of the Charter was fifty years, and explained that a proposal for such a time frame could give rise to problems during the legislative process required in Costa Rica. Therefore, he

said, the flexibility should exist to change the effective life of the charter to twenty years, should this become necessary.

- 7.7.2 The draft resolution was approved, with note being taken of the observation made by the Representative of Costa Rica regarding the effective life of the charter.
- 7.8 Support to the Hemispheric Training System for Agricultural Development
- 7.8.1. The Representative of Venezuela offered his condolences for the victims of the earthquake. He congratulated IICA and the Government of Chile on the organization of the IABA meeting. Then he requested support for the Hemispheric Training System for Agricultural Development (SIHCA), created by IICA in August 1996 in Venezuela, and strongly supported at the Second Ibero-American Forum on Agriculture, held in Maturin in August 1997. He mentioned that the objectives of SIHCA were to identify and keep up-to-date information on the availability of training for the agricultural sectors in the member countries, to systematize requests for such training, and to develop mechanisms for responding to these requests rapidly and efficiently. He added that the information compiled by this system can be accessed through a Web Page or in SIHCA's bulletins and magazines.
- 7.8.2 The draft project was approved unanimously.
- 7.9 Other Business
- 7.9.1 The Technical Secretary, on behalf of Carlos Aquino, requested authorization to postpone until the next meeting of the Executive Committee consideration of the proposal by the Government of Honduras regarding the remuneration of the Director General.
- 7.9.2 The Director General announced to the plenary that a compact disc containing important documents on food security and technology innovation was being distributed.
- 7.9.3 The Technical Secretary informed the Delegates that the bus was waiting downstairs to take them to the Santa Elena vineyards, where a luncheon was being offered by the Minister of Agriculture of Chile.

7.9.4 The Third Plenary Session was adjourned at 13:00.

FOURTH PLENARY SESSION

8. The Fourth Plenary Session was called to order at 19:00 on Wednesday, October, 15.

8.1 The Technical Secretary announced that each Delegation would receive a set of 17 audio cassettes of all the sessions of the IABA, from the Preparatory Session to the last session on Tuesday, October 14.

8.2 Draft Resolutions

8.2.1 The Chairman gave the floor to the Director General, who explained that the next three draft resolutions to be submitted to the consideration of the plenary addressed the institutional strengthening process already under way at the Institute. He added that some member countries had expressed interest in seeing such actions backed by resolutions. He went on to say that these actions did not require additional funds and that their execution would be feasible within the approved Program Budget.

8.2.2 Strengthening Agricultural Health for the Development of Trade

The Rapporteur read out the operative paragraphs of the draft resolution. The Representative of Haiti asked that a paragraph be added emphasizing the need for additional support to less developed regions. The Chairman asked the Representative of Haiti to submit a draft of the paragraph to the Secretariat for consideration by the plenary. The Representative of Honduras stated that this draft resolution should make specific reference to the regional agricultural health agencies with which IICA would establish important ties. The Chairman asked that he draft the wording and submit it to the Secretariat for inclusion in the draft resolution for consideration by the plenary.

8.2.3 Strengthening of the Regional Forum on Research and Technology Development.

The Rapporteur read out the operative section of this draft resolution, which was approved.

8.2.4 Strengthening Cooperative Programs and Subregional Technological Integration Mechanisms

The Rapporteur read out the operative section of the draft resolution. The Representative of Venezuela called on all the countries to support this draft resolution, adding that the Cooperative Programs had contributed much in the area of technology transfer and innovation and should be strengthened so as to continue providing benefits. The draft resolution was approved.

8.2.5 The Representative of the United States of America expressed concern over the limited amount of time being spent in reviewing the draft resolutions, noting that some of the language used is very ambiguous. He recommended that, in the short term, they be reviewed by the Special Committee in Support of the Institutional Transformation Process.

8.2.6 The Director General echoed the opinion of the Representative of the United States and proposed that a paragraph be added to the draft resolutions that takes into consideration the following aspects:

- That all the actions derived from these draft resolutions be executed within the budgetary constraints currently faced by the Institute.
- That external resources be secured in the countries or from other agencies to fund new activities, should this be necessary.
- That all the implications of these draft resolutions be brought to the attention of the Special Committee in Support of the Institutional Transformation Process and the next Executive Committee meeting.

8.2.7. There was ten-minute recess to welcome the Minister of Foreign Relations of Chile.

8.3 Draft Resolutions

8.3.1. The Chairman proposed the approval, subject to a new draft resolution entitled "Measures for Strengthening the Priority Areas of IICA's Action," the following draft resolutions: "The Importance of Agricultural Health for Strengthening Trade in the Hemisphere," "Strengthening of the Regional

Forum for Research and Technology Development,” “Price and Market Information Systems and Creation of Regional Networks of National Agricultural Commodity Exchanges,” “Support for the Project to Incorporate Rural Women into Agricultural Production Chains,” “Strengthening Cooperative Programs and Subregional Technological Integration Mechanisms,” “Support for the Hemispheric System for the Development of Higher Agricultural Education,” and “Support to Trade Negotiations within the Framework of the Free Trade Areas of the Americas (FTAA) and the New Round of the World Trade Organization (WTO).”

- 8.3.2 The Representative of Mexico proposed an amendment to the draft resolution “Measures for Strengthening the Priority Areas of IICA’s Action,” granting the countries a period of five working days to comment on the draft resolutions covered by this proposal.
- 8.3.3 The Representative of Panama asked that the title of the draft resolution “Support for the Hemispheric System of Higher Agricultural Education” be corrected to read “Support for the Hemispheric System for the Development of Higher Agricultural Education.”
- 8.3.4 The Representative of Haiti voiced his support of the draft resolution “Strengthening of the Regional Forum for Research and Technology Development,” but considered that the Director General should make an effort to include Cuba in the agricultural research system of the Caribbean.

The Chairman announced the approval of the draft resolutions under discussion, incorporating the request made by Mexico to grant a period of five working days for the countries to submit their comments on same and adding that if no comments were received the resolutions would be formally approved.

8.4. IICA-FAO Relations

- 8.4.1 The Chairman asked the delegates if they all had the draft resolution “IICA-FAO Relations” in their folders.
- 8.4.2 The Representative of Chile proposed an amendment to operative paragraph 4 and asked that the countries be given five working days to comment on same.

- 8.4.3 The Chairman announced that, since not all the delegates had a copy of this draft resolution, they would go on to study the draft resolution "Rural Youth Program," which had been referred to earlier by the Representative of Belize. He then proposed that it be included among the projects covered by the resolution "Measures for Strengthening Priority Areas of IICA's Action." The plenary approved the Chairman's proposal.
- 8.4.4 The Chairman submitted to the consideration of the plenary the draft resolution "Remuneration of the Director General for the 1998-1999 Biennium," which was approved as read.
- 8.4.5 The Technical Secretary noted that the draft resolution "Vote of Thanks to the Government and People of Chile" was also currently on the table. Once read out, it was approved by acclamation.
- 8.4.6 The Representative of Costa Rica stated that the draft resolution "Institutional Support for the Chairmanship of the IABA," which he had presented, had not been discussed. The Chairman replied that it was up next for discussion, and asked the Representative of Costa Rica to read it out.
- 8.4.7 The Representative of Uruguay voiced support for the proposal of the Representative of Costa Rica, adding that he wanted to offer an amendment intended to broaden the scope of same and give it a more permanent nature. He stated that the arguments put forth by the Representative of Costa Rica to strengthen support for the Presidency of the IABA also applied to the Presidency of the Executive Committee. The proposed amendment was: i) to eliminate the first considering clause; ii) to amend the second considering clause, to read "That the IABA and the Executive Committee must play an ongoing and active role with a view to achieving the results put forth on the agenda defined by the ministers of agriculture and to meeting the great challenge of further advancing in the institutional modernization process"; iii) in the first line of operative paragraph 1, to replace "The Chairperson of the Ninth IABA" with "the chairpersons of the IABA and the Executive Committee," and in the third line of the same operative paragraph, to replace "its mandate" with "their respective mandates;" and iv) in the second line of operative paragraph 2, replace "of the Ninth IABA" with "IABA and of the Executive Committee, and with....".

- 8.4.8 The Representative of Costa Rica accepted the proposed changes, and the draft resolution was approved as amended.
- 8.4.9 The Chairman again addressed the draft resolution "IICA-FAO Relations" and proposed certain changes with a view to answering the objections raised by the Representative of Chile regarding the fourth operative paragraph of same.
- 8.4.10 The draft resolution, with the amendments proposed by the Chairman, was approved. The Chairman announced that there were no pending draft resolutions and adjourned the Fourth Plenary Session.

CLOSING SESSION

9. The Chairman called the Closing Session of the Ninth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture to order at 19:25 on October 15, 1997.
- 9.1 Address by the Director General
- 9.1.1 The Director General thanked the Government of Chile for its hospitality and noted that this meeting marked a turning point for IICA in the transition to the twenty-first century. He expressed satisfaction with the conclusions and recommendations, which identify clearly the priority topics IICA should address in the new international context. He noted that combined efforts by the public and private sectors represent a significant change in the focus of the Institute and offer great promise. Again, he thanked the host country for generously sharing the lessons it has learned, as well as its hopes for agriculture in the future. In concluding, he reminded the participants that the true strength of the Institute would always lie in the unity of the countries.
- 9.1.2 The Chairman thanked the Director General for his remarks and introduced the Foreign Minister of Chile, Jose Miguel Insulza.
- 9.2. Address by the Foreign Minister
- 9.2.1 Minister Insulza congratulated the Director General on his re-election and noted that the countries were about to take a qualitative step forward in improving the well-being of the peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean. He added that now that political instability was a thing of the past the countries

1187b were in a position to consolidate strong and stable democracies and dream of eliminating poverty, building upon the foundation of a new international order. He commented that in today's climate of peace, the expectations of the peoples of the region were greater than ever, but that there were still too many poor and hungry people. If the region had survived the "lost decade" of the 1980s and was currently enjoying the benefits of democracy and economic growth in the 1990s, then the first decade of the new century would be a time for building a more just and democratic Latin America.

9.2.2 The Foreign Minister referred to several challenges on the horizon for the Institute and the countries. The first was the environment, which, given the commitments assumed under Agenda 21, has many implications for agriculture. A second challenge was to restructure and modernize the institutional framework of the agricultural sector. Another was to interpret correctly current trends in trade, which is of particular importance to agriculture. Regarding trade, the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean need to forge strong alliances if they are going to respond as a group to the pressures exerted by exports from other regions. As an example, he underscored the progress achieved in the agricultural negotiations of the Uruguay Round of the GATT and the creation of the World Trade Organization. He went on to say that agriculture enjoyed a number of comparative advantages in the region, but it was necessary to combat protectionism and demand reciprocity in export markets. He added that favorable conditions exist for growth with equity in the agricultural sector, and that this meeting was another step forward in achieving that goal. He concluded by reiterating his appreciation for the countries' decision to meet in Chile.

9.3 The Closing Session was suspended at 19:45.

9.4 Remarks by Mr. Alfredo Fonck, Secretary General of the World Association and the Pan American Association of Agricultural Engineers

9.4.1 Mr. Fonck congratulated Dr. Carlos Aquino, and all of his collaborators, for their brilliant work. After congratulating the ministers and delegations, he offered his support and expressed his best wishes for the success of all the actions planned.

9.5 Remarks by Mr. Carlos Larroca, Secretary General of the Inter-American Confederation of Livestock Breeders and Farmers

9.5.1 Mr. Larroca congratulated the Director General and stated that his organization shared the objectives of the members of the IABA. He noted that agriculture receives support from organizations such as FAO and IICA, governments, the agricultural commissions of legislative bodies, university schools of veterinary and agronomy, journalists that specialize in agriculture, and farmers. He expressed interest in collaborating with IICA and added that Minister Mladinic was a true spokesman for the people of Chile.

9.6 Remarks by Mr. Keith Andrews, President, El Zamorano

9.6.1 Mr. Andrews thanked the Inter-American Board of Agriculture and IICA for giving him the opportunity to participate in this event. He explained that El Zamorano was a Pan American educational institution offering university-level training and continuing education programs to students residing on campus or through distance education. He added that the school's programs are geared to the private sector, and concluded by recognizing IICA's work and congratulating Dr. Carlos Aquino.

9.7 Address by Mr. Luis Arias, Pro Tempore Secretary of the Second Ibero-American Forum of Ministers of Agriculture

9.7.1 The Alternate Representative of Venezuela thanked the IABA for the opportunity to present the principal conclusions of the Second Ibero-American Forum of Ministers of Agriculture, held in the State of Monaras, Venezuela, on August 11-13, 1997.

9.7.2 He explained that the theme of the Forum had been "Agriculture as Support for Democracy," and that the principal results were:

- Discussion and approval of the Plan of Action, formulated on the basis of the 1996 Declaration of Santiago
- Discussion and approval of the Plan of Action for Small Farmers and Entrepreneurs

- The Declaration of Maturin, which underscored the topics of globalization, food security, the right to food, and the agreements on market liberalization reached within the framework of the GATT during the Uruguay Round.

9.7.3 He added that the Pro Tempore Secretariat of the Forum was monitoring these agreements and that the countries would soon be receiving a report on the progress being made during the Forum and which would serve as the basis for the Presidential Summit to be held in Isla Margarita, Venezuela.

9.8 Address by Mr. Antonio Antunez, Secretary General of the Latin American Integration Association (ALADI)

Mr. Antunez stated his satisfaction with IICA's decision to join ALADI as an observer, and announced that the resolution on IICA's affiliation as an observer had been approved by its Council of Representatives.

9.9 He noted that ALADI and IICA could provide, at the hemispheric level, technical cooperation in the areas of trade and integration, science and technology, agricultural health and sustainable rural development. Also, he referred to a joint effort under way to prepare a study on foreign agricultural trade in the Andean Community and on its relations with MERCOSUR.

9.10 Remarks by Mr. James Mackley, Regional APHIS Director for South America

Mr. Mackley summarized progress made in complying with the WTO agreements on sanitary and phytosanitary measures, as well as the implications of same for the countries of the Americas. Specifically, he acknowledged IICA's contributions to various support activities in achieving these results.

9.11 Remarks by Mr. Francisco Morillo, Director Emeritus

9.11.1 Mr. Morillo noted that the theme of this IABA "United for Agriculture in the Americas" takes on special meaning in Chile, a country with a truly Pan American spirit that has undertaken many important actions. He noted that this spirit had been strengthened by the contributions of the Regional Offices of FAO and ECLAC, and by the fact that Chile has hosted numerous hemispheric events. He added that Chile had projected that spirit beyond its borders through the work of distinguished Chileans at IICA.

- 9.11.2 He stated that the greatest strength of the Americas was its cultural and economic diversity and the political determination of the countries to remain united. He went on to say that IICA could contribute to the countries' negotiation efforts, help them take advantage of opportunities opening up as a result of economic opening and globalization, and support them as they face the challenges and threats identified during this meeting.
- 9.11.3 He underscored the importance of investments in the agricultural sector, referring to the concern expressed by the Representative of St. Lucia. He stated that mega-enterprises can lead to the consolidation of concentrated market structures, such as oligopolies or oligopsonies, which can affect development of the sector.
- 9.11.4 He drew attention to the growing importance of IICA and to the systemic approach it has taken in agriculture. He agreed that the areas of concentration approved by this IABA clearly reflect the needs and hopes of the member countries. Information, an integral part of each of the thematic areas, is very important and all its components must be compatible, he said.
- 9.11.5 He stressed the fact that technology innovation implies a change of attitude, so that not only physical and biological, but also social, economic and political considerations are taken into account at research centers and in educational curricula. He added that efforts to address sustainability must contain these as well as ecological components.
- 9.11.6 In concluding, he explained that, as Director Emeritus, it was his responsibility to serve as a permanent advisor to the IABA. He reaffirmed his willingness to continue to work with IICA and expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to participate in this meeting of the IABA.
- 9.12 Remarks by Dr. Jose Emilio G. Araujo, Director Emeritus
- 9.12.1 Dr. Araujo addressed the plenary and thanked the ministers for their support of IICA, especially in approving the Program Budget. He congratulated the Director General on his re-election and expressed his wish to continue collaborating with the Institute.

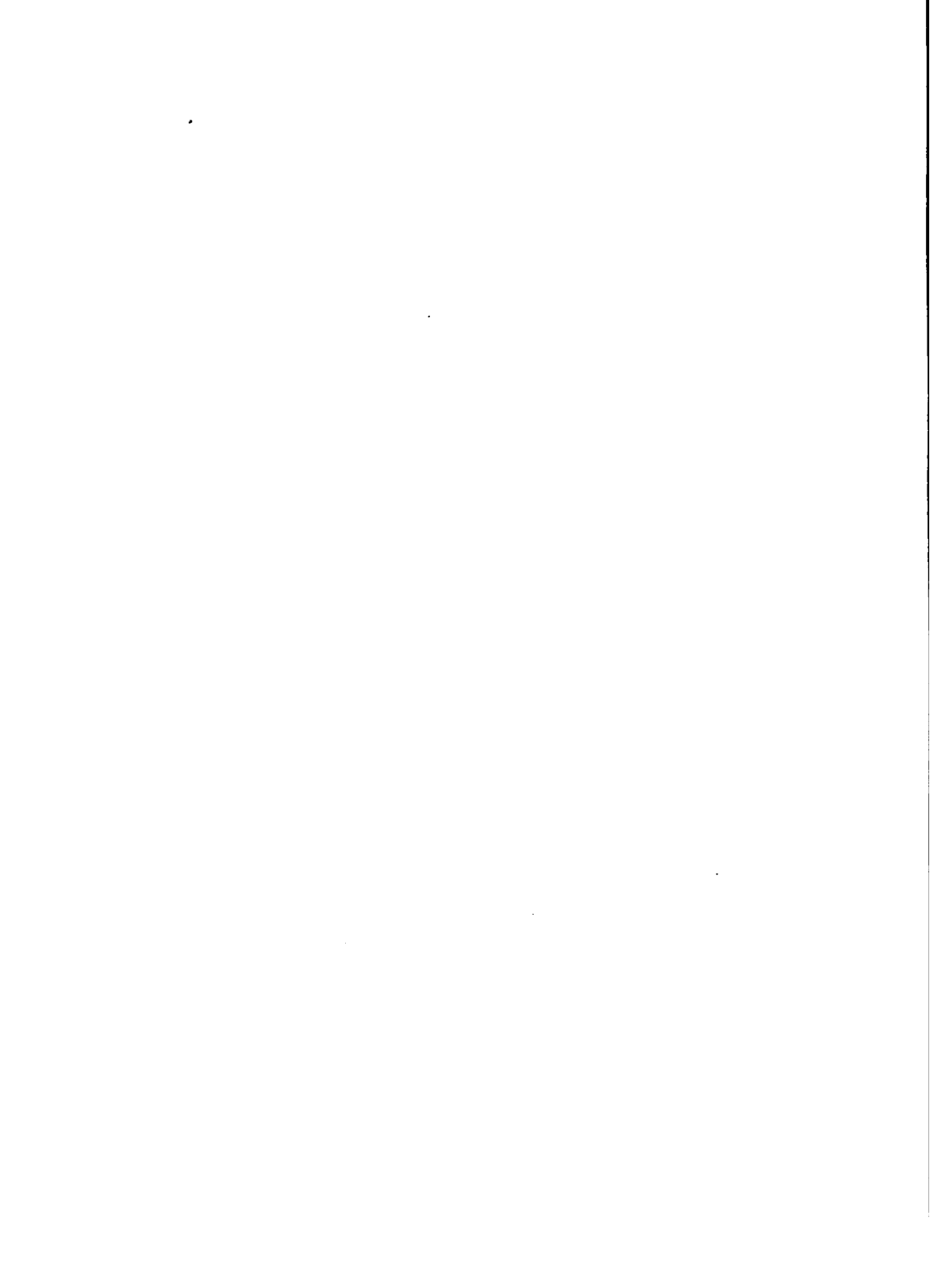
- 9.12.2 He recalled that it was he, in 1972, who attracted Canada as a member country. He appealed to the Representative of Canada to convey to his government the message of the IABA, asking that Canada reconsider its decision to withdraw from IICA.
- 9.12.3 He congratulated the IABA for a job well done and wished IICA success in the coming years.
- 9.13. Presentation of a Plaque to the Relatives of Dr. Henry Wallace
- 9.13.1 The Director General asked the Representative of the United States of America to receive a plaque on behalf of the descendants of Dr. Henry Wallace, in recognition of his dedication and vision in founding IICA on October 7, 1942. The Director General added that he would be meeting with relatives of Dr. Wallace during the first week of November and that he would invite them to visit IICA Headquarters and CATIE.
- 9.13.2 The Representative of the United States of America expressed his appreciation for this recognition of Dr. Wallace. He paid further tribute to Dr. Wallace for his contributions to Institute and stated that he foresaw many more years of collaboration between his country and IICA.
- 9.14. Presentation of the 1994-1995 Inter-American Agricultural Medal to Dr. Nazeer Ahmad

The Deputy Director General of IICA stated that the decision to grant the Inter-American Agricultural Medal to Dr. Ahmad was made during the IABA meeting in 1995, in recognition of his many contributions to science and technology innovation. Dr. Ahmad, who was heading the Guyana Delegation, accepted the medal and expressed his appreciation for the honor.

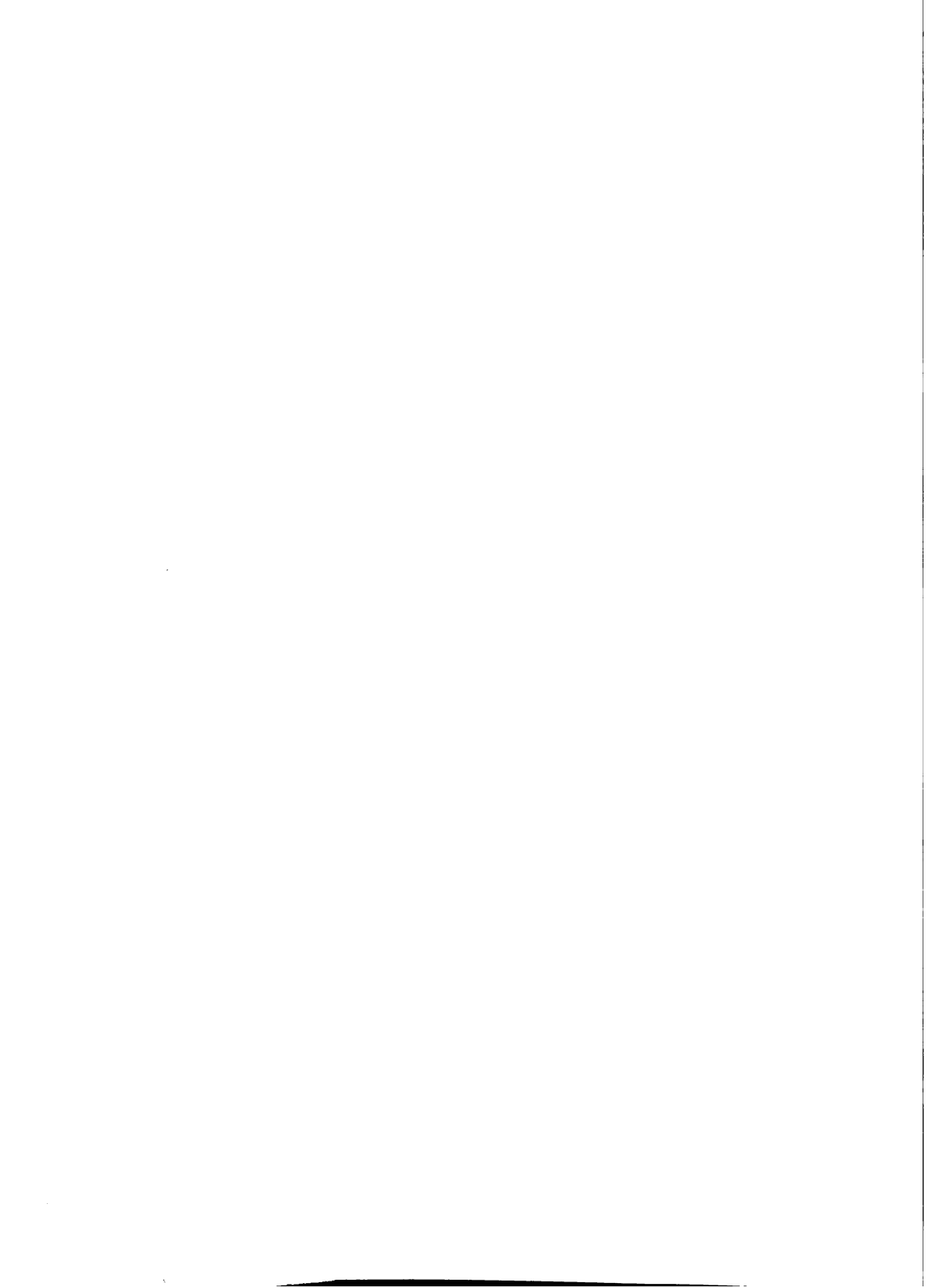
- 9.15 Words of Thanks from the Director General
- 9.15.1 The Director General stated that three days of intense work were coming to an end. He offered his thanks to the First Ladies of Chile and Costa Rica, to the Joint IICA/Government of Chile Commission, which organized the event, to the Chairman of the IABA, to the Technical Secretary, to IICA's professional and support personnel, to the Chairman of the Executive Committee, to the

IICA Wives' Association, to APIICA, to the agribusiness leaders, and to all participants in the Second Ministerial Forum.

- 9.15.2 The Director General then presented the Chairman of the IABA with the gavel used during the meeting.
- 9.16. Remarks by the Technical Secretary
 - 9.16.1. The Technical Secretary thanked the Minister of Agriculture of Chile and Chairman of the Ninth IABA, the Foreign Minister of Chile, the team from the Ministry of Agriculture of Chile, the IICA Representative in Chile and his staff, the IICA Senior Management Committee and his closest collaborators.
 - 9.16.2. The Closing Session of the Ninth IABA was adjourned at 21:28 on Wednesday, October 15, 1997.



RESOLUTIONS



IICA/JIA/Res.296(IX-O/97)
13 October 1997
Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 296

APPROVAL OF THE 1998-1999 PROGRAM BUDGET AND
ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CORRESPONDING QUOTAS

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE, at its Ninth Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

The proposed Program Budget of the Institute for the 1998-1999 biennium, presented by the Director General of IICA as Document IICA/JIA/Doc.217(97);

Resolution IICA/CE/Res.267(XVII-O/97) of July 30, 1997, by which the Executive Committee recommended that the IABA approve the quota scale for the 1998-1999 biennium,

Resolution IICA/CE/Res.268(XVII-O/97) of August 1, 1997, through which the Executive Committee recommended that the IABA approve the Program Budget with the modifications contained in said resolution,

CONSIDERING:

That the proposed Program Budget for 1998-1999 includes the modifications recommended during the Seventeenth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee in Resolutions Nos. 267 and 268, with regard to its content, the allocation of resources and financing;

That in accordance with Article 8b. of the Convention on the Institute, it falls to the Inter-American Board of Agriculture to approve the biennial Program Budget and establish the annual quotas of the Member States, with the favorable vote of two thirds of its members,

RESOLVES:***I. FINANCING OF BUDGETARY ALLOCATIONS***

1. To establish that for 1998, to finance the Regular Fund, the Member States as a whole shall contribute quota funds in the amount of US\$27,508,680, as per the amounts indicated in the quota scale attached to this Resolution as "Appendix A," and US\$2,491,320 in miscellaneous income that the Institute expects to receive.
2. To establish the 1999 budget for the Regular Fund, made up of the quotas of the Member States and miscellaneous income, at US\$30,000,000, and that no Member State is obliged to contribute over 59.47% of the total quota budget.
3. To instruct the Director General, in consultation with the working group established in operative paragraph III (1) of this resolution, to present a funding proposal for 1999 for consideration at the Eighteenth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee, to be held in 1998, which will examine the proposal and submit it to the IABA for approval, either at a Special Meeting or by a vote by correspondence, pursuant to Articles 82 and 83 of its Rules of Procedure.

II. BUDGET ALLOCATIONS

1. To approve the allocation of resources of the Regular Fund for each of the Chapters and items of the Program Budget for the 1998-1999 biennium, as indicated below:

(US\$ x 000)

	<u>1998</u>	<u>1999</u>
CHAPTER I: DIRECT TECHNICAL COOPERATION SERVICES	26,531.1	
Socioeconomic Policy, Trade and Investment	7,630.6	
1AA Actions at the level of the Regional Centers	5,171.7	
1AB Actions at the level of Headquarters	1,370.7	
1AX Activities in support of the area of Socioeconomic Policy, Trade and Investment	1,088.2	
Science and Technology, Natural Resources and Agricultural Production	8,215.8	
Actions at the level of the Regional Centers		
1BA Contributions to Cooperative Programs	751.8	
1BB Contribution to CATIE	1,293.6	
1BC Contribution to CARDI	285.0	
1BD Other actions at the level of the Regional Centers	4,231.3	
1BE Actions at the level of Headquarters	566.0	
1BX Activities in support of the area of Science and Technology, Natural Resources and Agricultural Production	1,088.1	
Agricultural Health	5,555.4	
1CA Actions at the level of the Regional Centers	3,807.9	
1CB Actions at the level of Headquarters	659.5	
1CX Activities in support of the Agricultural Health area	1,088.0	
Sustainable Rural Development	5,129.3	
1DA Actions at the level of the Regional Centers	3,366.0	
1DB Actions at the level of Headquarters	675.3	
1DX Activities in support of the area of Sustainable Rural Development	1,088.0	
CHAPTER II: MANAGEMENT COSTS	2,409.2	
2MA Office of the Director General	707.4	
Management Support Units	1,701.8	
2MB Management Unit for Resources and Corporate Services	1,134.4	
2MC Directorate of External Relations	240.2	

2MD Directorate of Planning, Programming and Evaluation	327.5
CHAPTER III: GENERAL COSTS AND PROVISIONS	1,059.7
3NA Working Subfund of the Regular Fund ²	341.1
3NB OAS Administrative Tribunal	25.8
3NC Meeting of the Executive Committee	180.0
3ND Meeting of the IABA/ICMA	
3NE Pensions of former Directors General and former IICA staff members	257.5
3NF Insurance for former IICA staff members	50.0
3NG Life insurance for local personnel	25.0
3NH Insurance on IICA's assets	87.6
3NI External Audit	92.7
TOTAL ALLOCATED FOR THE REGULAR FUND	30,000.0 30,000.0

III. GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. To establish a Working Group composed of Argentina, Brazil, Honduras, Mexico, Trinidad and Tobago, and Venezuela, with the task of contributing, with the Director General of IICA and with the Member States, to defining the financing of the Regular Fund and the quota scale for 1999, as well as the adjustments required to the Program Budget for 1999.
2. To authorize the Director General to make transfers between the chapters of the Program Budget, provided total transfers neither increase nor reduce the affected chapters by more than 10 percent and do not substantially affect or eliminate the programs approved.
3. To authorize the Director General to make the necessary adjustments in the distribution of the resources established in this resolution, should income from each of the fiscal years fall below estimated levels. The Director General shall inform the Executive Committee and the IABA of this situation.
4. To instruct the Director General that any contribution of resources from the Regular Fund received that exceeds the total amount approved for the biennium and the balance of uncommitted, unspent appropriations shall be deposited in the Working Subfund of the Regular Fund.

² Corresponds to the Cuban quota

5. To instruct the Director General to establish, as part of the agreements with institutions to which IICA contributes resources, that said institutions must expressly acknowledge the Institute's contributions in their publications and reports.

QUOTA SCALE*
1998-1999
(US\$)

MEMBER STATE	% OAS		% IICA		AMOUNT IICA	
	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999 ¹
Antigua and Barbuda	0.02	0.02	0.02		5.502	
Argentina	4.90	4.90	4.90		1,347.923	
Bahamas	0.07	0.07	0.07		19.443	
Barbados	0.08	0.08	0.08		22.007	
Belize	0.03	0.03	0.03		8.253	
Bolivia	0.07	0.07	0.07		19.256	
Brazil	8.55	8.55	8.55		2,351.992	
Canada	12.36	12.36	12.36		3,399.881	
Chile	0.54	0.54	0.54		148.547	
Colombia	0.94	0.94	0.94		258.582	
Costa Rica	0.13	0.13	0.13		35.761	
Dominica	0.02	0.02	0.02		5.502	
Ecuador	0.18	0.18	0.18		49.516	
El Salvador	0.07	0.07	0.07		19.256	
United States of America	59.47	59.47	59.47		16,359.412	
Grenada	0.03	0.03	0.03		8.253	
Guatemala	0.13	0.13	0.13		35.761	
Guyana	0.02	0.02	0.02		5.502	
Haiti	0.07	0.07	0.07		19.256	
Honduras	0.07	0.07	0.07		19.256	
Jamaica	0.18	0.18	0.18		49.516	
Mexico	6.08	6.08	6.08		1,672.528	
Nicaragua	0.07	0.07	0.07		19.256	
Panama	0.13	0.13	0.13		35.761	
Paraguay	0.18	0.18	0.18		49.516	
Peru	0.41	0.41	0.41		112.786	
Dominican Republic	0.18	0.18	0.18		49.516	
St. Kitts and Nevis	0.02	0.02	0.02		5.502	
St. Vincent and The Grenadines	0.02	0.02	0.02		5.502	
St. Lucia	0.03	0.03	0.03		8.253	
Suriname	0.07	0.07	0.07		19.256	
Trinidad and Tobago	0.18	0.18	0.18		49.516	
Uruguay	0.26	0.26	0.26		71.523	
Venezuela	3.20	3.20	3.20		880.278	
SUB TOTAL	98.76	98.76	98.76		27,167,572	
Cuba ⁴	1.24	1.24	1.24		341,108	
TOTAL QUOTAS	100.00	100.00	100.00		27,508,680	
MISCELLANEOUS INCOME					2,491,320	
TOTAL REGULAR FUND					30,000,000	30,000,000

* Countries appear in Spanish alphabetical order

¹ Pending: definition of percentages and amounts for 1999

⁴ Appears only for purposes of the distribution of total quotas

IICA/JIA/Res.297(IX-O/97)
13 October 1997
Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 297

1995 AND 1996 FINANCIAL REPORTS OF THE INSTITUTE
AND REPORTS OF THE EXTERNAL AUDITORS

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE, at its Ninth Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/JIA/Doc.214(97) "1995 and 1996 Financial Reports of the Institute and Reports of the External Auditors, "

CONSIDERING:

That Article 3 of the Rules of Procedure of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) establishes that the Board shall approve the financial reports of the Institute for the preceding biennium;

That the external auditors attest to the proper management of the financial resources, in accordance with the stipulations of the regulations of the Institute;

That in the opinion of the external auditors, the financial reports accurately represent the financial status of the Institute through December 31, 1995 and 1996, and the results for those years; and that the accounting principles on which they are based are completely consistent with generally accepted accounting practices;

That the Audit Review Committee, in its Third Annual Report, states that it has reviewed the Report of the External Auditors and has determined that same was carried out conscientiously and in compliance with the rules and regulations of IICA and generally accepted accounting practices;

That the Audit Review Committee also reports that the actions taken by the Institute since its last report was issued, in July 1996, were very positive and resulted in the adoption of policies that will allow IICA to better use the results of the audits conducted by the external and internal auditors;

That the Executive Committee, at its Sixteenth and Seventeenth Regular Meetings, has recommended to the Inter-American Board of Agriculture that it approve said reports,

RESOLVES:

1. To approve Document IICA/JIA/Doc.214(97), "1995 and 1996 Financial Reports of the Institute and Reports of the External Auditors."
2. To congratulate the firm of KPMG Peat Marwick on its clear and informative report.
3. To congratulate the Director General and the personnel of the Institute for their extraordinary efforts to collect quota arrearages, which has contributed to improving the financial situation of the Institute.
4. To express its appreciation to the Member States that have responded to the request of the Director General regarding the collection of quotas, and to urge the others to follow their example.

IICA/JIA/Res.298(IX-O/97)
13 October 1997
Original: English

RESOLUTION No.298

SECOND AND THIRD REPORTS OF THE AUDIT REVIEW COMMITTEE

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE, at its Ninth Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/JIA/Doc.215(97), "Second and Third Reports of the Audit Review Committee (ARC),"

CONSIDERING:

That the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), at its Seventh Regular Meeting, approved Resolution IICA/JIA/Res.231(VII-O/93) establishing the Audit Review Committee (ARC) and approving its Statute;

That Article 2.k of the Rules of Procedure of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) authorizes the IABA "to review the reports of the Audit Review Committee and to evaluate periodically the results of the external auditing system, including the efficiency and effectiveness of that Committee";

That Article 3.j of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee authorizes that Committee "to receive and approve the ARC's reports and recommendations, [and] to forward the reports and recommendations of the ARC to the Inter-American Board of Agriculture";

That the work of the ARC is vital in assisting the Member States in their efforts to obtain the budgetary support the Institute needs;

That the Executive Committee, at its Sixteenth and Seventeenth Regular Meetings, by Resolutions Nos. 257 and 277 respectively, approved the Second and Third Reports of the Audit Review Committee.

RESOLVES:

- 1. To accept Document IICA/JIA/Doc.215(97), "Second and Third Annual Reports of the Audit Review Committee (ARC)."**
- 2. To express to the members of the Audit Review Committee its satisfaction with their work.**

IICA/JIA/Res.299(IX-O/97)rev.
13 October 1997
Original: English

RESOLUTION No. 299

ESTABLISHMENT OF IICA PATRIMONIAL FUND AND
ADOPTION OF ITS STATUTE

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE, at its Ninth Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/JIA/Doc.219(97), "Creation of the Patrimonial Fund of the Institute,"

CONSIDERING:

That several international organizations have successfully created patrimonial endowment funds as a mechanism for attracting voluntary contributions from governments, organizations, businesses, and private donors, and for generating income to assist in the financing of institutional activities and programs;

That the income generated by a properly capitalized patrimonial endowment fund can partially compensate for reductions in the traditional sources of IICA's financing;

That the Special Committee in Support of the Institutional Transformation Process, pursuant to its mandate under Resolution IICA/CE/Res.252(XVI-O/96), recommended the establishment of the IICA Patrimonial Fund and the adoption of the proposed Statute for the IICA Patrimonial Fund, attached as Annex A to this Resolution, as one of several measures for strengthening the Institute's financial structure;

That the Executive Committee, at its Seventeenth Regular Meeting, approved Resolution IICA/CE/Res.273(XVII-0/97) "Establishment of IICA Patrimonial Fund and Adoption of its Statute." in which it recommends that the Inter-American Board of Agriculture, at its Ninth Regular Meeting, establish the IICA Patrimonial Fund and adopt the Statute for the management of that Fund, attached hereto as Annex A of this Resolution.

RESOLVES:

1. To approve the establishment of the IICA Patrimonial Fund and adopt the Statute for the management of that Fund, attached hereto as Annex A of this Resolution.
2. To authorize the Executive Committee, at its next regular meeting, to appoint the member of the Board of Trustees of the Fund to serve in the place of the member appointed by the IABA until such time as the IABA appoints a member to that position at its next regular meeting, in accordance with Article 4.2 of the Statute of the Patrimonial Fund.

STATUTE FOR THE IICA PATRIMONIAL FUND**ARTICLE I****Purposes**

- 1.1 The purpose of this Statute is to regulate the IICA Patrimonial Fund ("the Fund").
- 1.2 The purpose of the Fund is to establish an endowment for the partial financing of IICA's activities. The endowment is to be made up of donations and other voluntary contributions from governments, individuals, private institutions and other donors, as well as a portion of the Fund's annual income deposited in the endowment to increase and preserve its real value.

ARTICLE II**Scope of the Statute**

- 2.1 This Statute applies only to the Fund and is binding upon the General Directorate, the Executive Committee and the Fund's Board of Trustees.

ARTICLE III**Assets, Income and Their Use**

- 3.1 The Fund's Capital Assets shall include all donated items of value, including, but not limited to: cash, stocks, bonds, notes, commercial paper and other securities; real estate; intellectual property rights; licenses; royalty rights; liens, jewels, precious metals and all other valuables, tangible and intangible. Its Capital Assets shall also include that proportion of the Fund's annual earnings allocated to increase and preserve the value of the Capital Assets, as provided below.
- 3.2 Sixty percent of the Fund's net annual earnings are to be allocated for strengthening the Regular Fund budget of the Institute; the remainder are to be used to increase and preserve the real value of the Capital Assets of the Fund.

- 3.3 The percentage allocation of the Fund's net annual income between IICA's Regular Fund budget and the Fund's Capital Assets may be modified by the Executive Committee, upon the recommendation of the Fund's Board of Trustees; however, no such modification shall go into effect until the beginning of the second fiscal year following the year in which that change is adopted by the Executive Committee.
- 3.4 The Capital Assets donated to the Fund, including all Fund income allocated to increase and preserve the real value of the Fund's Capital Assets, shall not be expended for a period of twenty years from the date of the resolution of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture creating the Fund. After those twenty years have passed, the Capital Assets may be expended or otherwise used only for the benefit of IICA or its institutional successor in interest. This provision is not intended to prevent the Board of Trustees from converting the assets held by the Fund into cash, securities or other types of suitable investment-grade assets as part of the Fund's investment strategy established under this Statute.

ARTICLE IV

The Board of Trustees: Members, Officers and Advisors

- 4.1 The management of the Fund is the responsibility of the Fund's Board of Trustees ("Board").
- 4.2 The Board has three members ("Members" or "Trustees"): the Director General of IICA, a member elected by the Inter-American Board of Agriculture ("IABA"); and a member selected by the other two members.
- 4.3 Each Member shall be elected for a term of four years and may be re-elected; however, if the member elected by the IABA resigns or otherwise is unable to complete his term, the Executive Committee shall elect a replacement who shall serve until the IABA next meets to elect another Member for a full four-year term. The Director General shall resign his position on the Board upon the end of his mandate, and the Director General who succeeds him will take his place. Each Member has the right to one vote and the right to speak in the Board's meetings.

- 4.4 The Members are fiduciaries and serve as such in their personal capacity. They are responsible for the proper investment and management of the fund for the benefit of the Institute and in accordance with the criteria established by this Statute and required of reasonably prudent fiduciaries.
- 4.5 The Directors in IICA responsible for the areas of Finance, Programming and Evaluation, and External Relations shall serve as the Board's permanent advisors. The Board may appoint other advisors as required. No advisors, regardless of their status, shall have the right to vote, but they shall have the right to speak, with leave of the Chairman, at the Board's meetings.
- 4.6 The Director General shall serve as Chairman of the Board; the member elected by the IABA shall serve as the Vice Chairman; the Chairman and Vice Chairman shall appoint a Secretary/Treasurer from among the Board's permanent advisors.

ARTICLE V

Functions of the Board of Trustees

- 5.1 The general function of the Fund's Board of Trustees is to manage and invest the Fund's assets so as to conserve its real value and generate sufficient income to achieve the objectives established under this Statute.
- 5.2 The Board is authorized to carry out the following duties and functions:
- a. To determine the Fund's investment strategy within the guidelines established in this Statute and to implement that strategy by selecting investments which achieve the proper balance between the need to conserve the real value of the Fund, on one hand, and the need to obtain the greatest possible yield in income and growth, on the other.
 - b. To invest up to 20% of the Fund's capital assets in high-yield and high-risk investments.
 - c. To review and monitor the Fund's investments regularly, and to modify its portfolio as required to achieve the Fund's objectives.

- d. To recommend to the Executive Committee periodic changes in the allocation of income in accordance with Article III above.
- e. To sell, lease, transfer, mortgage, or otherwise dispose of for fair value, the non-cash assets of the Fund, including, but not limited to, real estate, provided that the net proceeds of such transactions remain within the Fund.
- f. To decide whether to accept or reject donations, and where necessary, to negotiate the corresponding terms.
- g. To establish subfunds within the Fund for executing the express instructions of donors and to ensure the greatest feasible participation in the Fund.
- h. To retain professional services of investment advisors, stock brokers, lawyers, accountants, bankers and other professionals in the financial sector to advise and assist in the management and investment of the Fund.
- i. To solicit donations and to acknowledge their receipt.
- j. To allocate Fund income to pay the reasonable expenses of managing the Fund.
- k. To adopt the Board's own internal rules of procedure as required.
- l. To report to the Regular Meetings of the Executive Committee and IABA on the management of the Fund, its income, its assets, its expenditures, the findings of its external auditors and such other pertinent information requested by the IABA and the Executive Committee.
- m. To assure that the Fund is audited by an independent external auditor at least once a year and to that end IICA's external auditors will be available at the Board's request.
- n. To take all actions that other reasonable Trust Fund fiduciaries are authorized to do under similar circumstances.

ARTICLE VI
Meetings of the Board

The Board shall meet at least once a year and as otherwise provided in its Rules of Procedure or as convened by the Chairman in the absence of such Rules. Only Members shall have the right to vote at those meetings.

ARTICLE VII
Amendments

The Executive Committee may amend this Statute, upon the recommendation of the Fund's Board of Trustees or upon its own initiative.

IICA/JIA/Res.300(IX-O/97)

13 October 1997

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 300

ADDITIONAL FINANCING OF ACTIVITIES REQUESTED
OF IICA BY THE MEMBER STATES

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE, at its Ninth Regular Meeting,

CONSIDERING:

That the Institute faces budgetary constraints due to a reduction in the amount of quota funds available;

That for the Institute to provide a more effective response to the growing demand for its services in fields defined as being priorities in the 1994-1998 Medium Term Plan (MTP) currently in force, it is increasingly important that the Member States contribute to financing the technical cooperation activities they request from the Institute;

That, at its meetings held in San Jose in February and July 1997, the Special Committee in Support of the Institutional Transformation Process formulated recommendations in this regard;

That the Seventeenth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee, in Resolution No. 272, recommended that the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), at its Ninth Regular Meeting, urge the Member States, except the net contributors, to provide additional funding to IICA,

RESOLVES:

1. **To urge the Member States, except the net contributors, to provide additional funding to IICA:**
 - **through contributions over and above their quotas to cover some of the operating costs of IICA's offices in the country; and**
 - **by covering part of the costs required for implementing priority activities for the country.**

2. **To authorize the Director General to charge for the cost of direct cooperation services provided to private-sector enterprises.**

IICA/JIA/Res.301(IX-O/97)

13 October 1997

Original: English

RESOLUTION No. 301

OFFER OF THE GOVERNMENT OF BOLIVIA TO DONATE
OFFICES IN THE CASA DE LA AGRICULTURA

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE, at its Ninth Regular Meeting,

CONSIDERING:

That the Government of Bolivia has made a proposal to donate office space for the Institute in the "Casa de la Agricultura," a spacious and well-located facility in La Paz currently owned by the Government of Bolivia;

That the proposed terms by which use of space within the Casa de la Agricultura is to be ceded to the Institute are in advanced stages of negotiation and the parties have already tentatively agreed that any final agreement between them is subject to the approval of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture and the honorable National Congress of Bolivia,

RESOLVES:

1. To convey its gratitude to the Government of Bolivia for extending the offer.
2. To urge the Director General to continue negotiating the terms of agreement with the Government of Bolivia in connection with the Casa de la Agricultura.

IICA/JIA/Res.302(IX-O/97)

13 October 1997

Original: Spanish

DRAFT RESOLUTION No. 302

DESIGNATION OF EXTERNAL AUDITORS
FOR THE 1998-1999 BIENNIUM

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE, at its Ninth Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN,

The report of the committee designated by the Ninth Regular Meeting of the IABA to select the External Auditors of the Institute for the 1998-1999 period,

CONSIDERING:

That Article 2.h of the Rules of Procedure of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture and Article 94 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Directorate provide that the Board shall select and appoint external auditors for the Institute, based on a system of competitive bids;

That the committee set up at the Ninth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) studied the documentation submitted and recommended designating as the External Auditors of the Institute and of CATIE, for the 1998-1999 period, the firm of KPMG Peat Marwick,

RESOLVES:

1. To designate as External Auditors of the Institute and of CATIE the firm of KPMG Peat Marwick for the 1998-1999 biennium, which

may be extended by the Director General for up to two additional years, as per the amendment to Article 2(h) of the Rules of Procedure of the General Directorate, adopted by the IABA during this meeting.

2. To instruct the General Directorate to underscore in the contract with the firm of KPMG Peat Marwick, the importance of meeting the requirements of Article 102 and 104 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Directorate.

IICA/JIA/Res.303 (IX-0/97)

13 October 1997

Original: English

RESOLUTION NO. 303

ELECTION OF MEMBER OF THE AUDIT REVIEW COMMITTEE

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE, at its Ninth Regular Meeting.

CONSIDERING:

That it is the function of the Executive Committee to elect the members of the Audit Review Committee ("CRA") under Article 3(j) of the Rules of the Executive Committee and under Article III of the Statute of the Audit Review Committee (the "ARC Statute");

That the ARC Statute provides that at least one of the three members of the ARC shall be elected from among the candidates proposed by the six largest contributors to IICA and another from a candidate nominated by all the other Member States;

That the term of the candidate nominated by all the other Member States expires on December 31, 1997;

That at its last regular meeting, the Executive Committee was unable to elect a candidate to fill the post of the member nominated by all the Member States because no nominations were presented;

That the Executive Committee was unable to elect a candidate to fill said post prior to this Regular Meeting of the IABA;

That the IABA is the governing body of the Institute, under Article 7 of the Convention on the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, and is therefore fully empowered to make an exception to the

CRA Statute and proceed with the election of a member of the CRA, in order to facilitate the election process prior to the end of the current year:

That, after having received from the floor the nomination of the Auditor General of Trinidad and Tobago, Jocelyn Thompson, the IABA elected her to the position on the CRA that will become vacant at year's end,

RESOLVES:

To declare the Auditor General of Trinidad and Tobago, Jocelyn Thompson, elected to the position of member of the CRA reserved for a candidate nominated by all the Member States, except the six largest contributors, for a six-year term beginning January 1, 1998 and ending on December 31, 2003.

IICA/JIA/Res.304(IX-0/97)

13 October 1997

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No.304

POLICY ON INDIRECT ADMINISTRATIVE
AND TECHNICAL COSTS (CATIs)

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE, at its Ninth Regular Meeting.

CONSIDERING:

The importance of externally funded projects as a measure for expanding the cooperation services IICA provides to the Member States:

The need to gradually adjust the current policy on the charging of CATIs, without affecting agreements and contracts included in the 1998-1999 Program Budget;

The recommendation of the Special Committee in Support of the Institutional Transformation Process, during its second meeting, for a gradual adjustment of the policy that IICA should follow with regard to CATIs.

RESOLVES:

1. To adopt the policy guidelines on CATIs set out in the only Appendix to this resolution.
2. To establish that the 1998-1999 biennium be considered a transition period for the application of the policy on CATIs, in the terms proposed in the aforementioned Appendix.

3. **To make no changes in the CATI rates established in the agreements and contracts in effect nor in their attachments.**
4. **To authorize the Director General to execute the CATI resources, up to the amount effectively received, to cover the costs generated for the Institute through the administration/execution of externally funded projects.**
5. **To urge the Director General to begin to apply the new concept of CATIs as a net rate in new agreements and contracts, and to report on the results thereof to the Eighteenth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee. The net rate of CATIs applied shall not be greater than what the Institute currently charges.**

POLICY ON CATIs

- Recognize the growing importance of CATI resources as a source of funding for the Institute, as a result of the growth of externally funded projects administered or executed by IICA, and given the fact that Member States have not agreed to increase total quota assessments for the past three years.
- Currently, the CATI rate is based on annual studies and administrative provisions of the Executive Committee and the IABA. This concept underlies the budgeting of these funds in the proposed 1998-1999 Program Budget presented to the Executive Committee, at its Seventeenth Regular Meeting.
- The administration/execution of externally funded projects is increasingly being awarded to international institutions such as IICA, both by financial organizations and by the governments themselves, through competitive processes (bids, requests for proposals, or through the presentation of comparative technical-economic offers). For this reason, the market is a determining factor in the establishment of the rates to be applied for the management of external resources and in decisions to award administration/execution of these projects.
- Other international organizations have been applying the concept of "Net Administrative Rate," which is based on full recognition, within the budget of the project, of direct and indirect costs involved in its execution.
- In order not to lose competitiveness in this growing market and to maintain a strong position in the administration/execution of these projects, IICA should modify its present concept of CATIs. To this end, the following is recommended:
 - Gradually replace the present concept of Indirect Administrative and Technical Costs with that of Net Institutional Rate (NIR).

- **The Net Institutional Rate should be based on a recognition of the fact that the basic structure of the Institute is financed with quota funds for operating and executing the actions that the Member States entrust to IICA, and that the administration/execution of externally funded projects must not be subsidized with quota funds.**
 - **Consider that the change in concept involves significant changes in how the budgets of externally funded projects should be prepared, and that, therefore, these modifications should be incorporated into negotiations for new agreements and contracts.**
- **In addition, taking into account that the General Directorate, following the recommendation of the first meeting of the Special Committee in Support of the Institutional Transformation Process, has been making progress in this area, it is agreed that:**
1. **The present concept of CATIs be maintained for the 1998-1999 biennium, and that this period be considered a transitional period for the Institute to move forward in modifying the concept and effectively applying it in new agreements and contracts. Accordingly, IICA should continue applying the results of the last study on CATIs conducted for the purpose of establishing the rate at which these funds are to be charged to agreements and contracts included in the 1998-1999 Program Budget, as well as the attachments to those instruments.**
 2. **IICA officials receive training in how to apply the new concept of Net Institutional Rate and become familiar with the methodologies and experiences of other institutions that apply them.**
 3. **The Director General be entrusted with applying the concept of Net Institutional Rate in the negotiation of new agreements and contracts, effective immediately, taking the following into consideration:**
 - a) **Differentiated net rates should be lower in the case of funds provided by the governments than those applied to funds provided by third parties.**
 - b) **Differentiated net rates should be lower in the case of funds earmarked for projects that fully reflect the priority fields of action of the Institute.**

4. That the Director General report to the Executive Committee, at its Eighteenth Regular Meeting, on progress in and the results of the application of this policy.

IICA/JIA/Res.305(IX-O/97)

13 October 1997

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 305

BANK FINANCING

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE, at its Ninth Regular Meeting,

CONSIDERING:

That it is necessary for the Director General to have options for covering temporary cash-flow shortfalls in order to ensure the continuity of actions that have been programmed; and

That it is advisable to guarantee continuity of actions and avoid the additional costs associated with temporarily halting the operations of the Institute due to cash-flow problems,

RESOLVES:

To authorize the Director General to make use of a line of credit established with a bank whenever delays of income into the Regular Fund create the need for funds, duly informing the Executive Committee of this matter, and provided the interest to be paid for this financing is not paid with quota funds.

IICA/JIA/Res.306(LX-O/97)
13 October 1997
Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 306

GENERAL POWER OF ATTORNEY OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE, at its Ninth Regular Meeting,

CONSIDERING:

That in the First Plenary Session, held on October 13, 1997, Mr. Carlos E. Aquino G. was elected Director General of the Institute for the 1998-2002 period;

That this election was conducted pursuant to the provisions of Articles 8f and 19 of the Convention on the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (the Convention), and Articles 2f, 4e, 100 and 103 of the Rules of Procedure of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture;

That during the 1998-2002 period, which begins on January 15, 1998 and ends on January 15, 2002, the Director General-elect shall legally represent the Institute;

That the governing body of the Institute is the Inter-American Board of Agriculture and the executive organ of the Institute is the General Directorate, pursuant to Article 1 of the Rules of Procedure of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture and Article 1 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Directorate;

That in accordance with Article 20 of the Convention, the Director General is the legal representative of the Institute and has the responsibility of administering the General Directorate in order to carry out its functions and obligations;

That in accordance with Costa Rican legislation, all general powers of attorney must be recorded in the Public Registry of Costa Rica, the host country of IICA,

RESOLVES:

1. To grant to the Director General-elect, Mr. Carlos E. Aquino G., General Power of Attorney for a period of four years, beginning January 15, 1998, so that he may faithfully fulfill the responsibilities of Director General conferred upon him by Article 20 of the Convention and Chapter II of the Rules of Procedure of the General Directorate.
2. To confer this General Power of Attorney pursuant to the general stipulations of the Civil Code of the Republic of Costa Rica, the host country of the Institute, and to Article 1253 of said Code in particular. Mr. Carlos E. Aquino G. shall be authorized to grant powers of attorney of all kinds and to revoke same and to register the power of attorney conferred upon him, wheresoever indicated.

IICA/JIA/Res.307(IX-O/97)

14 October 1997

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 307

INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT FOR THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE IABA
AND OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE, at its Ninth Regular Meeting,

CONSIDERING:

That the IABA and the Executive Committee must play an ongoing and active role in order to achieve the results put forth on the agenda defined by the Ministers of Agriculture and to meet the great challenge of further advancing in the institutional modernization process,

RESOLVES:

1. To instruct the Director General to provide the Chairpersons of the IABA and the Executive Committee with the institutional resources needed to carry out the activities inherent to their mandates. Such requirements must be consistent with the general budgetary conditions affecting the institution.
2. To request the Ministries of Agriculture to collaborate actively with the Chairpersons of the IABA and the Executive Committee, as well as with the General Directorate, in the new dimension of action of the Institute agreed to during the course of this IABA meeting.

IICA/JIA/Res.308(IX-O/97)

13 October 1997

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION N° 308

MEDIUM TERM PLAN FOR IICA
FOR THE 1998-2002 PERIOD

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE, at its Ninth Regular Meeting,

CONSIDERING:

That IICA's 1994-1998 Medium Term Plan has been a valuable tool for the prospective programming of the Institute's actions and for orienting the ongoing institutional transformation process;

That most of the guidelines set out in the Plan continue to be effective for orienting the activities of the Institute and for consolidating its institutional transformation process;

That one of the basic premises of IICA's 1994-1998 Medium Term Plan is that it be subject to ongoing feedback and adjustment;

That the Fora of Ministers of Agriculture, held in San Jose, Costa Rica in September 1995 and in Santiago, Chile in October of this year, provided new elements for enriching both the orientation of IICA's activities and the actions of the governments themselves,

RESOLVES:

1. To instruct the Director General to update the 1994-1998 Medium Term Plan in accordance with the recommendations of the aforementioned fora.

2. To report to the Executive Committee, at its Eighteenth Regular Meeting, on the adjustments incorporated into the Plan for the 1998-2002 period.

IICA/JIA/Res.309(IX-O/97)
13 October 1997
Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 309

1995 AND 1996 ANNUAL REPORTS

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE, at its Ninth Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN,

Document IICA/JIA/Doc.213(97) "1995 and 1996 Annual Reports,"

CONSIDERING:

That Article 4.f of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee establishes that the Committee shall examine the Annual Report of the activities of the General Directorate;

That the 1995 and 1996 Annual Reports faithfully reflect the activities carried out by the Institute during each year;

That the Institute, in compliance with the recommendations of the Sixth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), prepared and published summarized reports for each year to be used as an instrument for dissemination and a smaller number of the full report for the information of the Member States;

That the Executive Committee, at its Sixteenth and Seventeenth Regular Meetings, recommended that the IABA approve said reports,

RESOLVES:

1. To accept Document IICA/JIA/Doc.213(97) "1995 and 1996 Annual Reports," presented by the Director General.
2. To congratulate the Director General on the contents and presentation of the Annual Reports.

IICA/JIA/Res.310(LX-O/97)rev.

13 October 1997

Original: English

RESOLUTION No. 310

AMMENDMENTS TO THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (IABA), OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, OF THE GENERAL DIRECTORATE, AND TO THE STAFF RULES, THE SYSTEM FOR THE DETERMINATION OF REMUNERATION FOR IICA PERSONNEL, AND THE FINANCIAL RULES TO FACILITATE THE TRANSFORMATION AND OPERATIONS OF THE INSTITUTE

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE, at its Ninth Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/JIA/Doc.221(97)rev. "Amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), of the Executive Committee, of the General Directorate, and to the Staff Rules and the Financial Rules,

CONSIDERING:

That in Resolution IICA/CE/Res.252(XVI-0/96), entitled "Institutional Transformation and IICA's Future," the Executive Committee requested the Director General "to submit to the Executive Committee at its next Regular Meeting such amendments to the existing rules as may be necessary in order to streamline the Institute's work and to consolidate the institutional transformation process";

That the Special Committee in Support of the Institutional Transformation Process urged the Director General to submit, for the

consideration of the Seventeenth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee, concrete proposals for amending the rules pertaining to human resources policies and practices within the Institute;

That pursuant to the foregoing mandates from the Executive Committee and the Special Committee in Support of the Institutional Transformation Process, the Director General presented for the Executive Committee's consideration proposed modifications to those rules;

That the Executive Committee, at its Seventeenth Regular Meeting, and taking into consideration the recommendations of the Special Committee in Support of the Institutional Transformation Process, adopted Resolution No.274 "Modification of the Rules Governing Human Resources Policies to Facilitate the Institutional Transformation Process," and Resolution No.290 "Modification of the Rules and Regulations of the Institute to Facilitate IICA's Institutional Transformation and Financial Operations." in which it recommends to the IABA that it approve the modifications presented in document IICA/JIA/Doc.221(97)rev.

RESOLVES:

To approve the amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture, of the Executive Committee, of the General Directorate, and to the System for the Determination of Remuneration for IICA Personnel, the Financial Rules and the Staff Rules, as presented in Appendices A and B.

APPENDIX A**AMENDMENTS TO THE RULES GOVERNING HUMAN RESOURCES
POLICIES TO FACILITATE THE INSTITUTIONAL
TRANSFORMATION PROCESS****I. Rules of Procedure of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture****Article 2(j)**

- j. To approve its own Rules of Procedure and the agendas for its meetings, as well as the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee, and the Rules of Procedure of the General Directorate. (October 1997)

II. Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee**Article 3(g)**

- g. To recommend to the Board the approval of draft Rules of Procedure of the Board, Executive Committee and General Directorate and any amendments thereto, and to the other rules of the Institute that the Executive Committee is not authorized to approve and that require the approval of the Board. (October 1997)

Article 3(h)

- h. To approve or modify the Staff Rules, Financial Rules, the System for the Determination of Remuneration for IICA Personnel and the Classification Standards, provided that such approval or modification is consistent with the Rules of Procedure of the IABA, of the Executive Committee or of the General Directorate and would not require a change in a Program Budget resolution in force. (October 1997)

Article 3(i)

This is the text of the previous Article 3(h).

Article 3(i)

This is the text of the previous Article 3(i).

Article 3(k)

This is the text of the previous Article 3(j).

Article 4(s)

This article is eliminated.

III. Rules of Procedure of the General Directorate

Article 12(a)(i)

- i. REGULAR PERSONNEL: Composed of staff members with appointments covering an indefinite period of time, subject to a satisfactory performance appraisal at least every two years and a valid Regular Appointment conferred under Article 17 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Directorate prior to October 31, 1997. (October 1997)

IV. System for the Determination of Remuneration for IICA Personnel

Section I(4.4)(b) Allowance for Special Duties (Bonus for Functions or Temporary Promotion) International Professional Personnel Category

- b. Without prejudice to the principle that a regular promotion under the terms of Staff Rule 5.3 is the normal way of recognizing increased responsibility and demonstrated ability, an International Professional staff member who is required to assume all the duties and responsibilities of a position of higher level than his own on a temporary basis, for a minimum of one uninterrupted month or more, shall be eligible to receive an allowance for special duties, as of the day the new functions are assumed. For temporary promotions of more than six months, the approval of the Director General is required.

V. Staff Rules

Rule 1.5.1(a)

- a. Regular Personnel: Comprised of staff members with appointments covering an indefinite period of time, subject to receipt of a satisfactory performance appraisal at least every two years, on the basis of standards defined in Chapter II of these Staff Rules. Only those staff members who on October 31, 1997 hold valid Regular Appointments conferred under Article 17 of the Rules of the General Directorate are within this category of personnel.⁵

Rule 4.2.5 Allowance for Special Duties (Bonus for Functions or Temporary Promotion)

Any International Professional staff member may be entrusted to assume temporarily all of the duties and responsibilities of a higher position as part of his/her regular work. If required to do so for a minimum of one uninterrupted month or more, the staff member shall be eligible to receive an allowance for special duties, as of the date the new functions were assumed. For temporary promotions of more than six months, the approval of the Director General is required.

⁵ Except for those staff members, the legal concepts of "appointment for an indefinite time," or of "permanent appointment," or of "regular appointment" do not exist under the internal law of the Institute. (October 1997)

APPENDIX B**AMENDMENTS****I. RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

Article 2. The Board shall have the following functions:

- h.** When deemed necessary by the Director General and at least every four years, to select and appoint, on the basis of competitive tenders, a firm of external auditors which is capable of conducting audit work in all of the Member States.

II. RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE GENERAL DIRECTORATE

Article 6. It is the responsibility of the Director General to carry out the following specific functions, which shall be performed in accordance with the Rules of Procedure and other regulations of the Institute and its organs, and the corresponding budgetary provisions approved by the Board:

- a.** To administer the financial resources of the Institute and, when deemed necessary, and at least every four years, to obtain proposals from external auditing firms and present them to the Board.

Article 73. During the course of a fiscal year, the Director General may, in exceptional cases, request from the Board such special appropriations as he/she deems necessary, and shall propose their sources of financing. Nonetheless, the Director General may direct the request to the Executive Committee for final disposition if the request seeks the reappropriation of lapsed appropriations from the prior year's Program Budget which were not obligated during that year due to the unavailability of cash at that time, and provided the Director General identifies for the Executive Committee the resources necessary to fund those lapsed appropriations.

Article 82. The following funds are administered by the Institute, classified according to their source and purpose:

- a. **REGULAR FUND** - Consisting of the quotas of the Member States and miscellaneous income, including funds received for unspecified purposes. The purpose of this fund is to finance the regular operations of the Institute, including administration and management.

There are no changes in b), c) and d).

- e. **FIXED ASSET FUND** - Consisting of the cash value of the fixed assets and personal property (furniture, equipment, vehicles, buildings, building improvements, real estate, and any other kind of property) owned by the Institute. Separate records must be kept, entitled "Fixed Asset Investments," within the Regular Fund, the Fund of resources generated by the Institutional Net Rate (INR) Fund, the Special Funds, the Trust Funds, and the Revolving Funds, for the purchase of assets within these funds. All inheritances and donations of fixed assets shall be considered as investments in the Regular Fund, unless otherwise indicated.
- f. **INSTITUTIONAL NET RATE (INR) FUND** - Consisting of reimbursements from the administration of contracts with other institutions. The purpose of this fund is to finance the additional costs incurred by the Institute in the execution of these contracts and to contribute to institutional pre-investment activities.
- g. **PATRIMONIAL FUND** - Consisting of donations and other voluntary contributions of governments, institutions, or other persons, in cash or in kind, including real estate and other personal property. The purpose of this fund is to create an endowment to provide economic strength and security to the Institution.

Article 83. The Regular Fund includes the following subfunds:

- a. GENERAL SUBFUND - The following shall be credited to this subfund: quotas paid by the Member States, miscellaneous income, unless the Board has approved it for specific purposes, and funds advanced by the Working Subfund; and

Article 92. The purchase of equipment, office furniture and materials, general supplies, and service jobs shall be conducted by competitive methods.

The Director General may authorize exceptions for purchases of material valued at less than US\$30,000 when he/she considers that the bidding method does not serve the interest of the Institute.

When the value of the purchase is US\$30,000 or more, the Director General may make exceptions to the use of the bidding method only under the following circumstances:

- a. Emergencies, such as disaster aid, repairs, and other actions that are urgently needed to protect lives or property; or
- b. Purchase of technical and scientific material to be used for projects approved by the Board and that are to be carried out in the Member States. In these cases, and according to the wishes of the Member States or the institutions, the purchases may be made by the General Directorate or, if the purchase will not be more expensive, by the national institution participating in the project.

The Director General shall inform the Executive Committee of the purchases totalling US\$30,000 or more, for which the bidding method has not been used.

All purchases shall later be checked by the Internal Audit Unit.

III. FINANCIAL RULES

Rule 3.1 Classification of Funds

As described in Article 82 of the RPGD, the resources administered by the Institute are classified according to their source and purpose as follows:

- a. **REGULAR FUND** - Consisting of the quotas of the Member States and miscellaneous income, including funds received for unspecified purposes. The purpose of this fund is to finance the regular operations of the Institute, including administration and management.

There are no changes in b, c and d.

- e. **FIXED ASSET FUND** - Consisting of the cash value of the fixed assets and personal property (furniture, equipment, vehicles, buildings, building improvements, real estate, and any other kind of property) owned by the Institute. Separate records must be kept, entitled "Fixed Asset Investments," within the Regular Fund, the Fund of resources generated by the Institutional Net Rate (INR) Fund, the Special Funds, the Trust Funds, and the Revolving Funds, for the purchase of assets within these funds. All inheritances and donations of fixed assets shall be considered as investments in the Regular Fund, unless otherwise indicated.
- f. **INSTITUTIONAL NET RATE (INR) FUND** - Consisting of reimbursements from the administration of contracts with other institutions. The purpose of this fund is to finance the additional costs incurred by the Institute in the execution of these contracts and to contribute to institutional pre-investment activities.
- g. **PATRIMONIAL FUND** - Consisting of donations and other voluntary contributions of governments, institutions, or other persons, in cash or in kind, including real estate and other personal property. The purpose of this fund is to create an endowment to provide economic strength and security to the Institution.

Rule 3.5 Institutional Net Rate (INR)

3.5.1 The Institute shall charge an Institutional Net Rate (INR) to cover the Institute's costs of participations in externally funded projects. For each project, the Director General shall negotiate a rate that: a) does not fall below the minimum rate recommended in the study referred to in Rule 3.5.2, and b) is sufficient, in light of estimates of other INR to be negotiated during the corresponding time period, to assure that the average INR charged for all projects during the given period cover the Institute's additional administrative and technical management costs resulting from its participation in externally funded projects.

3.6.1 Article 83.a. of the RPGD states:

The following shall be credited to this subfund: quotas paid by the Member States, miscellaneous income, unless the Board has approved it for specific purposes, and funds advanced by the Working Subfund; and

Rule 4.10 Methods of Acquiring Goods and Services

Except as provided in Article 92 of the RPGD ¹⁴ the Institute shall issue requests to the public for three or more written offers for any type of

¹⁴ Article 92 of the RPGD states:

The purchase of equipment, office furniture and materials, general supplies, and service jobs shall be conducted by competitive methods.

The Director General may authorize exceptions for purchases of materials valued at less than US\$30,000 when he/she considers that the bidding method does not serve the interest of the Institute.

When the value of the purchase is US\$30,000 or more, the Director General may make exceptions to the use of the bidding method only under the following circumstances:

- a) Emergencies, such as disaster aid, repairs, and other actions that are urgently needed to protect lives or property; or
- b) Purchase of technical and scientific material to be used for projects approved by the Board and that are to be carried out in the Member States. In these cases, and according to the wishes of the Member States or the institutions, the purchases may be made by the General Directorate or, if the purchase will not be more expensive, by the national institution participating in the project.

The Director General shall inform the Executive Committee of all purchases totaling US\$30,000 or more, for which the bidding method has not been used.

All purchases shall later be checked by the Internal Audit Unit.

contract with a value of more than US\$30,000. The Director of Administration and two other designated officials shall serve on a Contract Review Board to open bids, review proposals, and determine the successful bidder. The Director General or his designee shall approve and sign for the Institute all contracts which result from the process.

In order to comply with Article 92 of the RPGD, the Director General shall establish a procedure for the application of the bidding process and for the conduct of competitive methods of purchasing with the objective of attaining fair prices.

Rule 5.9 External Auditors and Reports

5.9.2 Appointment of a firm of external auditors shall be for a period of two years. However, the Director General, at his discretion and when performance standards have been met, may elect to extend the appointment of the firm of external auditors for an additional period of two years.^{18 19}

5.9.3 As necessary and at least every four years, the Director General shall obtain proposals from international external audit firms to perform the annual audit of the Institute for a period of two years. Proposals received shall be submitted to the IABA for consideration and selection.^{18 19}

¹⁸ Article 6.a of the RPGD states:

It is responsibility of the Director General to carry out the following specific functions, which shall be performed in accordance with the Rules of Procedure and other regulations of the Institute and its organs, and the corresponding budgetary provisions approved by the Board: to administer the financial resources of the Institute and, when deemed necessary, and at least every four years, to obtain proposals from external auditing firms and present them to the Board.

¹⁹ Article 2.h. of the Rules of Procedure of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture states: The Board shall have the following functions: When deemed necessary by the Director General and at least every four years, to select and appoint, on the basis of competitive tenders, a firm of external auditors which is capable of conducting audit work in all of the Member States.

IICA/JIA/Res.311(IX-O/97)

13 October 1997

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 311

REPORT ON THE STATUS OF THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE
EIGHTH REGULAR MEETING OF THE INTER-AMERICAN
BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE, at its Ninth Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/JIA/Doc.227(97) "Report on the Status of the Resolutions of the Eighth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA),"

CONSIDERING:

That the Executive Committee, at its Sixteenth and Seventeenth Regular Meetings, examined the reports presented by the Director General on the actions taken to comply with the resolutions of the Eighth Regular Meeting of the IABA;

That on examining the aforementioned reports at both meetings, the Executive Committee observed that the General Directorate of the Institute had complied satisfactorily with the recommendations of the IABA.

RESOLVES:

To accept with satisfaction Document IICA/JIA/Doc.227(97) "Report on the Status of the Resolutions of the Eighth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA)."

IICA/JIA/Res.312(IX-O/97)
13 October 1997
Original: English

RESOLUTION No. 312

ESTABLISHMENT OF IICA ASSOCIATE STATUS

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE. at its Ninth Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/JIA/Doc.218(97) "Associate Status: A Proposal for Creation of a New Category of Participation for Permanent Observers, Non-Member Countries and International Organizations,"

CONSIDERING:

That at its first regular session in 1971, the OAS General Assembly, pursuant to its authority under Article 53 of the Charter, established the status of Permanent Observers within the Organization and instructed the Permanent Council to determine the criteria corresponding to that status;

That IICA, pursuant to IICA/JD/Res.7(9/74) and subsequent resolutions of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture, adopted provisions in its rules for the participation of Permanent Observers in IICA activities and programs;

That there are currently more than forty Permanent Observers accredited to the OAS and IICA;

That there is a need to recognize the outstanding support and contributions to IICA by certain Permanent Observers, other non-Member

States of IICA, and international, regional, and national organizations, and to offer inducements for the continuation of such support;

That the establishment of IICA Associate status for non-Member States of IICA and international, regional, and national organizations which regularly make substantial contributions to the Institute's funds, its programs and its other activities, will satisfy that need;

That the Executive Committee, at its Seventeenth Regular Meeting, by Resolution IICA/CE/Res.275(XVII-0/97) "Establishment of IICA Associate Status," recommended that the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) establish the condition of IICA Associate, and to adopt the "Standards for IICA Associate Status,"

RESOLVES:

1. To establish within IICA the status of "IICA Associates" for certain Permanent Observers, and international, regional and national organizations, and other non-IICA Member States considered to be qualified for that status.
2. To adopt the "Standards for IICA Associates" attached to this Resolution as Annex A, for regulating the minimum conditions required for conferring IICA Associate status and the corresponding rights, privileges, and obligations.
3. To adopt the amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the IABA and the Executive Committee set out in Annex B so as to provide for the participation of IICA Associates in those organs, consistent with those Rules of Procedure and the other terms of this Resolution.
4. To instruct the Director General to establish the IICA Associates' Trust Fund and to adopt and implement regulations governing the administration of that Fund, *ad referendum* to the next regular meeting of the Executive Committee.

STANDARDS FOR IICA ASSOCIATES**ARTICLE I****Definitions**

1.1 **IICA Associate**: A Permanent Observer, other Non-IICA Member State, or international, regional, or national organization that satisfies the conditions of IICA Associate status under these Standards and has been granted that status by the Executive Committee pursuant to the procedures herein.

1.2 **Permanent Observer**: A State or governmental entity having the attributes of a State under international law (e.g., the European Union) which has been granted Permanent Observer status by IICA or by the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States in accordance with CP/RES. 407 (573/84) and other applicable rules and regulations of the OAS.

1.3 **Non-IICA Member State**: A State or governmental entity having the attributes of a State under international law and which is not a member of IICA.

1.4 **International, Regional, and National Organizations**: Public and private sector organizations whose goals and objectives are consistent with those of IICA and which have demonstrated a strong interest in working with IICA to achieve those objectives.

1.5 **Contribution Requirement**: The amount, in accordance with Article III below, which a potential Associate must contribute to be eligible for IICA Associate status and to maintain that status from one year to the next.

1.6 **Special IICA Associates Trust Fund**: A trust fund that shall be established by the Director General under these Standards, and the income of which is used to finance special projects and activities of the Institute.

ARTICLE II
Minimum Eligibility Requirements

2.1 An IICA Associate must either be a Permanent Observer of IICA, another Non-IICA Member State, or an international, regional, or national organization as defined under these Standards that satisfies the contribution requirement for the calendar year in which the Institute receives the request for IICA Associate status, and, in the case of a request for renewal, for the calendar year for which the renewal is requested.

2.2 To satisfy the contribution requirement in any given calendar year, an Associate must contribute to IICA an amount equal to at least 1% of the quota assessments to finance the regular fund budget approved by the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) for that year, and IICA must agree to accept the donation. The contribution must be in U.S. dollars or an equivalent amount in local currency readily convertible to US dollars at no loss to the Institute.

ARTICLE III
Renewal and Maintenance of IICA Associate Status

3.1 IICA Associate status will lapse on March 31st of the year following the calendar year in which it was granted unless it is renewed in accordance with these Standards.

3.2 To be eligible for renewal, an IICA Associate must demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Executive Committee that it has satisfied the contribution requirement set out in Article II above for the year for which it is seeking renewal.

ARTICLE IV
Approval for Requests for IICA Associate Status and Renewal

4.1 An applicant seeking IICA Associate status or renewal of that status must request it in written form to the Executive Committee by a letter

addressed to the Director General and forwarded by the Director General to the members of the Executive Committee.

4.2 The Executive Committee shall consider all written requests for IICA Associate status and renewal of that status, and will take final action on those requests at its Regular Annual meeting or by voting by correspondence under its Rules of Procedure.

4.3 Requests for IICA Associate status and renewal must be approved by a two-thirds vote of the members of the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE V

Rights and Privileges of IICA Associate Status

5.1 IICA Associates shall enjoy all the current benefits available to Permanent Observers.

5.2 IICA Associates shall be accorded precedence over Permanent Observers and all invited guests in all IICA meetings and activities covered by these Standards, and, where the seating arrangement so permits, shall be seated ahead of Permanent Observers and ahead of all other invited guests.

5.3 At all Executive Committee and Inter-American Board of Agriculture meetings, IICA Associates shall have the right to speak and to attend closed sessions, and they shall be given preference in being recognized to speak and in attending those sessions over Permanent Observers.

5.4 Nationals of IICA Associate States shall have the opportunity to compete for temporary positions at IICA for up to one year in duration, and all other conditions being equal, shall have preference over candidates from other non-OAS Member States.

5.5 IICA Associates shall integrate a special advisory panel which shall meet with the Director General at least once every three months to discuss issues of mutual interest and for special briefings on IICA activities.

5.6 IICA Associates shall have the opportunity to participate in decisions regarding the use of special multilateral funds established within the Institute with donations from IICA Associates.

5.7. IICA Associates shall have such other rights as the Inter-American Board of Agriculture shall decide to confer upon them, consistent with the OAS Charter, the IICA Convention, and IICA's other rules and regulations.

ARTICLE VI

Participation in the IICA Associates' Trust Fund

6.1 A Special IICA Associates' Trust Fund, supported by contributions from IICA Associates, Member States and other donors, shall be established by the Director General and placed under the direction of a board of six trustees.

6.2 IICA Associates shall have the right to vote each year for at least two of the six trustees of the Special IICA Associates' Trust Fund.

6.3 The IICA Associates' Trust Fund shall be a special Fund within the Institute governed by the corresponding rules and regulations of the Institute and its own Statute approved by the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE VII

Miscellaneous Provisions

7.1 By a two thirds vote of the Member States, the Executive Committee may vote to withdraw the IICA Associate status of any IICA Associate that enters into a state of armed aggression or hostility with an OAS Member State or which engages in other activities inconsistent with the principles set out in the OAS Charter.

7.2 The Executive Committee may amend or repeal these Standards for IICA Associates at any time by a two-thirds vote of its members.

APPENDIX B

AMENDMENTS TO THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

Add a new Article 8, which shall state:

Article 8. The representatives of IICA Associates duly recognized in accordance with the Standards for IICA Associates in force in the Institute may be accredited as participants in the regular and extraordinary meetings of the Board. At those meetings, IICA Associates shall have the following rights and privileges:

- a. To be accorded precedence over Permanent Observers and all invited guests;
- b. To be seated ahead of Permanent Observers and ahead of all other invited guests, where seating so permits;
- c. To speak and to attend closed sessions, and to be given preference in being recognized to speak and in attending those meetings over Permanent Observers.

AMENDMENTS TO THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Add to Article 3 the following section "k".

k. To grant or withdraw, as the case may be, IICA Associate status for Permanent Observers, Non-IICA Member States, and international, regional, and national organizations, in accordance with the Standards for IICA Associates in force at the Institute.

Add Article 13B, which shall state:

Article 13B. The representatives of IICA Associates duly recognized in accordance with the Standards for IICA Associates in force in the Institute may be accredited as participants in the regular and extraordinary meetings of the

Executive Committee. At those meetings, IICA Associates shall have the following rights and privileges:

a. To be accorded precedence over Permanent Observers and all invited guests;

b. To be seated ahead of Permanent Observers and ahead of all other invited guests, where seating so permits;

c. To speak and to attend closed sessions, and to be given preference in being recognized to speak and in attending those meetings over Permanent Observers.

IICA/JIA/Res.313 (IX-O/97)
13 October 1997
Original: English

DRAFT RESOLUTION No. 313

REGULATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTING ARTICLE 24 OF THE
CONVENTION ON THE INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR
COOPERATION ON AGRICULTURE

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE, at its Ninth Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/JIA/Doc.220(97), "Proposed Regulations for Application of Article 24 of the Convention of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture,"

CONSIDERING:

That Article 24 of the Convention on the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture ("IICA Convention") provides that a Member State that is in arrears in the payment of its quotas for more than two complete fiscal years shall have its right to vote suspended in the Board and the Committee, but that the Board or Committee may nonetheless permit the Member State to vote if it considers that the arrearage is due to circumstances beyond the control of that State;

That the underlying purpose of Article 24 is to facilitate the collection of past-due quotas and to discourage Member States from falling into arrears;

That since Article 24 entered into force, no Member State in arrears as specified in that Article has had its right to vote suspended;

That because of the fundamental importance of the voting right to each and every Member State and to the democratic integrity of the Institute, no Member State should have its vote suspended without due process provided under clear and orderly rules of procedure;

That the orderly application of Article 24 requires regulations to clarify the procedural safeguards by which it is to be applied, methods of computing quorum and related voting requirements in those instances when the voting rights of one or more Member States have been suspended under that Article, and the conditions under which suspended voting rights may be restored;

That the Director General, pursuant to his mandate under Resolution IICA/JIA/Res.256(VIII-O/95) to recommend measures for collection of quota arrearages, has proposed draft regulations (attached as Appendix I of this Resolution) which would provide the necessary due process safeguards and procedural clarity necessary for the fair and orderly application of Article 24;

That the delegation of Venezuela has presented a document recommending editorial changes which would improve the clarity of the proposed regulations, particularly in the Spanish language text, and that other delegations have offered similar observations;

That the Executive Committee, at its Sixteenth Regular Meeting, by Resolution IICA/CE/Res.258 (XVI-O/97), recommended that the Inter-American Board of Agriculture approve the Regulations for Application of Article 24 of the Convention on the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, as set out in Appendix I of this Resolution,

RESOLVES:

To approve the Regulations for Application of Article 24 of the Convention on the Inter-American Cooperation on Agriculture, as set out in Appendix I of this Resolution.

**REGULATIONS FOR APPLICATION OF ARTICLE 24 OF THE
CONVENTION ON THE INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR
COOPERATION ON AGRICULTURE⁶**

ARTICLE I

DEFINITIONS

- 1.1 "The Board" shall mean the Inter-American Board of Agriculture.
- 1.2 "The Committee" shall mean the Executive Committee.
- 1.3 "The IICA Convention" shall mean the Convention of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture.
- 1.4 "Debtor State" shall mean any Member State that is more than two years in arrears in its quota obligations to IICA sixty days prior to the date of the corresponding Board or Committee Meeting.
- 1.5 "Member" shall mean a member of the Executive Committee in the case of meetings of the Executive Committee, and a Member of the Board in the case of the meetings of the Board.
- 1.6 "Meeting" shall mean a meeting of the Board or the Executive Committee, as the case may be.
- 1.7 "Plenary" shall mean the Plenary Sessions of the Board or the Committee.
- 1.8 "Plenary" shall mean the plenary sessions of any committee or working group of the Board or the Committee.

⁶ Article 24 states:

Article 24: A Member State that is in arrears in the payment of its quotas for more than two complete fiscal years shall have its right to vote suspended in the Board and the Committee. However, the Board or the Committee may permit the Member State to vote if it considers that the failure to pay is due to circumstances beyond the control of that state.

The corresponding provisions are Article 67 of the Board's Rules of Procedure and Article 73 of the Executive Committee's Rules. Those Articles are virtually a verbatim repetition of Article 24 of the IICA Convention.

ARTICLE II

PURPOSE

2.1 The purpose of these Regulations are:

- 2.1.1 Given the importance of the fundamental right to vote in the institutions of the inter-American system, to provide an orderly and exclusive due process procedure for the suspension and restoration of voting rights in the Board and the Committee under Article 24 of the IICA Convention and the corresponding provisions of the Rules of Procedure of the Board and the Committee;**
- 2.1.2 To provide rules for determining the number of Member States that constitute a quorum in the Board and the Committee in the event the voting rights of one or more Member States are suspended under Article 24;**
- 2.1.3 To provide rules for determining the number of States that constitute a majority of the Member States, a two-thirds majority of the Member States, and a majority of the Member States present for purposes of satisfying voting requirements in the Committee and the Board in the event the voting rights of one or more Member States are suspended under Article 24.**

ARTICLE III

NOTICE OF POSSIBILITY OF SUSPENSION

- 3.1 No earlier than 60 days prior to each Meeting of the Board and the Committee, but no later than 45 days prior to such Meeting, the Director General shall send to each Member State: a) a current statement showing the status of quota payments of all the Member States for each of the last five fiscal years, including the current**

fiscal year; b) a list of Debtor States; c) notice that there will be a hearing on whether to suspend or restore the voting rights of Debtor States in the Preparatory Session of the Meeting in accordance with Article 24 of the IICA Convention and these Regulations; and d) a copy of these Regulations.

- 3.2 Within the time frame set out in Paragraph 3.1 above, the Director General shall notify in writing each Debtor State whose vote is not already in suspension as a result of the prior application of these Regulations: a) that its right to vote might be suspended at the meeting; b) that the suspension will be considered in the Preparatory Session in accordance with Article 24 of the IICA Convention and these Regulations; c) that the Board or Committee, as the case may be, may decide not to suspend the Debtor State's voting rights if it considers that the State's arrears are due to circumstances beyond the control of that State; d) that the Debtor State is urged to send to IICA within 25 days prior to the meeting for prior distribution to the Member States an explanation of why it is in arrears and any circumstances justifying the arrearages; and e) that failure to provide an explanation or failure to make a payment of quotas sufficient to remove Debtor State status is likely to result in suspension of the Debtor State's voting rights.

ARTICLE IV

PROCEDURE FOR THE SUSPENSION AND CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING WHETHER TO SUSPEND THE VOTING RIGHTS OF A DEBTOR STATE

- 4.1 The Preparatory Session of the Board or the Committee, as the case may be, shall include on its agenda the suspension of the voting rights of all Debtor States.
- 4.2 The Director General shall inform the Preparatory Session of any Debtor States whose status has changed since publication and transmission of the notice set out in Paragraph 3.1 of these Regulations.

- 4.3 The Preparatory Session shall provide each Debtor State that does not wish to have its vote suspended, or that wishes to have previously suspended voting rights restored, the opportunity to show cause why its right to vote should either not be suspended or should be restored, as the case may be.**
- 4.3.1 The Preparatory Session shall decide by a vote on whether it will conduct the show cause proceedings in its plenary session or whether it shall appoint a Special Working Committee for that purpose.**
- 4.3.2 If a Special Working Committee is so appointed, it shall conduct a show cause hearing for each Debtor State and make the corresponding recommendations on suspension for the approval of the Plenary Sessions of the Board or of the Committee, as the case may be. Any Debtor State whose right to vote is already in suspension as a result of the prior application of these Regulations shall not be eligible to participate in the Special Working Committee. All other Members are eligible to participate, provided, however, a majority of Non-Debtor States on the Special Working Committee is maintained.**
- 4.3.3 Because a Member State has the right to vote until the Board or Committee votes to suspend that right, a Debtor State whose right to vote is not already in suspension as a result of the prior application of these Regulations may vote or otherwise participate in the decision on whether its vote is to be suspended.**
- 4.3.4 The decision to suspend or restore a Debtor State's voting rights requires the approval of at least a majority of the Members present (of the Board or of the Committee, as the case may be).**
- 4.4 The decision on whether to suspend or restore the voting rights of the Debtor State must be based on whether the cause of the indebtedness is due to circumstances beyond the Debtor State's control. Examples of circumstances where indebtedness may be**

considered beyond a Debtor State's control, include, but are not limited to: natural disasters within the last twenty-four months having a substantial and unforeseen impact on the State's capacity to generate revenue to satisfy public obligations; a state of war caused by another State within the last twenty-four months requiring the Debtor State to divert an unforeseen and substantial amount of its revenues to self-defense; circumstances of a similar nature which in the judgment of the Member States prevent a Member State from satisfying its debt to the Institute without creating severe and undue hardship for that State. Each case shall be examined on its own merits. Past precedents established by the Institute, while not binding, shall be taken into account.

- 4.5 No binding obligation may be imposed on the Institute or the Member States by the Board or by the Committee, as the case may be, until either the corresponding Preparatory Session or Plenary has taken a decision on whether the voting rights of each and every Debtor State are to be suspended or restored for the Meeting.

ARTICLE V

DETERMINING QUORUM AND VOTING REQUIREMENTS ONCE THE VOTING RIGHTS OF ONE OR MORE MEMBERS HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED

- 5.1 For purposes of computing the quorum requirements of the sessions of the Board and Committee under their respective Rules of Procedure, only Member States whose voting rights are not suspended shall be counted.
- 5.2 For the purposes of computing a majority of the members, a majority of the Members present, and a two-thirds majority of the Members, only Member States whose voting rights are not suspended shall be counted.

ARTICLE VI

RESTORATION OF VOTING RIGHTS

- 6.1 A Debtor State's voting rights shall remain suspended until they are either restored automatically in accordance with Paragraph 6.2 below or restored by a vote of the Board or Committee, as the case may be, in accordance with Paragraph 6.4 below.
- 6.2 A Debtor State's voting rights shall be restored automatically when it ceases to be a Debtor State in accordance with these Regulations.
- 6.3 The Director General shall promptly notify the Members of the Board or Committee, as the case may be, of those States whose voting rights have been restored automatically.
- 6.4 Any Debtor State whose voting rights have been suspended in a Meeting of the Committee or Board and is still a Debtor State at the next Meeting of the Committee or Board may petition that next Meeting of the Committee or Board to restore its voting rights. That request shall be considered under the same procedure and criteria set out in Article IV above.

ARTICLE VII

EXCLUSIVITY

- 7.1 No voting rights of any Member State shall be suspended or restored under Article 24 of the IICA Convention by any procedures other than those established in these Regulations.

ARTICLE VIII

AMENDMENT

- 8.1 These Regulations may be amended only by a majority vote of the Members of the Board.

ARTICLE IX

PRECEDENCE

- 9.1 In the event of any conflict between these Regulations and the Rules of Procedure of the Board and the Committee, these Regulations shall govern.

ARTICLE X

PUBLICATION

- 10.1 These Regulations shall be published with the other Basic Rules of the Institute in Official Documents Series No.22.

AIDE MEMOIRE

Suspension of the Right to Vote under Article 24 of the IICA Convention

I. THE PROBLEM

Article 24 of the IICA Convention² states:

A Member State that is in arrears in the payment of its quotas for more than two complete fiscal years shall have its right to vote suspended in the Board and the Committee. However, the Board or the Committee may permit the Member State to vote if it considers that the failure to pay is due to circumstances beyond the control of that state.

The text of this Rule gives rise to several questions. The first is whether suspension of the voting privilege is immediately automatic once a country has fallen into two years of arrears or whether there is a requirement of a prior hearing or other procedure guaranteeing due process to the affected State prior to the suspension of its voting privileges. Second, if there is a procedure required, what is it? Third, may a country which has fallen into more than two years of arrearages vote on whether its privileges may be suspended. Fourth, may a Member State whose voting privileges have been suspended be counted for purposes of computing the quorum for conducting a meeting or for determining the number of "members" necessary to constitute a majority or the members, a qualified majority of the members, or a majority of the members present. It is to a discussion of these questions that we now turn.

II. ANALYSIS

A. Is Suspension of Voting Privileges Automatic?

There is a reasonable argument for the position that the suspension of voting privileges under Article 24 is not automatic. That position finds support in the following considerations: (1) the inherent ambiguity of the text; (2) the lack of definitive legislative history; (3) logic, because the automatic

² This provision is virtually repeated verbatim in both Article 67 of the Board's Rules of Procedure and Article 73 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee.

application of the rule in the event that half the Member States owed more than two years arrears could paralyze the organization; and (4) the paramount importance of the right to vote in a democratic community, together with the principle that such fundamental rights should not be removed without due process.

1. The Plain Meaning of the Text of Article 24

The plain meaning of the text of Article 24 does not necessarily support the conclusion that the loss of the right to vote is automatic when a country falls into more than two years of arrearages. It states that the defaulting country "shall have its right to vote suspended in the Board and the Committee." That wording gives rise to the interrogatories "how, and by whom shall a Member State have its vote suspended?" Will the suspension occur automatically as soon as the country falls in two years' arrearages? Will it occur only after there has been a hearing? Who will suspend the right and how and when shall notification of the suspension proceed? Will it be by the Board? the Credentials Committee? the Director General in the notice of convocation?

To avoid the ambiguity, the draftsmen could have used other language. For example, they could have inserted the word "automatically" after the word "suspended" to alleviate any doubt. Or they could have simply stated that any country that is more than two years in arrears "is ineligible to vote." In contrast, the words "will have its right to vote suspended" implies that the suspension of the right to vote could require a process. Moreover, the second sentence of Article 24, which states that the Board or Committee may permit a state in arrears to vote, further suggests that there must be a hearing or similar procedure in connection with the suspension of a Member State's right to vote.

2. Analysis Based on the Purposes of Article 24

The clear purpose of Article 24 is to enable the Institute to use the threat of loss of the vote as a means of assuring that the Member States will promptly comply with their quota obligations. Nonetheless, to date, we have not been able to locate any legislative history³ which would facilitate a

³ To date, efforts to locate legislative history on this provision of the Convention have proved futile. A diligent search of IICA's archives have revealed nothing. Further investigation is pending in the OAS archives.

conclusive determination as to whether the Member States, in adopting the Convention, intended the suspension of the right to vote to occur automatically.

Nonetheless, to the extent that practice is an indicator of intent, it would seem that the intent was that the loss of the vote should not be automatic. The problem of arrearages has existed at IICA since the Convention went into force in 1980 and well before that date. Notwithstanding widespread knowledge of Article 24 and the regular distribution to the Member States of information on the status of quota payments prior to Board and Committee meetings, no Member State's right to vote has ever been suspended automatically. Thus, practice supports the conclusion that suspension of the vote does not occur without some prior due process proceeding.

3. The Logical Extension of a Rule Requiring Automatic Suspension Could Paralyze the Institute

It is hornbook law that laws must be construed to make sense, not nonsense. The reason is that there is a presumption, absent proof in the legislative history to the contrary, that the legislature was guided by reason and logic in promulgating the law.

In this instance, adoption of the position that suspension of the vote under Article 24 is automatic could result in a situation where it is impossible to satisfy the requirements under Article 12 of the IICA Convention and Article 68 of the Board's Rules of Procedure for a two-thirds vote of "the Member States" on the budget and other issues of critical importance to the functioning of the Institute⁴. The inability to satisfy those requirements for decision making at IICA could paralyze the Institute⁵.

⁴ Under Article 68 of the Board Rules, "a two-thirds vote of the Member States shall be required to vote on: membership of non-OAS Member States; the program budget; removal of the Director General; Convocation of Special Meetings of the Board; inclusion of special urgent measures on the agenda; reconsideration of a Board decision already taken; amendments to the Convention; use of the method of voting by correspondence; approval of any issue by which voting by correspondence is used." To elect the Director General, convene special meetings of the Board, and resume discussion of a proposal previously accepted or rejected, an affirmative vote of "the majority of the Member States" is required. All other decisions require a "majority of the Member States present."

⁵ We use the word "could" here instead of "would" because this entire line of analysis is based on a "plain meaning" textual analysis of the IICA Convention and relevant Board Rules. A purposive analysis, as pointed out in Section D below, however, might result in a different conclusion as to how quorum requirements and

Such a situation is not simply hypothetical. At this moment it is real. Presently there are fourteen countries that are more than two years in arrears. That constitutes more than one third of the Institute's membership. Thus, if the automatic suspension rule were to be applied, those countries would be barred from voting and the Board would be unable to adopt a budget resolution at its upcoming meeting.

Similarly, automatic suspension of the vote under Article 24 could have the effect of foreclosing any possibility of the Institute's governing bodies from making any decisions, including the decision to restore the vote to those countries whose vote had been automatically suspended. The reason is that the decision to restore the vote requires a decision of a majority of the members present, and to conduct any business requires a majority of the members under the Articles of the Convention. Thus, if 33 members were present and 17 were disenfranchised, it would be impossible to accumulate a majority vote of the members present -- 17 votes -- necessary to restore the vote to the members whose vote had been suspended. It should be presumed that such a prejudicial result for the Institute was not intended by the Member States in adopting Article 24, and that therefore, suspension of the vote is not automatic.

4. The Importance of the Right to Vote and the Requirements of Due Process

There is no right more fundamental to a Member State in a multilateral organization than the right to vote. That right recognizes the equality of all sovereign Member States under the law. International organizations are multinational fora in which Member States are able to take joint decisions on issues of common concern. The vote is the essential element of the democratic decision-making process by which international organizations manage their affairs. Removal of the vote from any Member State jeopardizes the multinational nature of those decisions and threatens the very rationale underlying an international organization's existence. For that reason, the removal of the right to vote by the Institute, like the removal or deprivation of any fundamental right of a citizen of a Member State, should not be automatic. Rather it should proceed only with due process which assures that the right will not be denied arbitrarily and without a right to be heard.

the number of countries that constitute a majority or qualified majority are computed, and therefore, the paralysis explained in this Section A(3) would not occur if a purposive analysis were adopted.

Removal of the right to vote without due process would be inconsistent with the democratic principles which lie at the core of the inter-American system.

B. The Current Procedure for Applying Article 24

Although the Convention has been in force for seventeen years, the Institute has not adopted written rules for the procedure of suspending a Member State's voting rights. The drafting of such Rules for the Board's consideration is a specific task which the Board could entrust to the Director General as part of his mandate to study the means of decreasing arrearages and making the corresponding recommendations to the next Executive Committee.

Notwithstanding the absence of a written procedure, it cannot be said with certainty that there is no procedure for applying Article 24. Rather since the adoption of Article 24, IICA has followed a practice regarding the application of that Article, which constitutes the current procedure in force. That practice is that unless the question of suspension of the vote of a Member State is raised by another Member State in the Board or Committee, it can be assumed that the members of the Board or Committee, as the case may be, consider that the State which is eligible to have its vote suspended for nonpayment of quota was not able to make the payments for reasons beyond its control and is therefore permitted to vote.

Under general principles of administrative and international law, a practice which does not contradict a written norm has the force of law until it is either modified by a change in that practice or the publication of the pertinent written regulations. In the case of Article 24 and the derivative provisions in the Rules of Procedure of the Board and Executive Committee, there is nothing in the text which directly contradicts this practice. Therefore, up until now, the practice has served as IICA's procedure for applying Article 24.

It should be noted, however, that the current practice or procedure is incomplete. Because no Member State has ever objected to the exercise of the vote by a Member State more than two years in arrears, there is no history of practice to guide the Institute on the following questions: When must the objection be made? In the Credentials Committee? In the Preparatory Session? Before the first vote? Can a Member State challenge a vote after it has been taken if it did not object prior to the vote? Should States that have lost the vote

be considered as members of the deliberative bodies for the purpose of considering the number of States necessary to form a quorum? Should States that have lost the right to vote be included in computing the total number of Member States for determining the number which constitutes a majority of the Member States or a two-thirds majority of the Member States under the rules of the Board and Committee? If Article 24 is to be applied, there is a need for regulations which answer those questions.

C. Whether A Country More Than Two Years in Arrears Can Vote on Issues Pertaining to the Suspension of its Vote

If one takes the position that suspension of the vote is automatic for any country that is more than two years in arrears it is clear that the country has lost its vote and cannot vote in the Board's decision on whether, notwithstanding the country's arrears, it may be permitted to vote. If, on the other hand, one takes the position that Article 24 requires a prior hearing in which the country has a chance to explain why it is in arrears prior to losing its vote, then it may vote in the procedure.

D. Whether A Country That Has Lost Its Right to Vote Should Be Considered Present for Purposes of Determining a Quorum or for Determining the Number of Votes Needed to Constitute a Majority or Qualified Majority Under the Institute's Rules

In the absence of explicit regulations on the application of Article 24 and its impact on the meetings of the Board and Committee, there are no precise answers to these questions. A plain meaning analysis of the related provisions in the IICA Convention and the Rules of Procedure of the Board and Committee on one hand, and a purposive analysis of those provisions on the other, support opposite conclusions.

1. Plain Meaning Analysis

A plain meaning analysis suggests that a Member State whose right to vote has been suspended should be included for determining quorum requirements and the number of States that constitute a majority or qualified majority in the voting process. Article 7 of the IICA Convention states that "all the Member States" are members of the Board. Article 24 permits suspension of the right to vote, not suspension of the right to membership. Thus, even a

member that has lost its right to vote still remains a member of the Board. Moreover, Article 11 of the IICA Convention states: "The presence of the representatives of a majority of the Member States shall constitute a quorum," and Article 40 of the Board's Rules states that a majority of the Board's members shall constitute a quorum. Similarly, Article 8 of the IICA Convention and Article 68 of the Board's Rules of Procedure describe the voting requirements for Board decisions in terms of a majority vote of the "members" or of "the members present," or of the "Member States," not a majority of the Member States, members, or members present "with the right to vote." Thus, in the absence of further clarification in those provisions, it follows that a Member State is a member of the Board, regardless of whether it has the right to vote, and should be included for purposes of computing quorum requirements and the number of States necessary to constitute a majority or qualified majority of the Board's members⁶.

2. A Purposive Analysis

Use of purposive statutory analysis, however, which is an equally respected method of statutory interpretation, yields the opposite conclusion -- i.e., that Member States should not be included in determining quorum requirements and the necessary number of States necessary to constitute a majority or qualified majority vote.⁷ Under purposive analysis, the argument is as follows: The purpose of a quorum requirement is to assure that there are a sufficient number of countries in the meeting to take a vote. Article 68 of the Board's Rules of Procedure states that "the decisions of the Board are taken by a majority of the members present, unless the Convention or these Rules of Procedure provide otherwise." Thus, to include Member States without voting rights in the quorum makes little sense and distorts the intended purpose of the quorum requirement producing the institutional paralysis described in Section A(3) above. Moreover, Article 7 of the Convention states that each Member of the Board shall have one vote. Because the purpose of membership is to vote in the decisions of the Institute, a Member State that loses that right implicitly

⁶ A similar plain meaning analysis can be made for determining satisfaction of quorum and voting requirements for the Executive Committee based on Article 15 of the IICA Convention and the corresponding provisions in the Executive Committee's Rules.

⁷ Purposive analysis looks beyond the plain meaning of the text of a statute in order to determine the legislative intent. Under that method of analysis, the statute must be construed in accordance with its apparent purpose, as reflected in legislative history, contemporaneous interpretation, and common sense.

loses its right to membership for any act that relates to the voting process. Thus, under a purposive analysis, one could conclude that non-voting Members are not members for purposes of determining the number of States necessary to constitute a quorum or for determining the number of States that constitute a majority or qualified majority.

III. CONCLUSION

From the following analysis, the following conclusions are evident:

1. Although Article 24 is open to conflicting interpretations, there is considerable support for the position that Article 24 does not require automatic suspension of the right to vote of a Member State that is more than two years in arrears without a prior hearing. That support is found in the very language of the statute, logic, and the democratic principle that the fundamental right to vote should not be removed without due process.

2. Notwithstanding past practice in the Institute regarding the application of Article 24, there are a number of legal questions outstanding as to how that Article should be applied and the impact it will have on other Rules of the Institute -- particularly those for determining quorum requirements and the number of Member States necessary to constitute a majority or qualified majority of the members in the Board and Committee.

3. The fundamental importance of the voting right to each and every Member State and to the democratic integrity of the Institute suggests that no action should be taken to suspend the vote of a Member State without assurances of due process, and one essential element of due process is clarity in the rules governing the removal or suspension of fundamental rights.

4. It would be unfair to suspend the vote of a Member State without some prior notice that the practice in the Institute has changed, without giving that State sufficient prior notice to prepare its defense, and without giving that State notice of the rules to be applied.

5. As part of the mandate to implement measures to assure prompt payment of quotas and arrearages, the Director General should prepare for presentation to the next Executive Committee proposed rules for the

application of Article 24 of the Convention. Those Rules should be incorporated into the Rules of the Board and Committee. Among the issues they should address are the following:

- (a) Is suspension of voting rights automatic or is it to occur only after a hearing on the matter before the Board or Committee or a Sub-Committee of either formed for the purpose of considering the suspension issue?
- (b) If suspension is to be automatic, how and when is notice to be given to the Member State that its right has been suspended? Similarly, if suspension is not to be automatic, how and when should a Member State be notified that there will be a hearing on the suspension of its voting rights at the next meeting of the Board or Committee, as the case may be?
- (c) If the vote is to be suspended automatically, where and when should the proceeding take place for determining whether a Member State whose vote has been suspended automatically shall be permitted to vote. Should it be in the Preparatory Session? The Credentials Committee? The First Plenary Session before any vote is taken? Similarly, if the vote is not automatically suspended, where will the hearing for determining whether to suspend the vote take place? The Preparatory Session? The Credentials Committee? The First Plenary Session before any vote is taken?
- (d) What considerations or criteria should be used to determine whether a Member State that is two years in arrears should be permitted to vote? What are examples of "circumstances beyond the control of that State" as contemplated by the Convention for permitting a State that is more than two years in arrears to vote?
- (e) Are voting rights restored automatically once payment is made, or is there the need for notice or a procedure? If so, what is the notice and procedure required?

- (f) Will a Member State whose vote has been suspended be counted for determining the number of members necessary to constitute a quorum? A majority of the members? A qualified majority of the members? The number of members present?⁸

If the Member States are intent on applying Article 24 as a mechanism for assuring prompt payment of quotas and arrearages, the drafting and approval of Regulations addressing these questions should be a priority of the Institute over the next year. To facilitate that process, we are attaching draft Regulations and a draft Resolution for the Executive Committee's consideration.

⁸ Indeed, the number of questions over the application of Article 24 that cannot easily be answered unless the Institute adopts regulations for that purpose suggests that the State Parties to the Convention never intended Article 24 to be self-executing. Thus, Article 24 is like a non-self-executing treaty, which under the international law of treaties, does not go into force until the contracting parties adopt the necessary implementing legislation.

IICA/JIA/Res.314(IX-0/97)

14 October 1997

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 314

REMUNERATION OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL
FOR THE 1998-1999 BIENNIUM

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE, at its Ninth Regular Meeting,

CONSIDERING:

That Article 8.f of the Convention on the Institute and Article 2.f of the Rules of Procedure of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) state that it is a function of the Board to set the remuneration of the Director General of the Institute;

That the Ministers of Agriculture have acknowledged their satisfaction with the dedication, effort and innovation with which the Director General has worked on the transformation of IICA during his administration;

That the base salary of the Director General has not been modified since 1995,

RESOLVES:

1. To delegate to the Executive Committee the authorization to set the remuneration of the Director General for the 1998-1999 period.
2. To set the base salary of the Director General at the 1997 level for 1998, until the Executive Committee makes the corresponding decision.

IICA/JIA/Res.315(IX-O/97)

13 October 1997

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 315

AMENDMENTS TO THE REGULATIONS FOR CONFERRING
THE INTER-AMERICAN AWARDS IN THE RURAL SECTOR

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE. at its Ninth Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/JIA/Doc.222(97)rev. "Amendments to the Regulations for Conferring the Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector."

CONSIDERING:

That the Regulations for Conferring the Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector were approved in 1990 when the Institute was divided into four Regions, namely, the Andean, Caribbean, Central and Southern Regions;

That the Northern Regional Center was created following the approval of the 1994-1998 Medium Term Plan;

That it is necessary to amend the second sentence of Article 9 of the Regulations for Conferring the Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector, in order to incorporate the Northern Regional Center and bring the Regulations into line with the 1994-1998 Medium Term Plan;

That the Executive Committee, at its Seventeenth Regular Meeting, by Resolution IICA/CE/Res.261(XVII-O/97), recommended that the Inter-American Board amend Article 9 of the Regulations for Conferring the Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector,

RESOLVES:

To amend the second sentence of Article 9 of the Regulations for Conferring the Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector to read:

“ ... Each nominee shall represent one of the areas of IICA (Central, Caribbean, Andean, Southern and Northern).”

IICA/JIA/Res.316(IX-O/97)

13 October 1997

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 316

1996-1997 INTER-AMERICAN AGRICULTURAL MEDAL

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE, at its Ninth Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

The report of the Selection Committee for the Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector and its recommendations concerning the conferring of the corresponding awards for the 1996-1997 period, as presented at the Seventeenth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee,

CONSIDERING:

That, as evidenced in the aforementioned report, the Committee conducted an exhaustive study of the nominations received, taking into consideration the regulations for conferring the Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector approved by the Inter-American Board of Agriculture, at its Fifth Regular Meeting;

That these regulations stipulate that the Inter-American Agricultural Medal may be awarded on a biennial basis to only one person:

That Mr. Jaime R. Muñoz-Reyes was nominated by the Government of Bolivia as a candidate for the 1996-1997 Inter-American Agricultural Medal, and that his nomination was submitted in compliance with all established requirements;

That all documentation examined indicates that the candidate is qualified to receive this honor:

That the Executive Committee, at its Seventeenth Regular Meeting, recommended that the Inter-American Board of Agriculture, at its Ninth Regular Meeting, award the 1996-1997 Inter-American Agricultural Medal to Mr. Jaime R. Muñoz-Reyes in public international recognition of his outstanding contributions to agricultural development and to improving rural life,

RESOLVES:

To grant the 1996-1997 Inter-American Agricultural Medal to Mr. Jaime R. Muñoz-Reyes, in public international recognition of his outstanding contributions to agricultural development and to improving rural life.

IICA/JIA/Res.317(IX-O/97)

13 October 1997

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 317

INTER-AMERICAN AWARD FOR THE PARTICIPATION
OF WOMEN IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE, at its Ninth Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN,

The report submitted by the Selection Committee for the Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector, and its recommendations concerning the conferring of the corresponding awards for the 1996-1997 period,

CONSIDERING:

That, as evidenced in the aforementioned report, the Committee conducted an exhaustive study of the nominations received, taking into consideration the regulations for conferring the awards approved by the Inter-American Board of Agriculture, at its Fifth Regular Meeting;

That these regulations stipulate that the Inter-American Award for the Participation of Women in Rural Development may be awarded on a biennial basis to only one person;

That Mrs. Felipa Xico Ajquejay, of Guatemalan nationality, was nominated by her country as a candidate for the 1996-1997 Inter-American Award for the Participation of Women in Rural Development, and that her nomination was submitted in compliance with all established requirements:

That all documentation examined indicates that the candidate is qualified to receive this honor.

That the Executive Committee, at its Seventeenth Regular Meeting, recommended that the Inter-American Board of Agriculture, at its Ninth Regular Meeting, grant the Inter-American Award for the Participation of Women in Rural Development to Mrs. Felipa Xico Ajquejay,

RESOLVES:

To grant the 1996-1997 Inter-American Award for the Participation of Women in Rural Development to Mrs. Felipa Xico Ajquejay, as public international recognition of her outstanding contributions to agricultural development and to improving rural life.

IICA/JIA/Res.318(IX-O/97)

13 October 1997

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No.318

**DATE AND SITE OF THE TENTH REGULAR MEETING
OF THE INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE, at its Ninth Regular Meeting,

CONSIDERING:

That, in accordance with Article 16 of the Rules of Procedure of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture, regular meetings of the IABA shall be held every two years, preferably during the second half of the second year of the Institute's biennium, and that in each meeting, the Board is to decide on the provisional date and site of the subsequent regular meeting, in accordance with written offers submitted by the governments of the Member States to the Director General;

That in accordance with Article 17 of the Rules of Procedure of the Board, the Board shall select a site for its regular meetings from among the offers received, and in accordance with the principle of rotation and geographic distribution;

That the Government of Brazil offered the city of Brasilia as the site of the Tenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA),

RESOLVES:

1. **To thank the Government of Brazil and accept its generous offer for the city of Brasilia to serve as the site of the Tenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA).**
2. **To hold the Tenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) in October 1999.**

IICA/JIA/Res.319(IX-O/97)

13 October 1997

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 319

IMPLICATIONS OF THE EL NIÑO PHENOMENON

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE, at its Ninth Regular Meeting,

CONSIDERING:

The strategic importance of agriculture to the socioeconomic development and food security of the countries of the western hemisphere:

That food security in the hemisphere depends particularly on the supply of a basket of basic foods, as and when required to satisfy the needs of the countries, especially the poorest sectors:

That the supply of food is subject to a series of exogenous factors, especially those that are climate-related, which reveals the particular vulnerability of the agricultural sector in relation to other production sectors:

That since the beginning of this year, the El Niño phenomenon has caused serious droughts and floods that have had a severe effect on current and future agricultural productivity in a large number of countries in the hemisphere, especially those bordering on the Pacific Ocean,

RESOLVES:

1. To urge international funding agencies to consider allocating specific funds for alleviating the damage directly caused by this climatic phenomenon.

2. To ask the Director General to make special efforts to monitor this issue by carrying out the following actions:
 - a) Increase the specific budget allocation for climatic disasters, in accordance with the resources available in the approved Program Budget;
 - b) Take the necessary measures to ensure that the issue of the influence of climatic factors on the performance of agriculture be recognized as an important element to be taken into account in the Institute's prospective planning and to expand the exchange of information among the Ministries of Agriculture regarding measures that are being taken in the different countries; and
 - c) Coordinate with other international organizations, as well as agencies and institutions specializing in the phenomenon of El Niño, so that the most affected countries receive timely information for designing better strategies to mitigate the effects of the phenomenon.

IICA/JIA/Res.320(IX-O/97)

13 October 1997

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 320

IICA-FAO RELATIONS

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE. at its Ninth Regular Meeting,

CONSIDERING:

That the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA). at its Seventh Regular Meeting, adopted Resolution No. 240 "Coordination of IICA-FAO Activities;"

That since the adoption of this Resolution the Institute has made major efforts to coordinate joint activities with FAO and informed the subsequent meetings of the Executive Committee and the Eighth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture of these actions;

That both FAO and the Institute have substantially increased their joint technical cooperation work, especially in the areas of: a) policies and trade (competitiveness and integration); b) agricultural statistics; c) women and development; d) information and communications; e) animal and plant health; f) forestry policy; g) administration of research; h) genetic resources; i) food technology and agroindustry; j) watershed management and desertification; k) agricultural education; and l) hurricane damage in the Caribbean;

That the two institutions agreed, through their Deputy Director Generals, to meet twice a year to seek further progress in defining appropriate areas for joint cooperation and reviewing their work programs;

That at this meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture the Ministers of Agriculture have made their recommendations regarding IICA-FAO relations.

RESOLVES:

1. To congratulate the Directors General of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the Institute on the excellent results obtained in coordinating their joint activities.
2. To ask the Director General to continue with the efforts to coordinate the Institute's actions with those of FAO.
3. To request that the Chair of this session of the IABA bring to the attention of the Nineteenth Conference of FAO. for its information and corresponding purposes, the recommendations of the Ministers of Agriculture on this matter.
4. To request the Ministers of Agriculture of the Member States of the Institute to inform their Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the IABA's concerns regarding IICA-FAO relations.

IICA/JIA/Res.321(IX-O/97)
13 October 1997
Original: English

RESOLUTION No. 321

BIENNIAL REPORT OF THE CARIBBEAN AGRICULTURAL
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE (CARDI)

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE, at its Ninth Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/JIA/Doc.225(97) "Biennial Report of the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI)."

CONSIDERING:

That in accordance with the CARDI Agreement, that organization is to submit a biennial report to the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) covering technical, financial and administrative issues;

That said Report was submitted to the Executive Committee, at its Seventeenth Regular Meeting;

That the level of CARDI's activity in Guyana, a Caribbean member country with considerable potential for agricultural development in the Caribbean context and is in need of research and development activities, appears limited,

RESOLVES:

To receive with pleasure Document IICA/JIA/Doc.225(97), "Biennial Report of the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI)," and note specifically:

- (i) the excellent working relationship between CARDI and IICA in the Caribbean, which serves as an excellent example of the type of relationship that should exist between international, hemispheric and subregional institutions;
- (ii) a special request to the Member States to support, through IICA, the efforts of the farmers of Montserrat to return to their agricultural activities, in light of the tremendous devastation of that island by recent volcanic eruptions; and
- (iii) the need for more resources to be allocated to intensify its activities to develop commercially sustainable technologies for Guyana, specially the intermediate savannahs ecosystem.

IICA/JIA/Res.322(IX-O/97)

13 October 1997

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 322

**BIENNIAL REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE TROPICAL
AGRICULTURE RESEARCH AND TRAINING CENTER (CATIE)**

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE, at its Ninth Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/JIA/Doc.226(97) "Biennial Report on the Activities of the Tropical Agriculture Research and Training Center (CATIE),"

CONSIDERING:

That in accordance with Clause Nine of the CATIE Charter, the Center is to submit a biennial report to the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) covering technical, financial and administrative issues,

RESOLVES:

- 1. To receive Document IICA/JIA/Doc.226(97), "Biennial Report on the Activities of the Tropical Agriculture Research and Training Center (CATIE)."**
- 2. To congratulate the Director General of CATIE on the contents and presentation of the Biennial Report.**

IICA/JIA/Res.323(IX-O/97)

13 October 1997

Original: English

RESOLUTION No. 323

AMENDMENTS TO THE CHARTER OF THE TROPICAL
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING CENTER (CATIE)

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE, at its Ninth Regular Meeting.

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/JIA/Doc.233(97) "Amendments to the CATIE Charter Approved by the Council of Ministers and Proposed for the Approval of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture,"

CONSIDERING:

That the parties to the Charter of the Tropical Agricultural Research and Training Center (the "Charter") are the Government of Costa Rica and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture;

That Article 35 of the Charter establishes that it may not be amended without the approval of the Council of Ministers of the Tropical Agricultural Research and Training Center ("CATIE") and of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture ("IABA");

That pursuant to a request by the Council of Ministers of CATIE, the General Attorney's Office of the Republic of Costa Rica issued an opinion establishing that "said Charter may be subject to amendments between the Contracting Parties, i.e., the Government and IICA, which shall require legislative approval when they involve essential aspects of the Charter.

Otherwise, the amendments will become effective upon execution of the pertinent document or when specified by the parties thereto”;

That the Council of Ministers of CATIE has proposed a series of amendments to the CATIE Charter for the consideration of the IABA, at its Ninth Regular Meeting, and that the Seventeenth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee of IICA agreed to take note of the amendments and to transmit them to the IABA;

That after the Seventeenth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee, the Council of Ministers of CATIE met once more and adopted some additional amendments to the Charter;

That the Minister of Agriculture of Costa Rica, on behalf of the Council of Ministers of CATIE, informed the IABA, at its Ninth Regular Meeting, of the proposed additional amendments,

RESOLVES:

1. To approve the amendments to the Charter of the Tropical Agricultural Research and Training Center (CATIE) proposed in appendices A and B of this Resolution.
2. To instruct the Director General of IICA to execute the corresponding Instrument of Amendment of the Charter and to submit it to the Government of Costa Rica for its execution and ratification via the proper channels.
3. To delegate to the Executive Committee, until the next Regular Meeting of the IABA, authority to approve any other amendment to the Charter that may be proposed by the Council of Ministers of CATIE.

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CATIE CHARTER APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS AND
PROPOSED FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE NINTH REGULAR MEETING OF THE
INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (IABA)**

<p style="text-align: center;">TEXT OF THE CATIE CHARTER</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CHAPTER I</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Purpose, name and location</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">AMENDMENTS APPROVED BY THE CATIE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS AT ITS FIRST SPECIAL MEETING - JULY 28-29, 1997</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CHAPTER I</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Purpose, name and location</p>
<p>ONE</p> <p>The objective of the present Contract is to establish a scientific and educational civil association, with full legal standing, whose purposes shall be research in the agricultural sciences and on natural resources and related subjects for the tropical regions of the Americas, especially the <u>Central American isthmus</u> and the Caribbean, and post-graduate training and other courses of study in the agricultural sciences and on renewable natural resources and related subjects, offered for the benefit of the Member States of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture and under the agreements and programs established for these purposes with public or private national or foreign universities.</p>	<p>ONE.</p> <p>The objective of the present Contract is to establish a scientific and educational civil association, with full legal standing, whose purposes shall be research in the agricultural sciences and on natural resources and related subjects for the tropical regions of the Americas, especially <u>Mesoamerica</u> and the Caribbean, and post-graduate training and other courses of study in the agricultural sciences and on renewable natural resources and related subjects, offered for the benefit of the Member States of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture and under the agreements and programs established for these purposes with public or private national or foreign universities.</p>
<p>Clauses Two to Five do not change.</p>	

<p style="text-align: center;">TEXT OF THE CATIE CHARTER</p> <p>SIX</p> <p>The Supporting Members of CATIE shall be, upon approval by the Board of Directors, the governments that are not Member States of IICA, international governmental and nongovernmental agencies, international centers and private organizations whose academic or scientific objectives are compatible with those of CATIE.</p> <p>Clauses Seven through Ten do not change.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">AMENDMENTS APPROVED BY THE CATIE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS AT ITS FIRST SPECIAL MEETING - JULY 28-29, 1997</p> <p>SIX</p> <p>The Supporting Members of CATIE shall be, upon approval of the Council of Ministers, as proposed by the Board of Directors, the governments that are not Member States of IICA, international governmental and nongovernmental agencies, international centers and private organizations whose academic or scientific objectives are compatible with those of CATIE.</p>
<p>Eleven:</p> <p>The Council shall have the following functions:</p> <p>a) Ensure that the medium and long-term programs of the institution are in accord with the development policies of the member countries.</p> <p>a) Ratify the appointment of the Director General</p> <p>c) Study and approve the Annual Report, the budget and other important reports of the Association and, in particular, external and internal evaluations of the institution.</p> <p>-----</p>	<p>Eleven:</p> <p>The Council shall have the following functions.</p> <p>b) Define the policies and programs of the institution in accordance with the development strategies of the member countries</p> <p>b) Same.</p> <p>c) Same.</p>

TEXT OF THE CATIE CHARTER	AMENDMENTS APPROVED BY THE CATIE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS AT ITS FIRST SPECIAL MEETING - JULY 28-29, 1997
<p>d) Provide support in resolving important policy issues forwarded to it by the Board of Directors.</p> <p>e) Approve, upon recommendation of the Board of Directors, the regular or special contributions of the members</p> <p>f) Establish the committees or working groups it considers necessary to perform its functions</p> <p>g) Determine the emoluments of the members of the Board of Directors</p>	<p>d) <u>Examine the evaluations of the policies and their impact on the member countries</u></p> <p>Paragraph d becomes paragraph e and is amended as follows:</p> <p><u>Resolve important matters on the development of research, post-graduate education and training programs as well as external projection and financial sustainability of the institution referred to it by the Board of Directors</u></p> <p>f) Same as previous paragraph e.</p> <p>g) Same as previous paragraph f.</p> <p>Eliminated.</p>
<p>Clauses Twelve through Fourteen do not change.</p>	

<p style="text-align: center;">TEXT OF THE CATIE CHARTER</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">AMENDMENTS APPROVED BY THE CATIE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS AT ITS FIRST SPECIAL MEETING - JULY 28-29, 1997</p>
<p>FIFTEEN</p>	<p>FIFTEEN</p>
<p><u>The Board of Directors (hereinafter, the Board) shall be the Administrative Body and shall have the following functions, in addition to those explicitly defined therein:</u></p>	<p><u>The Board of Directors (hereinafter, the Board) shall have the following functions:</u></p>
<p>a) Approve the annual program budget and monitor the integrity of financial and accounting practices.</p>	<p>a) Same.</p>
<p>b) Approve and forward medium- and long-term plans to the Council for consultation.</p>	<p>b) <u>Raise recommendations to the Council of Ministers regarding policies and strategies of action in the areas of research, education, technology transfer and financial self-sustainability.</u></p>
<p>c) Submit the ratification by the Council of the Annual Report, the budget and other important CATIE reports, particularly external and internal evaluations of the Institution.</p>	<p>c) Same</p>
<p>d) Supervise directly and through its Committees the performance of the Institution's executives in achieving its objectives.</p>	<p>d) Same.</p>
<p>e) Review and approve the Institution's financial and personnel policies.</p>	<p>e) Same.</p>
<p>f) Appoint the Director General and submit his/her appointment to the Council of Ministers for ratification.</p>	<p>f) Same</p>

TEXT OF THE CATIE CHARTER	AMENDMENTS APPROVED BY THE CATIE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS AT ITS FIRST SPECIAL MEETING - JULY 28-29, 1997
<p>g) Establish working committees other than those established in this Contract to perform specific tasks, as needed.</p> <p>h) Propose, for approval by the Council of Ministers, the regular or special contributions of its member countries.</p> <p>i) Consider any matter submitted to it by the Council of Ministers or by any of its members.</p> <p>-----</p>	<p>g) Same.</p> <p>h) Same.</p> <p>i) Same.</p> <p>j) <u>Perform the preparatory work of the agenda of the Council of Ministers.</u></p>
<p>Sixteen:</p> <p>The Board shall be comprised of <u>ten members.</u></p> <p>The selection of its members shall be based on individual aptitudes, and each member shall act as a representative of the official position of any government or organization. Every effort should be made to ensure that the membership of the Board is balanced, to provide the Board with the technical, administrative and financial competence it needs to guide and supervise the Institution. The Board shall determine the process for nominating candidates to the Board of Directors, as well as the criteria for selection.</p>	<p>Sixteen:</p> <p>The Board shall be comprised of <u>thirteen members, who will perform their duties ad honorem.</u></p> <p>The selection of its members shall be based on individual aptitudes, and each member shall act as an individual, not as a representative of the official position of any government or organization. Every effort should be made to ensure that the membership of the Board is balanced, to provide the Board with the technical, administrative and financial competence it needs to guide and supervise the Institution. The Board shall determine the process for nominating candidates to the Board of Directors, as well as the criteria for selection.</p>

TEXT OF THE CATIE CHARTER	AMENDMENTS APPROVED BY THE CATIE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS AT ITS FIRST SPECIAL MEETING - JULY 28-29, 1997
<p>The members of the Board of Directors shall receive emoluments, as determined by the Council of Ministers.</p> <p>The Board of Directors shall be constituted as follows:</p> <p>a) <u>Four</u> members selected and appointed by the Board from the member countries, who shall be of different nationalities.</p> <p>b) One member selected and appointed by the Inter-American Board of Agriculture.</p> <p>c) One member selected and appointed by the Director General of IICA.</p> <p>d) <u>Four</u> members, selected and appointed by the Board, from the international community.</p> <p>The members shall be elected for a period of three years, and may be re-elected only once. Failure to attend two consecutive sessions or three alternate meetings shall be cause for separation from the Board, which will communicate its decision and initiate the process to appoint a replacement.</p> <p>The Director General of CATIE shall be ex-officio secretary of the Board, and shall attend its deliberations as a non-voting member.</p>	<p>Eliminated</p> <p>The Board of Directors shall be constituted as follows:</p> <p>a) <u>Five</u> members selected and appointed by the Board from the member countries, who shall be of different nationalities.</p> <p>b) Same.</p> <p>c) Same.</p> <p>d) <u>Six</u> members, selected and appointed by the Board, from the international community.</p> <p>Same.</p> <p>Same.</p>

TEXT OF THE CATIE CHARTER	AMENDMENTS APPROVED BY THE CATIE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS AT ITS FIRST SPECIAL MEETING - JULY 28-29, 1997
<p>The Board may invite representatives of the countries and cooperating or other organizations to attend open sessions as observers.</p>	<p>Same.</p>
<p>Clauses Seventeen through Twenty-Three do not change.</p> <p>Twenty-Four</p> <p>The Director General of CATIE shall be the judicial and extrajudicial representative of the Association, with general power of attorney for sums up to US\$500,000.00 or the equivalent in other currencies. For contracts valued at more than US\$500,000.00 or their equivalent in other currencies, the Director General of CATIE must sign together with the Director General of IICA. The Deputy Director General of CATIE shall have the same authority when serving as delegate of the Director General, in his/her absence.</p>	<p>Twenty-Four</p> <p>The Director General of CATIE shall be the judicial and extrajudicial representative of the Association, with general power of attorney for sums up to US\$500,000.00 per year or the equivalent in other currencies. For contracts valued at more than US\$500,000.00 per year or their equivalent in other currencies, the Director General of CATIE must sign together with the Director General of IICA. The Deputy Director General of CATIE shall have the same authority when serving as delegate of the Director General, in his/her absence.</p>
<p>The Director General of CATIE shall report on his/her performance at each meeting of the Board of Directors, including information on financial status, programs, cash flow and budgetary execution.</p>	<p>The Director General of CATIE shall report on his/her performance at each meeting of the Board of Directors, including information on financial status, programs, cash flow and budgetary execution.</p>
<p>Clauses Twenty-Five to Thirty-Three do not change.</p>	

<p style="text-align: center;">TEXT OF THE CATIE CHARTER</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">AMENDMENTS APPROVED BY THE CATIE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS AT ITS FIRST SPECIAL MEETING - JULY 28-29, 1997</p>
<p>Thirty-Four</p> <p>The effective life of the present Contract is twenty years, beginning on the date on which the proposed amendments enter into force. The life of this Contract may be extended for consecutive periods of equal length, and shall be considered as renewed if, one year prior to expiration of same, the General Directorate of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture, does with an agreement of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture, does not notify the Board of Directors of the decision to terminate this Contract and dissolve the Association. Should any of the governments of the remaining Regular Member States of CATIE decide to withdraw from same, they must notify the Association at least one year in advance.</p>	<p>Thirty-Four</p> <p>The effective life of the present Contract is 20 years, beginning on the date on which the proposed amendments enter into force. The life of this Contract may be extended for consecutive periods of equal length, and shall be considered as renewed if, one year prior to expiration of same, the General Directorate of IICA, in compliance with an agreement of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), does not notify the Council of Ministers of the decision to terminate this Contract and dissolve the Association. Should any of the governments of the remaining Regular Member States of CATIE decide to withdraw from same, they must notify the Association at least one year in advance.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Clauses Thirty-Five through Forty-Two do not change.</p>	

<p style="text-align: center;">TEXT OF THE CATIE CHARTER</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CHAPTER XI</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Transitory Provisions</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">AMENDMENTS APPROVED BY THE CATIE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS AT ITS FIRST SPECIAL MEETING - JULY 28-29, 1997</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CHAPTER XI</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Transitory Provisions</p>
<p>FORTY-THREE</p> <p>CATIE shall assume all the rights and obligations of the Civil Association bearing the same name and established between IICA and the Government of Costa Rica through the <u>Contract signed on January 12, 1973, and ratified by the Legislative Assembly of Costa Rica on June 1, 1973.</u></p>	<p>FORTY-THREE</p> <p>CATIE shall assume all the rights and obligations of the Civil Association bearing the same name and established between IICA and the Government of Costa Rica through the <u>contracts signed and ratified by Law 5201 in 1973 and in 1982 by Law 6873.</u></p>
<p>FORTY-FOUR</p> <p>Once the amendments to this Charter Contract have been approved by the <u>Sixth Regular Meeting of the IABA</u>, the Council of Directors in office shall have six months to proceed to appoint and install the new Board of Directors.</p> <p><u>The new Board shall prepare and approve, during the first three months of its term, the amendments to the rules of procedure of the governing bodies of CATIE, and the financial and staff rules, in accordance with approved amendments to this Contract...</u></p>	<p>FORTY-FOUR</p> <p>Once the amendments to this Charter Contract have been approved by the <u>Ninth Regular Meeting of the IABA</u>, the <u>Board of Directors in office shall have the following three months to prepare the modifications to all the corresponding rules, in accordance with the amendments approved to this Charter.</u></p>

CATIE Charter

Additional Amendments

- I. To eliminate the proposed text of CLAUSE SIXTEEN of Appendix A to this Resolution, and replace it with the following:

CLAUSE SIXTEEN

(1) The Board of Directors shall have thirteen members, who will perform their duties on an ad honorem basis.

(2) The selection of members shall be based on the individuals' qualifications. Members of the Board will represent themselves, not the official position of any government or organization. Efforts shall be made to achieve a balance in membership, so as to provide the Board with the technical, administrative and financial competence its needs to guide and supervise the Institution. The Board shall determine the procedure to be used for the nomination of candidates for seats on the Board of Directors, as well as the criteria to be used in their selection.

(3) The Board of Directors shall be composed of the following members:

- a. One member to be selected and appointed by the Inter-American Board of Agriculture;
- b. One member to be selected and appointed by the Director General of IICA;
- c. Five members from member countries, each of whom should be of a different nationality, to be selected and appointed by the Board;

- d. Six members from the international community, to be selected and appointed by the Board.

(4) The members in categories a and b shall serve for a term of two years; the members in categories c and d shall serve for a term of three years. However, a member chosen to take the place of a member who is unable to complete his term shall serve for the remaining portion of the outgoing member's term.

(5) Members of the Board may be re-elected only once.

(6) Failure to attend two consecutive sessions or three non-consecutive sessions shall constitute grounds for separation from the Board, which may proceed to communicate its decision and commence the process of designating a substitute member.

(7) The Director General of CATIE shall serve as the *ex officio* secretary of the Board and shall attend its meetings, but shall not have the right to vote.

(8) The Board may invite representatives of the countries, cooperating organizations or others to attend open sessions of the Board as observers.

II To eliminate the number "20" in the first sentence of Clause Thirty-four, and replace it with the number "50".

IICA/JIA/Res.324(IX-O/97)
13 October 1997
Original: English

RESOLUTION No. 324

**DESIGNATION OF THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE INTER-AMERICAN
BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (IABA) TO THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
AND TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF CATIE**

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE, at its Ninth Regular Meeting,

CONSIDERING:

That Articles Ten and Sixteen of the Charter on the Tropical Agriculture Research and Training Center (CATIE) require that a representative of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) be selected every two years to the Council of Ministers and the Board of Directors of CATIE,

RESOLVES:

1. To designate Brazil as the Representative of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture to the CATIE Council of Ministers and Dr. Whetter Reed, of the United States of America, as its Representative to the CATIE Board of Directors, for the 1998-1999 biennium.
2. To reaffirm that any Member State that wishes to nominate a candidate for selection by the IABA to serve on CATIE's Board of Directors must submit the name of its candidate, together with the corresponding curriculum vitae, to IICA's Director General at least 60 days prior to the Executive Committee meeting which immediately precedes the IABA meeting at which that selection is to take place, so that the pertinent information regarding the candidacy can be circulated to the Member States with other meeting documents.

IICA/JIA/Res.325(IX-O/97)
14 October 1997
Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION N° 325

MEASURES FOR STRENGTHENING THE
PRIORITY AREAS OF IICA'S ACTION

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE, at its Ninth Regular Meeting,

CONSIDERING:

That the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) has taken note of a series of initiatives of the Member States aimed at strengthening the activities that were considered in Resolutions Nos. 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333 and 334, approved by the IABA;

That some delegations have indicated that they have not had sufficient opportunity to analyze in depth the impact of these proposals on IICA's other activities and on the Program Budget approved for the 1998-1999 biennium,

RESOLVES:

1. To request the Director General to strengthen the actions of the Institute in regard to these activities, in accordance with the resources available in the Program Budget approved for the 1998-1999 biennium.
2. To urge the governments of the Member States to join forces with the General Directorate to secure additional external resources for strengthening the aforementioned activities of the Institute.
3. To request that the Director General examine, with the Working Group established in the resolution on the 1998-1999 Program Budget, the possibilities of strengthening these activities in 1999, and propose any complementary measures deemed necessary.

IICA/JIA/Res.326(IX-O/97)
13 October 1997
Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 326

THE IMPORTANCE OF AGRICULTURAL HEALTH FOR
STRENGTHENING TRADE IN THE HEMISPHERE

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE, at its Ninth Regular Meeting,

CONSIDERING:

The firm decision of the presidents of the countries of the Americas to advance hemispheric integration and achieve a much broader level of international trade and investment by the year 2005;

That in order to achieve this objective, efforts to harmonize non-tariff trade measures, and within these, those barriers related to agricultural health, constitute an important factor to be considered in the development of international agricultural trade;

That IICA is the specialized agency for agriculture of the inter-American system and that its Medium Term Plan has already identified agricultural health as one of its most important strategic initiatives implemented through its network Technical Cooperation Agencies in thirty-four countries and five Regional Centers,

RESOLVES:

1. To recognize the strategic importance of agricultural health in achieving a much broader level of agricultural trade at the hemispheric level.

2. To request that the Director General ensure that all available resources within the area of agricultural health be utilized to support and strengthen hemispheric initiatives to modernize national agricultural health services, within the current framework of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the future Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA).
3. To further recommend that IICA promote a hemispheric network made up of national and regional agricultural health organizations, with a view to maximizing communication, coordinating activities and minimizing duplication of efforts in achieving the maximum impact with the resources available.
4. To urge the Director General to ensure that the actions undertaken by the Institute are carried out in coordination with other regional and subregional technical cooperation organizations working in the area of agricultural health.
5. To underscore the importance of the Institute providing technical support to the Member States in connection with the design of, the obtaining of resources for, and the execution of human resource training programs on phyto- and zoosanitary health matters.

IICA/JIA/Res.327(IX-O/97)
13 October 1997
Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION N° 327

STRENGTHENING OF THE REGIONAL FORUM ON RESEARCH
AND TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE. at its Ninth Regular Meeting,

CONSIDERING:

That the Summit of Heads of States and Government, held in Miami in December 1994, recognized the need to strengthen hemispheric cooperation in the area of research and technology development for promoting sustainable development and hemispheric integration;

That, within the framework of this mandate, the national agricultural research institutions of the region and those of the international and subregional agricultural research systems established the Regional Forum on Agricultural Research and Technology Development at the Regional Consultative Meeting held in Bogota, Colombia, on February 20-23, 1996;

That the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) has established a Global Forum on Agricultural Research and four Regional Forums on as many continents in order to foster articulation among the countries' technology development institutions, and to facilitate cooperation among those Forums;

That IICA's 1994-1998 Medium-Term Plan proposes the establishment of an inter-American system of technology transfer and research institutions, making the Regional Forum an ideal vehicle for progressing toward attainment of this objective;

That it is imperative to promote open, participatory dialogue among technology development institutions, to facilitate joint activities among them and to furnish inputs for the discussions of the Forum of Ministers of Agriculture, within the framework of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture.

RESOLVES:

1. That IICA serve as the Technical Secretariat of the Regional Forum on Research and Technology Development.
2. To instruct the Director General to take such steps as may be necessary to comply with point 1 of this resolution.

IICA/JIA/Res.328(IX-O/97)

13 October 1997

Original: English

RESOLUTION No. 328

PRICE AND MARKET INFORMATION SYSTEMS AND CREATION OF
REGIONAL NETWORKS OF NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL
COMMODITY EXCHANGES

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE, at its Ninth Regular Meeting,

CONSIDERING:

That the uncertainty caused by the continuing distortions affecting the dynamics of international trade, together with the occurrence of adverse climatic phenomena, underscore the importance of using marketing instruments that contribute to the efficiency and transparency of markets, since they provide producers with access to accurate information on the performance of the market;

That, in this regard, the Ministries of Agriculture of the Americas have been making significant efforts to develop national agricultural commodity exchanges, which must be consolidated and articulated at the regional level;

That several Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas, with the support of IICA, are modernizing their price and market information systems,

RESOLVES:

1. To request that the Director General strengthen efforts to create regional networks of national commodity exchanges in order to

promote intra-regional trade and take advantage of the complementarities among the countries.

- 2. To instruct the Director General to expand and broaden the support the Institute has been providing to public and private organizations in the development and consolidation of price and market information systems, and for articulating them into regional and hemispheric networks.**
- 3. To instruct the Director General to support the countries' efforts to provide reliable information to producers on market performance, and to provide training that will enable them to understand that performance.**

IICA/JIA/Res.329(IX-O/97)
13 October 1997
Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 329

SUPPORT FOR THE HEMISPHERIC TRAINING SYSTEM FOR
AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE. at its Ninth Regular Meeting,

CONSIDERING:

That the training of human resources is an essential base for agricultural development;

That relations among training organizations in the countries must be strengthened in order to address the new challenges posed by the need to make agriculture competitive;

That exchanges among institutions is a strategy to promote horizontal cooperation among the public and private training institutions of IICA's Member Countries;

That the Second Ibero-American Forum of Ministers of Agriculture, held in Maturín, Venezuela on August 11-13, 1997 emphasized in its Plan of Action the importance of promoting training activities in the areas of trade, health, agriculture and rural development;

That IICA, at the initiative of the Government of Venezuela, created the Hemispheric Training System for Agricultural Development.

RESOLVES:

1. To invite institutions of the member countries to participate in the Hemispheric Training System for Agricultural Development (SIHCA), in order to contribute to achieving its objectives.
2. To request that the General Directorate of IICA promote, with the participation and special economic contributions of the member countries, other governments and institutions, the creation of a Scholarship Fund to facilitate, through SIHCA, the exchange among countries of participants in agricultural training events.

IICA/JIA/Res.330(LX-O/97)

14 October 1997

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 330

SUPPORT FOR THE PROJECT TO INCORPORATE RURAL WOMEN
INTO AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION CHAINS

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE, at its Ninth Regular Meeting,

CONSIDERING:

That at the Seventh Conference of Wives of Heads of State and Government of the Americas, a resolution was adopted to support a program to strengthen the role of women in rural areas;

That this resolution was presented at the Ninth Regular Meeting of the IABA by the First Ladies of Costa Rica and Chile, endorsed by the International Conference of Women and adopted enthusiastically by IICA's member countries;

That IICA has been promoting the subjects of gender and rural women in its work plans since 1978 and that, endorsing the principles set forth at the Beijing Fourth World Conference on Women, has followed a policy and plans of action designed to benefit rural women,

RESOLVES:

1. To approve the program "Strengthening the Involvement of Rural Women: Economic and Social Democratization in Production and Marketing Activities."

2. To instruct the Director General of IICA to:
 - a) Adopt those technical and financial measures, in accordance with the Program Budget, required to participate in the execution of the Program;
 - b) Establish a special fund with a view to securing resources with which to finance IICA's actions under the Program;
 - c) Coordinate actions with multilateral and bilateral financial agencies, as well as technical organizations, to jointly support the implementation of the Program's components on a permanent basis in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.
3. To heartily congratulate the Conference of Wives of Heads of State and Government of the Americas and its *pro tempore* Secretariat for their initiatives to promote direct action programs on behalf of rural women and to alleviate poverty, with a view to facilitate their effective participation in the development of their countries.

IICA/JIA/Res.331(IX-O/97)

14 October 1997

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 331

STRENGTHENING COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS AND SUBREGIONAL
TECHNOLOGICAL INTEGRATION MECHANISMS

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE, at its Ninth Regular Meeting,

CONSIDERING:

That technology is an important component for strengthening the competitiveness of agriculture and agri-food chains, taking into account environmental and social commitments, and

That the cooperative agricultural research and technology transfer programs supported by IICA (PROCIANDINO, PROCISUR, PROCITROPICOS, PROCICARIBE, PROMECAFE and SICTA), with the collaboration of other international organizations, have been carrying out important actions that have had a acknowledged impact on the technological development of Latin America and the Caribbean,

RESOLVES:

1. To urge the member countries to strengthen their participation in and support for the cooperative technological innovation programs as mechanisms to spur the development of agricultural and agroindustrial technologies.
2. To encourage cooperative programs to support trade and economic integration in the region (Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR)).

Andean Community of Nations (CAN), Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Central American Integration System (SICA).

- 3. To instruct the Director General, in accordance with the availability of approved Program Budget resources, to continue to support and reinforce the cooperative programs with a view to strengthening articulation among them as well as cooperation and integration in the area of technological innovation, in order to promote the sustainable development of agriculture and agroindustry in the Americas.**

IICA/JIA/Res.332(IX-O/97)

13 October 1997

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 332

SUPPORT FOR THE HEMISPHERIC SYSTEM FOR THE
DEVELOPMENT OF HIGHER AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE, at its Ninth Regular Meeting,

CONSIDERING:

That the Government of the Republic of Panama has made the decision to use military areas and facilities of the former Canal Zone, which have been returned to Panama, to promote the development of education, science and production and, to that end, has created the City of Knowledge;

That a foundation bearing the same name has been set up to manage and administer the City of Knowledge;

That the major universities of Panama, the City of Knowledge Foundation and IICA have signed a cooperation agreement for the establishment of the Hemispheric System for the Development of Higher Agricultural Education (SIHDEA);

That one of the objectives of SIHDEA is to help bring about, through joint efforts on the part of IICA member countries in the field of higher agricultural education, the changes in the areas of production, institutional systems and trade required in the Member States of IICA in order to achieve competitive, equitable and sustainable development;

That the Delegation of Panama has reported to the IABA, at its Ninth Regular Meeting, concerning the scope and importance of the SIHDEA to the hemisphere, as a regional mechanism for the coordination of efforts to develop

institutions of higher learning in the field of agriculture, as a means of promoting agricultural development, upgrading such institutions and contributing, within its own sphere of action, to horizontal cooperation and hemispheric integration;

That the effective development of SIHDEA will require, in addition to the facilities and human resources made available by the City of Knowledge Foundation and Panamanian universities, the effective participation of the institutions of higher education of the hemisphere, together with ongoing technical support and follow-up on the part of IICA as the specialized agency committed to promoting this project,

RESOLVES:

1. To endorse the Hemispheric System for the Development of Higher Agricultural Education as a project that is in keeping with the priority attached to the development of the human resources that agriculture will require in the twenty-first century.
2. To urge higher agricultural education institutions of the countries of the hemisphere to formally join the SIHDEA, in accordance with the declarations of support made during the meetings of universities referred to in the foregoing preambular clauses.
3. To instruct the Director General of IICA, in accordance with the availability of funds in the approved Program Budget, to adopt operating and institutional support measures that contribute to the establishment and development of the SIHDEA; facilitate and foster the incorporation of higher education institutions in the region; and secure additional resources for implementing and strengthening it.
4. To congratulate the Government of Panama on the creation of the City of Knowledge, and on its initiative to convert military facilities into centers of knowledge.

IICA/JIA/Res.333 (IX-0/97)

14 October 1997

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 333

**SUPPORT TO TRADE NEGOTIATIONS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK
OF THE FREE TRADE AREA OF THE AMERICAS (FTAA) AND THE
NEW ROUND OF THE WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION (WTO)**

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE, at its Ninth Regular Meeting,

CONSIDERING:

The importance of ensuring the active participation of agriculture in hemispheric trade negotiations;

That negotiations to establish the FTAA will begin in April 1998, and that the next round of WTO trade negotiations is expected to begin in 1999;

The need to design negotiating positions for both processes, so that agriculture may profit from improved market access, which will stimulate national production,

RESOLVES:

- I. To instruct the Director General, in accordance with the availability of resources in the approved Program Budget:
 - A. To strengthen the area of trade, in order to generate necessary information and enhance the analytical capabilities of the negotiating teams of the agricultural sector, to help enable them to participate more effectively in the FTAA and WTO negotiations;

- B. To emphasize, in the IICA technical cooperation agenda, the need to develop the countries abilities to strengthen the exchange of information and the mechanisms for linking the public and private sectors, in order to reach agreement on positions that will make it possible to protect the interests of agriculture in international trade negotiations and in their articulation with macroeconomic policies; and
 - C. To give special priority to the technical support required by agriculture in the member countries to strengthen, at the subregional level, the coordination of joint proposals and negotiating positions.
- II. To request the Governors of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) to provide funding for a hemispheric project for the exchange of information and provide training in trade analysis, as a way to strengthen sectoral institutions involved in international trade negotiations within the framework of the FTAA and the WTO. IICA, with the support of the Ministries of Agriculture of the member countries, will prepare the corresponding technical proposal in the short term.

IICA/JIA/Res.334(IX-O/97)

14 October 1997

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 334

RURAL YOUTH PROGRAM

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE. at its Ninth Regular Meeting,

CONSIDERING:

The need to address the issue of rural youths in a comprehensive manner, seeking not only their integration into production activities but also fostering living conditions that will discourage rural-urban migration:

That it is necessary to adopt policies and draw up differentiated legislation to foster investments and access to suitable support services for production, processing and service enterprises;

That working methodologies and tools need to be developed to ensure that applied training and ongoing assistance is available for the creation and management of competitive enterprises run by young people in rural areas;

That efforts to change social organization and production technology should be focused on the younger generations in order to assure continuity and sustainability in the development of the rural milieu;

That IICA has gained wide experience in working with rural youth organizations and projects in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, and that in the past it had an important and effective program in this field,

RESOLVES:

To instruct the Director General of IICA, in accordance with the availability of resources in the approved Program Budget:

- a. To promote a rural youth program that provides the member countries with options in terms of policies, methods, business alternatives and direct working strategies focused on the promotion of the integration of young people into the rural economy and aimed at helping to reduce migration from the countryside to the city.
- b. To convene a permanent forum, with the collaboration of other international organizations, multilateral agencies and institutions in the countries, to pool efforts on behalf of the youth program and procure resources to support the technical components required for this task.
- c. To adopt all possible technical and financial measures required for undertaking this effort, developing the corresponding execution, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms.

RESOLUTION No. 335

VOTE OF THANKS TO THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE
OF CHILE

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE, at its Ninth Regular Meeting,

CONSIDERING:

The extraordinary hospitality extended by the Government of Chile during the Ninth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA),

RESOLVES:

1. To express its deep appreciation to the Government and people of Chile, especially to His Excellency President Eduardo Frei for his distinguished and enlightened contributions to the Inaugural Session, and to the Honorable First Lady Mrs. Marta Larraechea Bolivar de Frei for her leadership in presenting the Hemispheric Program for Rural Women.
2. To express its deep appreciation to Minister of Agriculture Carlos Mladinic for his willingness to enter into constructive dialogue with the ministers of the hemisphere, as well as to the authorities and diligent personnel of the Ministries of Foreign Relations and Agriculture for the hospitality and generous support they provided during the Ninth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture.

REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE



**REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE OF THE NINTH REGULAR
MEETING OF THE INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

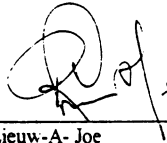
The Credentials Committee of the Ninth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture, made up of the Representatives of Argentine, Barbados, Guatemala, Suriname, was set up in accordance with the provisions of Articles 44 y 45 of Chapter VII of the Rules of Procedure and the agreements reached in the Preparatory Session of this meeting.

The Committee examined the credentials of the representatives of the Member States of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture. It found the credentials of the following to be in order: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela.

This report is signed in Santiago, Chile, on October 12, 1997.



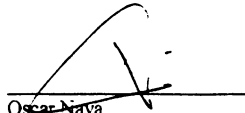
Rawle Eastmond
Representative of Barbados
Chair



Lieuw-A- Joe
Representative of Suriname
Vice-chairman



Bernardo Lopez Figueroa
Representative of Guatemala
Rapporteur



Oscar Nava
Representative of Argentina

SIGNING OF THE REPORT

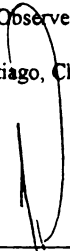
**SIGNING OF THE REPORT OF THE NINTH REGULAR MEETING
OF THE INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

In compliance with the provisions of Article 85 of the Rules of Procedure of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture, the report of the Ninth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture in English, French, Portuguese and Spanish, the official languages of that meeting, was signed at 20:00 hours on the fifteenth day of October of the year nineteen hundred ninety-seven.

The Report will be edited by the Secretariat and the changes approved during the closing Session will be included before it is published in the four official languages of the Institute in the Official Documents Series, all versions being equally authentic and valid.

The Secretary shall file the original texts in the archives of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, and the General Directorate shall send copies of the official version of this report to the Governments of the Member States, the Permanent Observers of the Institute and other participants in the meeting.

Santiago, Chile



Carlos E. Aquino G.
Director General and
Secretary ex-officio



Carlos Mladinic A.
Chairman

AGENDA

AGENDA

Provisional Schedule IICA/JIA/Doc.212(97)

Message of the Director General (No document)

1. Issues of 1995 and 1996

1.1 1995 and 1996 Annual Reports IICA/JIA/Doc.213(97)

1.2 1995 and 1996 Financial Statements of the Institute and Reports of the External Auditors IICA/JIA/Doc.214(97)

1.3 Second and Third Annual Reports of the Audit Review Committee (ARC) IICA/JIA/Doc.215(97)

2. Institutional Transformation

2.1 Report of the Director General on the Institutional Transformation Process and of the Special Committee in Support of the Institutional Transformation Process IICA/JIA/Doc.216(97)

2.2 1998-1999 Program Budget IICA/JIA/Doc.217(97)

2.3 Associate Status: A Proposal for Creation of a New Category of Participation in IICA for Permanent Observers, Non-Observers and International Organizations IICA/JIA/Doc.218(97)

- | | | |
|---|--|--------------------------|
| 2.4 | Creation of a Patrimonial Fund for the Institute | IICA/JIA/Doc.219(97) |
| 2.5 | Proposed Regulations for Implementing Article 24 of the Convention of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture | IICA/JIA/Doc.220(97) |
| 3. <u>Amendments to the Rules of Procedure</u> | | |
| 3.1 | Amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), of the Executive Committee, and of the General Directorate: to the Staff Rules and to the Financial Rules | IICA/JIA/Doc.221(97)rev. |
| 3.2 | Amendments to the Regulations Governing the Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector | IICA/JIA/Doc.222(97)rev. |

Special Reports

- | | | |
|-----|---|----------------------|
| 4.1 | Report of the Chairman of the Executive Committee on the Meetings of the 1996-1997 Biennium | IICA/JIA/Doc.223(97) |
| 4.2 | IICA-FAO Relations | IICA/JIA/Doc.224(97) |
| 4.3 | Biennial Report of the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) | IICA/JIA/Doc.225(97) |
| 4.4 | Biennial Report on the Activities of the Tropical Agriculture Research and Training Center (CATIE) | IICA/JIA/Doc.226(97) |

5. **Reports on the Meetings of IICA's
Governing Bodies**

5.1 **Report on the Status of the Resolutions of the Eighth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA)** IICA/JIA/Doc.227(97)

5.2 **Date and Site of the Tenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA)** IICA/JIA/Doc.228(97)

6. **Designations and Elections**

6.1 **Election of the Director General for the 1998-2002 Period and Granting of General Power of Attorney to the Director General-Elect** (No document)

6.2 **Report of the Committee on the Selection of Candidates for the 1996-1997 Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector.** IICA/JIA/Doc.229(97)

6.3 **Designation of the Representative of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) to the Council of Ministers and to the Board of Directors of CATIE** IICA/JIA/Doc.230(97)

6.4 **Election of a Member of the Audit Review Committee (ARC)** IICA/JIA/Doc.231(97)

6.5 **Designation of External Auditors for the 1998-1999 Biennium** IICA/JIA/Doc.232(97)

7. **Other Business**

- 7.1 **Amendments to the Charter of the Tropical Agriculture Research and Training Center (CATIE)** IICA/JIA/Doc.233(97)
- 7.2 **Offer of the Government of Bolivia to Provide Offices in the Casa de la Agricultura** IICA/JIA/Doc.234(97)

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- IICA/JIA/Doc.221(97)rev.** **Amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), of the Executive Committee, and of the General Directorate; to the Staff Rules and to the Financial Rules**
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**HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF
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As President of Chile and on behalf of all of Chilean society I wish to welcome you to the Ninth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture and the Second Forum of Ministers of Agriculture.

Chile is especially proud of having been designated to host this important event, a fact which is highly significant for our country since the rural world and agriculture have not only been one of the pillars of Chile's development but, moreover, have played an important role in building our country's identity, traditions and culture.

We wish to express our thanks for having been designated to host this event, and our appreciation for the presence of senior officials from all over the Americas and from every field of agricultural and rural activity, who honor us with their presence at this inaugural ceremony.

It is no easy task to assemble representatives of the agricultural sector from all over the hemisphere to reflect on the future that we wish to build for our countries and to determine how we can work to advance more rapidly toward development.

Undoubtedly, this task will require much effort but, above all, as with many other challenges that we face in different fields, these efforts will have to be undertaken by all countries in an integrated and coordinated manner. Individual results are of little use in this case; we need to make a joint effort. I am certain that the days that you will be devoting to analysis, work and reciprocal collaboration will make a major contribution to this task.

Challenges for the future

The major challenge that our countries face in developing agriculture and rural areas is, undoubtedly, the comprehensive modernization of the sector, a process of modernization that takes into account the aspirations of large sectors of our populations without excluding any.

An analysis of economic development in the region in the current decade shows that although growth has been relatively sluggish, it contrasts with the prolonged crisis of the previous decade when extremely high inflation rates, virtually zero growth and extremely large external debts were common throughout the hemisphere.

We appear to be entering a new stage in which we are laying the groundwork for a successful process of modernization. Our economic policies are now much more uniform and based on common principles which, undoubtedly, increase the likelihood of being able to achieve our goals in a reasonable and realistic time frame. These principles provide a common language and rationale which are attuned to the global context of more open markets and the strengthening of civil society, all of which are underpinned by an eminently democratic system.

It is interesting to see how the best economic results have been achieved through the development of export activities and the fastest-growing areas of each productive sector are those that have generated exportable surpluses. This is particularly true in the case of agriculture.

Nevertheless, looking at the overall picture from another perspective, we can see that poverty affects almost half of the Latin American population; nearly 60 million people are victims of food insecurity, meaning that they do not consume sufficient food to lead healthy and active lives.

In economic terms, despite the fact that agriculture's relative share in the regional product has decreased in the past few years, there are some countries in which half or more than half of the population continues to live in rural areas, and injecting new life into agricultural production is therefore a critical issue for these nations.

Despite this trend, agriculture is still very important for cities and will continue to be so in the future because the economic interaction between the two sectors is circular, and thus mutually beneficial. Indeed, estimates for Latin America prepared by the International Food Policy Research Institute show that for every additional dollar generated by agricultural production, overall economic production increases by four dollars.

The countries of the Americas are in one of the richest regions of the earth in terms of natural resources. Indeed, the ratio of available natural

resources to population in the region is one of the highest in the world. We have one of the largest reserves of tropical forests, the largest fresh water reserves and over 60 percent of the world's flora and fauna.

Given these features, achieving the goal of modernizing agriculture is not only feasible but also essential to our plans for development.

Globalization

These development efforts are taking place in an increasingly interconnected and interdependent world. Globalization is a reality in the international order that is currently developing. We must therefore address it with determination, boldness and creativity. For decades, we implemented an inward-looking approach to development which, despite providing the basis for the industrialization of our nations and making a strong contribution to the development of Latin America, was unable to fully address all our needs. Strictly speaking, this was a first and necessary stage which must now continue with an outward-looking growth model. In order for our development efforts to be successful, we require much more open economies which, stretching beyond the limits of our own territories, view the entire world as their market.

In recent years, most productive sectors have made significant progress along the lines described above, either through unilateral decisions adopted by the countries or through bilateral or subregional agreements. We can now safely say that there is more trade in the region than ever before. However, we must also acknowledge the fact that the progress made in trying to make trade more open and transparent has been much slower in the agricultural sector.

If we examine all the bilateral or subregional agreements signed in the past few years by the countries present at this meeting, we can clearly see that, in general, agriculture is the sector in which liberalization has been slowest to come about. Agricultural products are also the ones that encounter the strongest quasi-tariff barriers elsewhere in the world. If we examine the latest multilateral round of negotiations we can see that agricultural negotiations were the ones that prevented the success of these agreements for over seven years. In addition, the new quasi-tariff barriers or the different disputes on trade issues that emerge between countries on a daily basis are usually related to agriculture and forestry products.

In referring to the delay in liberalizing agricultural trade I do not mean to say that these products should be left to their own devices in terms of international competition. I believe that the longer periods granted for removing trade barriers is a reasonable approach, in view of the difficulties and complexities involved in modernizing the sector, and that this will help to improve its competitiveness in all markets, both domestic and foreign. This also points up the problems of underdevelopment and poverty in the rural world, which is more resistant to change, to the introduction of modern technology and to renewed management styles and which is affected by major weaknesses in the infrastructure needed for development.

I believe that it is a priority for governments, international organizations and agricultural producers to think of modernization in terms of competition in a global world. What needs to be underscored is that it is not viable nor helpful to exclude the agricultural sector from the process of opening up to trade. In the long term, this will lead to a deeper crisis than the difficulties caused by modernization and also to higher costs than the ones required for introducing modern technologies in the countryside. Small and medium-scale entrepreneurs throughout the hemisphere have exhibited considerable capacity to compete. The challenge lies in extending this process to our agriculture as a whole.

Strengthening the market

Without sacrificing the role of the state as the regulator and restorer of certain balances within society, market forces and signals need to be reinforced in order to use market-generated mechanisms to achieve economic and social goals and also those that ensure environmental sustainability.

To this end, governments need to establish more stable and transparent macroeconomic policies since continuity and complementarities between these and sectoral policies ensure more likely decision-making by the private sector, and also improve the speed with which policies are implemented.

Special attention should be paid to improving the way that some still severely flawed domestic markets operate. To achieve healthier and more transparent market competition, coupled with better resource allocation and more equitable access to resources, we must endeavor to correct such

imperfections. A new task thus arises for the state, namely, that of improving competition and strengthening regulatory agencies.

Having a more open system of competition also requires a commitment to abide by a common set of rules. In a world where some countries are rich and others are poor, and where the rich nations spend large sums of money on subsidies for their producers, there is simply no such thing as fair competition for poor countries. The commitments to reduce such subsidies made by the developed countries during the Uruguay Round are certainly a step forward, but still quite precarious, and we must continue to work for the total elimination of these subsidies.

Greater confidence in the market is the only way to create the kinds of opportunities that the private sector needs in order to fully assume its role in contributing to the development of the rural sector and agricultural activities. The government performs a crucial function in this respect by supplying public goods, providing instruments for the promotion of production and fostering a challenging environment that will stimulate competition and competitiveness.

The public sector and rural areas

The rural development process has demonstrated that as new agricultural production technologies are adopted, the amount of labor employed by the sector tends to diminish while labor productivity tends to rise. This observation has often been used as a means of explaining the exodus of the population from rural areas to the cities. We feel that this is only a very limited part of the explanation for this phenomenon. What people want is to have a better life. If the quality of life in rural areas remains extremely unsatisfactory while city life is progressing, then these migratory flows will obviously not come to a halt. If we want to forestall them, then we will have to invest in improving the quality of life in rural sectors. The government over which I preside is working to achieve this; we are striving to make the benefits of progress available to the inhabitants of rural areas by providing all citizens with the opportunity to gain access to the basic services which modern life offers us and which human dignity demands of us. Drinking water, electricity, telephone services, better roads, and improvements in health and education are some of the investments which we are convinced only the state is capable of undertaking.

There is another lesson to be learned from the developed countries, in that none of them has achieved that status without the participation of agriculture or by turning its back on that sector. In a modern country, all members of society must share in the benefits of progress, just as they must all take part in the effort to produce those benefits.

Action on behalf of disadvantaged sectors

Because the agricultural system of a majority of our countries is so heterogeneous, although a sizable segment of the sector's agents is becoming increasingly integrated into the market economy and is interacting on a more intensive basis in international markets, another segment is on the borderline as far as technology is concerned, within an economy characterized by a number of post-colonial features. This segment lives outside what we have come to call the modern economic, social and political system.

These disadvantaged sectors need a response that will foster modernization among them, that will —during an initial stage of support and assistance—help develop certain factors that will enable them to overcome their difficult position. This poses a challenge for the entire state apparatus, which must integrate social and economic policies in order to provide these sectors with assistance. Fundamentally, however, it is a challenge to be taken up by the sectoral ministries which, in cooperation with the private sector, can provide a coordinated package of policies and instruments that will provide producers with access to the factors of production, marketing services, technologies, financing and other elements that individual production units cannot generate for themselves.

In creating and implementing a system of this nature, the state and government fulfill their role as facilitators and thereby contribute to the development of competitiveness —a basic factor in achieving economic success in the world of today.

As we have seen, the demands that this places upon the state are very great indeed. Hence, the state will be unable to carry out this task if we continue to downsize it. The focus of discussion should not be whether the state should be large or small; the important point is for the state to be efficient and to have the resources it needs to do its job. Therein will lie its strength.

Sustainable development

Another challenge that lies ahead of us is how we are to guide the rural and agricultural modernization and development process along an environmentally sustainable path. If we are to accomplish this, we must incorporate sustainable agricultural production and management systems, improve land-use planning, conserve and restore land, water and genetic resources, and adopt an environmentally sound approach to development of the forestry sector.

In order for this to become a reality, an economically feasible strategy must be devised which harmonizes the objectives of agricultural development and of environmental and natural resource conservation.

If we are to arrive at this point, we must understand that agriculture is not the only production option for the rural milieu. Other activities such as agroindustry, agro-tourism and environmental and other services, can also be carried out in the countryside, thereby consolidating the position of medium-sized cities as the interconnecting links for rural areas.

Closing remarks

We hope that the IICA, as a specialized agency within a wider system for the integration of the Americas, will redouble its efforts and continue contributing to cooperation among the countries of the hemisphere, with a view to finding the most appropriate solutions to the problems of competitiveness, equity and sustainability in the agricultural sectors of member countries.

I would like to suggest two complementary lines of work for the short term.

At the Summit of the Americas held in December 1994, all the Heads of State and Government committed ourselves to establishing a free trade area stretching from Alaska to Tierra del Fuego. We also stated that the necessary negotiations to achieve this goal should be completed at the latest by the year 2005. We have agreed to meet in Santiago, in April 1998, to assess our progress in this process. Needless to say, the agricultural negotiations will be among the most complex. I believe that you can make an essential contribution to this process, and to ensuring its successful outcome. It would

be very useful, in the upcoming meeting, to be aware of your views and those of your sector on this subject.

At the Uruguay Round, all the WTO member countries agreed that agricultural negotiations should begin before the end of 1999. A commitment on your part to speed up this process by agreeing on common actions and criteria will certainly provide impetus within the WTO to advance along the lines mentioned above, in the sense of making trade in agriculture and forestry products more transparent and open.

As you can see, there is very little time left. Therefore, international technical cooperation agencies face a major challenge. They must carry out their mandate, which involves systematizing the experiences and information available within and outside the region, providing technical cooperation to the ministries of agriculture in the fields of their fields of responsibility, and creating a neutral forum for reflection and exchanges among the member countries on issues related to agriculture

Governments, entrepreneurs and rural micro-producers must also face their responsibilities with regard to the future. We must base our actions on the need to build societies that afford more integration, participation and justice. Full incorporation of the rural milieu is, for most of us, an uncompleted task. I invite you to continue working on behalf of the development of the agricultural sector and of our countries.

Thank you very much.

MESSAGE FROM HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT OF COSTA RICA, MR. JOSE MARIA FIGUERES OLSEN

As President of an essentially agricultural country and host of the preceding Eighth Regular Meeting of the IABA, I had the honor of chairing its inaugural session, just as the President of Chile, my esteemed colleague and friend Eduardo Frei, does so today for the Ninth IABA.

On that occasion, and also when I was the Minister of Agriculture of my country, I was honored to conduct the First Forum of Ministers of Agriculture, entitled "Agriculture of the Americas on the Eve of the Twenty-first Century," in which concern was expressed about some of the salient traits of agriculture in the region, which include:

- that the region's agricultural production growth during the last three decades was slowing down and advancing at a slower pace than that of the economy as a whole;
- that lack of coordination was the basic weakness of our production structures; and
- that emphasis was being placed on trade issues, overlooking the importance of agriculture and the need to modernize the rural sector, in the process to build a more integrated, democratic and safe America, one in which the problems of poverty are overcome and natural resource and environmental equilibrium are ensured.

At that time, we had a full and productive dialogue that should continue during the Second Forum of Ministers of Agriculture to be held during this Ninth IABA, enriched now with the presence of leaders of private sector organizations, representatives of international organizations and of professional associations.

This is an opportunity for agricultural leaders in the Americas to ensure that agricultural issues are addressed at the highest political levels in the region. To this end they will have to elaborate proposals that will have a bearing on socio-economic policies at a national level and strongly reflect the interests and significance of agriculture. At the hemispheric level, solidarity should help shape solutions to problems common to more than one country.

This region is facing unprecedented challenges on the threshold of the twenty-first century, in a context characterized by the integration and globalization of economies and societies. Transforming these challenges into opportunities will require that you, the leaders of agriculture in the Americas, establish alliances with other sectors in order to:

- support social development with a view to combating poverty and inequities in the countryside;
- ensure coordination among the different actors associated with production-trade chains in order to boost competitiveness in agriculture and foster an equitable distribution of benefits; and
- ensure that the relationship between the natural resource base and social life allow for the harmonious reproduction of both over the long term.

I would like to state to the Presidents of IICA's Member States, who signed, in Miami in 1994, the Agreement for Prosperity and Development in the Americas, that that alliance and the effort it implies require political support to ensure that agricultural issues are addressed and that resources are made available to facilitate the necessary actions.

For these reasons, I believe that we, the Presidents and Heads of State of the Americas, who will soon meet in this beautiful country, should receive an unequivocal signal from the ministers of agriculture gathered during this Ninth IABA, to the effect that:

- this Forum be used as a means to reach agreement on actions at the hemispheric level to complement the ongoing process initiated during the Miami Summit;
- the Ministers of Commerce be instructed to explicitly address agriculture in the working groups set up to build the FTAA 2005; and
- IICA be entrusted with providing technical support to the process and use its capacities to bring people together to build consensus on and coordinate cooperation for agriculture and the participation of the different actors of the private sector and civil society.

In taking this opportunity to address the Ministers of Agriculture, I wish them the best of success in their deliberations during the Ninth IABA and clear guidelines of action from the work of the diverse workshops making up the Second Inter-American Forum on Agriculture.

**ADDRESS BY MR. CARLOS MLADINIC ALONSO,
MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE OF CHILE**

I would simply like to welcome you and to share with you the hope that, at this Ninth IABA, we will be successful in achieving, if not all, at least some of the goals set forth by the presidents of Costa Rica and Chile in their messages.

I believe that, in their messages, both presidents have assigned us a task that will not be easy to complete during this meeting. However, they were very clear with regard to what we must do if we are to ensure that our agricultural sectors contribute to the political, social and economic development of our peoples as we enter the next century.

Currently, our agricultural sectors operate in a context that is constantly changing and will be affected by the uncertainty regarding the future of foodstuffs in a world where, curiously, in the wealthy countries many people are paid not to produce food, while in the poor countries, people suffer from serious nutritional problems.

This is the world we live in; a world where there are wealthy nations that spend more on feeding their dogs and cats than what the poorer nations require to feed their people. There is a prosperous sector of the world that invests more in dieting than what poor nations need to satisfy their nutritional requirements.

The task before us today is to contribute ensuring that there is enough food for all, using the techniques available today. We know that the predictions calling for the world's population to grow faster than our ability to produce enough food for everyone did not come true. Let us work, then, at this meeting, to ensure that food is provided to all of the inhabitants of the planet.

Thank you.

**ADDRESS BY MR. RICARDO GARRON, MINISTER OF
AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK OF COSTA RICA, AND
CHAIRMAN OF THE EIGHTH IABA**

First and foremost, I wish to thank the Government and people of Chile, represented at this inaugural ceremony by His Excellency the Constitutional President of the Republic, Mr. Eduardo Frei Ruiz-Tagle, by the First Lady, Mrs. Martita de Frei, and by the Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Carlos Mladinic. We are delighted that this meeting is being held in this most hospitable of countries.

I have had the high honor of being the Chairman of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture at an interesting point in time and during a complex transition period. In that capacity I participated in the meeting of the Ibero-American Forum on Agriculture held in Caracas, on August 11-13, 1997; I was invited to inaugurate the Growtech Fair in Miami, together with Mr. Francisco Labastida Ochoa, Mexican Secretary of Agriculture and, in September last I participated in the Panel on Agriculture of the Conference on Informatics 2000, organized by the IDB. The latter made us aware of the huge possibilities that the new communications technologies have to offer in terms of helping to develop agriculture.

But, above all, I have supported the process of change underway at IICA, headed by its Director General, Mr. Carlos Aquino and his valuable team of assistants, to bring the organization up to date with the needs of our times.

After the 1994 Summit of Heads of State in Miami which called for the establishment of a Free Trade Area of the Americas by the year 2005, the duties of the ministries of agriculture and agencies linked to agriculture have changed considerably. We have had to shift from productivity to competitiveness, from technological research to agro-production chains, from the farm to the market.

It seems so logical to say that comparative advantages in agriculture in each region are more important than for any other economic activity.

We can produce shirts anywhere in the hemisphere, but we cannot grow hearts of palm in Chile nor peaches in Costa Rica, at least competitively so.

Because, as President Frei so aptly put it this morning, the agricultural sector is the most sensitive when it comes to opening up trade.

Because a change of activity in agriculture is a much slower and more complex process than a change in a line of industrial production.

Because the political significance of our activity is greater than its economic significance; because its social weight is greater than its political weight.

We face an enormous challenge. We must turn the process of economic opening into an economic success and, as if that were not difficult enough, we must also turn it into a social and environmental success. Otherwise, what would we want economic opening for?

Phasing-in, simultaneity, symmetry and equity become key words to change the problem into a solution.

We are faced with a very difficult challenge: changing existing mind-sets. International negotiators must advance from a dogmatic openness to an intelligent openness; small farmers from their plots to organizations; organizations must advance from protest to proposal; technicians from working for producers to working with producers. By joining our efforts and our objectives, we will be able to move forward.

IICA, the organization that we represent today, has already launched this process of change. The support it provides for regional agricultural bodies is of great value. Its very existence represents a pillar of strength for our sector in facing the new times. It is a permanent body that provides sound technical and administrative backing and that enables us to implement decisions, coordinate efforts and plan joint strategies.

IICA must now undertake the difficult task of developing a common language because establishing uniform nomenclatures, tariff codes, quality standards and health requirements are essential to advancing in the process of integrating our economies.

IICA must develop modern communications and informatics systems that will allow us to readily access available tools.

In coordination with the Chairman of the IABA, currently so ably chaired by Mr. Carlos Mladinic, IICA also needs to implement the new mission of this Board: we can no longer limit ourselves to reviewing regulations and approving budgets.

We must conduct analyses, make proposals and lead the transformation of the agricultural sector in the Americas.

In addition to the process of economic opening, we must address other major issues of this modern era: defining what food security should be in our hemisphere; adopting the gender approach and promoting sustainable development with its four essential pillars: social, economic, environmental and ethical.

By including the private sector in this meeting, represented by agribusiness entrepreneurs and small farmers, we are giving a clear sign of the new course we would like our organization to take. We are certain that their contribution is essential for defining clear policies, strongly rooted in the everyday problems of the people dedicated to production in our fields.

Your presence, ladies and gentlemen, enhances and enriches this meeting.

Together we can make the words of the illustrious father of Mr. José María Figueres, father of the President of my country, a reality. Contradicting a popular refrain, he used to say that the olden days were even worse.

I would like to avail myself of the opportunity to welcome The Bahamas, a sister country which recently joined the Inter-American Board of Agriculture. We are now definitely "UNITED BY THE AGRICULTURE OF THE AMERICAS."

Thank you.

**ADDRESS BY MR. CARLOS E. AQUINO G.,
DIRECTOR GENERAL OF IICA.**

With much hope, great expectation and sincerity, Chile has welcomed to its capital city the ministers and secretaries of agriculture of the Americas, leaders of farmers organizations, members of professional, scientific and research organizations and representatives of the academic sector and international organizations linked to the agri-food sector, here to participate in this extremely important event being inaugurated today in this beautiful Palace, which once housed the Congress.

Chile, this nation of honorable and hard-working people, is successfully opening its markets, updating its economic and legal systems to attract investment, effecting innovative institutional reforms and changes and, building on its many years of sacrifice, discipline and uninterrupted work, is working with the public and private sectors to ensure that the benefits of growth and development reach all members of urban and rural society in the twenty-first century.

We are deeply grateful to President Eduardo Frei and Minister of Agriculture, Carlos Mladinic for inviting us, and for sharing with the other countries of the Americas the challenges you have faced, the plans you have made, the goals you have attained and the lessons you have learned in this complex and uncertain undertaking known as agriculture.

Also, thank you for allowing the representatives of the international agricultural community gathered here to share with you their dreams, concerns and hopes regarding the challenges and opportunities arising in the constantly changing circumstances of today's international economy.

I also want to thank the Chilean people for their many manifestations of solidarity, friendship and warmth, values that have been shared with the rest of the world through the gifted pens of notable Chilean figures such as Gabriela Mistral and Pablo Neruda, who are not only the pride of Chile, but also of the Americas and the world.

It is also important to thank those who accepted our invitation to join us at this Ministerial Summit, the highest ranking political-technical forum on agriculture in the Americas, to discuss issues that are essential to the future of agriculture and food in the hemisphere.

This meeting, whose motto is "United for Agriculture in the Americas," was convened to consider, among many other topics, one particularly important idea: to articulate and institutionalize an inter-American strategic alliance aimed at promoting the transformation of and injecting new life into the agricultural sector of the Americas, in light of the realities and demands of today. Within this context, we must work to ensure that agriculture again occupies a position of importance by adopting a new vision for the sector and linking it with other sectors of the economy, such as education, health, industry, tourism.

To this end, in response to the interest expressed by the ministers and secretaries of agriculture and the leaders of the organizations present here today, we have programmed as part of the ninth meeting of this Inter-American Board, IICA's highest governing body, and within the legal framework of the OAS, of which IICA is the agency of the inter-American system specializing in agriculture, and with the enthusiastic and firm support of the Government of Chile, the Second Ministerial Forum "Agriculture on the Eve of the Twenty-first Century: Challenges and Opportunities."

On this historic occasion, it is our hope that the exchange of ideas and the open, frank and constructive dialogue in which we will engage will yield valuable inputs for defining a common platform for a new institutional framework and the macro- and sectoral policy actions needed to meet the challenges that the agri-food sector faces on the eve of the new millenium.

We all know that dialogue, consensus-building and combined efforts are essential elements of democracy, and that they are necessary for fulfilling the commitments our countries must assume today.

These are the most important elements to consider in defining the strategic guidelines of a realistic and achievable plan of action to transform and inject new life into our agricultural sectors.

A challenge of this magnitude must be tackled by a broad-based and strong alliance comprising authorities and leaders of the public and private sectors, national and international institutions and, most importantly, the agribusiness community.

The developments of the last decade worldwide have given rise to a scenario characterized by **enormous opportunities and, at the same time, challenges for agriculture, greater than and different from those observed in the past.**

Indeed, population and income growth rates, as well as new lifestyles, are radically changing the demand for food.

In this new context, opportunities are opening up to reactivate the production of food for local and export markets. This, in turn, is generating employment and income in urban and rural areas.

The time has come for our region to take advantage of these opportunities and to pay greater attention to its local markets and to its highly dynamic exports to intra-regional markets in the hemisphere, and to extra-regional markets such as the European and Asian markets. The latter has become one of the largest, most dynamic and important in the world, in terms of non-traditional food imports.

Our region has the capacity and the potential to become an exporter of high quality foods, which is why we must meet the challenge of tapping the advantages and capitalizing on the opportunities offered by international trade, in order to contribute to transforming urban and rural areas and thus improving the quality of life of our peoples.

We should emphasize that we must cultivate and develop opportunities; they do not arise fortuitously nor by chance. They are achieved by defining well articulated macro- and sectoral policies, and through constant and disciplined effort, a business-like and enterprising spirit, as well as a greater degree of cooperation and solidarity among our countries.

What **hurdles must we overcome** to achieve this greater purpose?

- Most of the countries have serious problems related to low levels of productivity, low educational levels and large numbers of poor, as well as steady deterioration of the natural resource base and the environment.
- Therefore, it is essential to work together to invest in the education and the training of farmers and rural laborers, establishing as specific objectives competitiveness, equity and the sound use of natural resources.

- It is not a matter of the region's producing at any cost, but rather of harmonizing production, conservation and market. "We must produce while conserving and conserve while producing" for a market that increasingly demands more and more in terms of quality, and, at the same time, be more mindful of environmental and food safety issues.
- The region has sufficient land, water, human and economic resources to produce food for the entire region and for other parts of the world. However, it is indispensable that all these resources be managed in a sustainable manner and responsibly, since, to paraphrase Mahatma Gandhi, "there is enough in the world for human need, but not for human greed."
- Economic reforms and institutional transformations in Latin America and the Caribbean have not yet led to a full and substantial recovery of our economies and, therefore, of agriculture, except in a few isolated cases.
- Similarly, progress has been slow in coming. Therefore, reforms aimed at bringing about positive changes in the areas of economics, technology, institutions and information technology must be consolidated, expanded or renewed.
- In a rapidly changing world, reforms are considered not only a desirable state of affairs, but rather the state of affairs required to achieve economic growth and human development in our countries.
- Investment in agriculture or the rural milieu must be stepped up, defining clear, transparent, stable and precise rules that will enable investors to make wiser decisions and take more effective action.
- More appropriate, creative, innovative, efficient and competitive organizational arrangements are needed to provide production support services such as marketing, information, technology generation and transfer, training, infrastructure, biotechnology, and others.

A great challenge is to link the state, civil society and the market effectively by uniting modernization with democracy, with a view to ensuring that agriculture capitalizes on the benefits of the new international context.

In order to achieve this, it is necessary to view agriculture as an expanded system with agro-production and agroindustrial components; to adopt integrated strategies for its modernization; and to improve the management capabilities of production units and the public apparatus, in order to boost productivity and competitiveness in agriculture so as to best tap existing opportunities.

We must remember that market mechanisms contribute to generating employment for large sectors of the urban and rural populations, but obviously cannot provide an overall solution to the problems of poverty and the exclusion of the most disadvantaged social groups such as small farmers, indigenous people, rural women and youths. Neither can agriculture alone have the capacity and responsibility of solving all the severe problems of rural poverty.

The solution to these problems lies in a shared vision and the joint efforts of all sectors of society, and requires a very proactive participation of the disadvantaged communities themselves.

In this regard, modernization and democracy must become two synergetic forces, so that the democratization of decision-making processes incorporates broader sectors of farmers and rural families, thus increasing the number of beneficiaries of agricultural modernization.

All the political and economic changes taking place in the Americas revolve around regional integration. This has given a special dynamism to the exchanges and links between the subregional blocs, which has fostered cooperation throughout the Americas.

This strong trend toward integration in the region shows, as was pointed out in a World Bank study, that *“regionalism has not led to the formation of exclusive clubs as some feared. To the contrary, there is a trend toward the admission of new partners and the overlapping of numerous free trade agreements.”* This is what is known as open regionalism.

We should not overlook the fact that integration and opening are conditioned by tariff, phytosanitary and geographic barriers.

The Summits of Heads of State and Government, held in Miami in 1994 and in Santa Cruz de la Sierra in 1996, have charted the course for the

political, economic and social development of our hemisphere in the new millennium.

Within the framework of the declaration of the plan of action of the 1994 Miami Summit, we proposed a strategy for positioning agriculture on the eve of the twenty-first century.

Today more than ever this proposal is fully valid. In fact, for this proposal to become a reality, we must redouble our efforts to transform and revitalize agriculture. Consequently, we must assume a commitment that will make it possible:

- to consolidate the renewed vision of agriculture, in order to ensure that its real contribution to national development and to the transformation of the rural milieu in the Americas is recognized;
- to enhance the capability of human resources, who are the essence and target of this integrated transformation. Human resource development is the foundation for sustainable development in agriculture and its effect on the rural milieu, which is based on achieving harmonious, technical-economic competitiveness, social equity and ecological-environmental sustainability; and
- to consolidate the new public and private institutional framework, on the basis of policy instruments consistent with the regulations of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and provide orientation and support for the transformation process, while ensuring the participation of all actors.

In support of this triple effort, the revolution in information, informatics and communications offers immense potential, becoming the most appropriate instrument for integrating the rural milieu with the rest of society and with the international community.

I paraphrase the renowned professor Peter Drucker when I say that *"today, knowledge and information are the resources that produce wealth."* These, however, must be democratized, and it is here where education can help to eliminate disparities.

In our opinion, the time has come for the countries of the hemisphere, represented here by the leaders of the agricultural sector, to agree on and

establish an inclusive, inter-American alliance and partnership for promoting the transformation and sustainable revitalization of agriculture.

This is precisely the moment to make important decisions for defining strategic guidelines and a shared plan of action for the transformation and revitalization of agriculture, which can then be presented for consideration by our Presidents at the next Summit, which will also be held in this beautiful country, and thus will benefit from the highest-level political support of the Heads of State.

President Frei, with all due respect we ask that, if possible, you transmit to your counterparts of the Americas, the most fervent desire of the inter-American agricultural community to accompany them with enthusiasm, with firmness and with interest in the immense task you have assumed of transforming our Americas on the basis of balanced development models.

This is also a very good time for the leaders and managers of the institutions gathered here to discuss and reflect **on the mission, vision and legal instruments of this inter-American agency**, especially as it moves toward the twenty-first century, with a view to adjusting it to the new demands, challenges and opportunities.

On October 7, IICA celebrated 55 years of uninterrupted service to agriculture in the Americas, begun with the dreaming, forward-looking vision of its founder Henry Wallace, former Secretary of Agriculture and Vice President of the United States, and continued with the work and efforts of the Directors Emeritus, Ralph H. Allee, Earl N. Bressman, Armando Samper, Jose Emilio G. Araujo, Carlos Madrid, Francisco Morillo and Martin Pifeiro, who, together with the valuable human, technical and administrative team of the Institute, made important contributions to consolidating its prestige and expanding its services of cooperation to the inter-American community.

We must now take the wisdom, experience and lessons learned in the past, and consider the changing dynamics of the present, to reach for the future and arrive at the institutional framework which, in our judgment, will be based on participatory democracy and on the governing role of a society that is holistically organized.

Faced with the new realities of the international economic context, we must envisage IICA as one of the most suitable bodies for encouraging

discussion on agriculture in the Americas with public and private participation and more clearly defined as the mechanism to facilitate such dialogue.

The Institute will complement (not substitute) the efforts made by each one of the Member States in designing their differentiated strategies for the development of the sector and the new institutional framework required for transforming and modernizing agriculture.

Honorable Ministers of Agriculture, participants in this Ninth Inter-American Board of Agriculture and Ministerial Forum, allow me, before I conclude, to paraphrase a brief quote by the writer Alvin Toffler, according to which *"nations that do not educate or feed their peoples will never enter the twenty-first century."*

I would like to say that whenever we speak about food, we are also speaking about agriculture.

For this reason, regardless of what traditional figures and indicators say about agriculture, it continues being of great importance to our societies.

We express our sincere wishes that this Ministerial Summit, and the inter-American community meeting here today, will work together as one to make this an unprecedented, historical starting point for establishing the aforementioned alliance and plan of action.

We must also recognize that the elements that promote development, education and food must become the top priorities of our alliance and guide us, here in the Americas, into the twenty-first century to transform production, transform economies and trade, transform our institutions and of course, most important human beings.

Then we could proudly proclaim the words of the Liberator Simon Bolivar, *"when I think of the Americas, I think of my homeland."*

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- 21 Eighth Inter-American Conference on Agriculture — Santiago, Chile,
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- 22 **Base Documents: Convention on the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture; Rules of Procedure of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture, the Executive Committee and the General Directorate**
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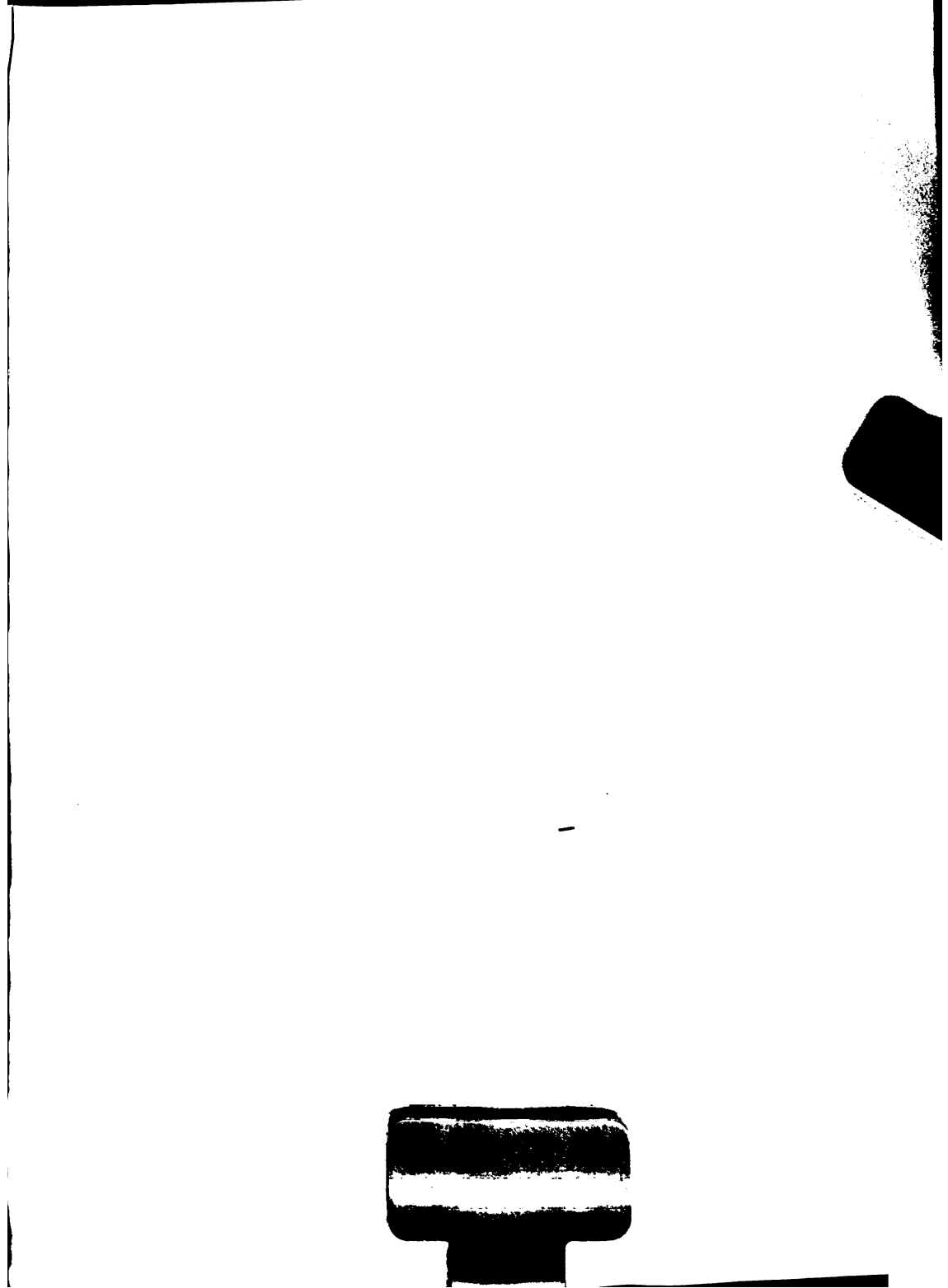
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- 54 Thirteenth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee – San Jose, Costa Rica, June 21-23, 1993
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