



REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE OF THE AMERICAS 2021 – TWENTY-FIRST REGULAR MEETING OF THE INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

San Jose, Costa Rica
1-2 September 2021



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What is IICA?

More than 75 years ago, a group of visionaries recognized the need to create an agency specializing in agriculture for the American continent, with a purpose that still remains valid today: to promote agricultural development and rural well-being in this region.

As a result, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) was born. Throughout this time, the Institute has succeeded in identifying challenges and opportunities and, most importantly, evolving into an international technical cooperation organization that permanently responds to the new demands of the agriculture sector.

Our **mission** is *to encourage, promote and support our Member States in their efforts to achieve agricultural development and rural well-being through international technical cooperation of excellence.*

Our **vision** is *to be a modern and efficient institution supported by a platform of human resources and processes that are capable of mobilizing the knowledge available in the region and around the world, with the aim of achieving a competitive, inclusive and sustainable agriculture that takes advantage of opportunities to contribute to economic growth and development as well as to foster greater rural well-being and sustainable management of its natural capital.*

We provide cooperation by working closely and continuously with our 34 Member States, addressing their needs in a timely manner. Our most valuable asset is undoubtedly the close relationship we maintain with the beneficiaries of our work.

We have a wealth of experience in areas such as technology and innovation for agriculture, agricultural health and food safety, agribusiness, agricultural trade, rural development, natural resource management and training.

We are also committed to achieving results. Our 2018-2022 Medium-term Plan enables us to develop our technical cooperation model with the aim of consolidating IICA as an organization geared towards accomplishing concrete and visible results through our area of expertise, which is to facilitate positive changes in the agriculture and rural sectors of our Member States.



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Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) 2022



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**MINUTES OF THE CONFERENCE OF
MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE OF THE
AMERICAS 2021 – TWENTY-FIRST REGULAR
MEETING OF THE INTER-AMERICAN BOARD
OF AGRICULTURE (IABA)**

PREPARATORY SESSION

0.1 Opening of the session

0.1.1 The preparatory session of the Twenty-first Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) was called to order at 07:15 hours on 1 September 2021, in the Sala Magna (United States and Canada meeting rooms) at the Headquarters of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA). The session, which was held virtually, was chaired by Mr. Limber Cruz López, Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of the Dominican Republic, the country serving as the Chair of the IABA.

0.1.2 Delegations representing 33 of the Institute's Member States were present.

0.1.3 The Director General of IICA gave a warm welcome to the delegations of the member countries, observer countries and partners that were in attendance. He explained that the meeting was being held virtually in light of the global health emergency triggered by the Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, noting that the qualified majority of the Member States of the Institute had approved the virtual modality via the mechanisms set out for this purpose in IICA's regulations.

0.1.4 He shared the provisional schedule for the meeting, which would be held over the course of two days. He explained that the Conference of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas 2021 would be held on the first day, while the second day would be dedicated to the discussion of technical and administrative matters pertaining to the Institute.

0.2 Agreements

0.2.1 Election of the Chair and Rapporteur of the meeting

0.2.1.1 The Chair informed the delegates that, in accordance with the current rules and regulations, the election would be conducted by a simple majority vote.

Votes were to be cast by the Regular Representatives of the Member States. He added that, for this meeting of the IABA, 33 Member States had been duly accredited, with full voting powers.

- 0.2.1.2 The Representative of Paraguay proposed that Mrs. Tereza Cristina Corrêa da Costa Dias, Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Supply of Brazil, serve as Chair of the Twenty-first Regular Meeting of the IABA. The proposal was supported by the Representative of Argentina. The minister was elected Chair by acclamation.
- 0.2.1.3 The Chair of the IABA noted that, pursuant to Article 33 of the Rules of Procedure of the IABA, in the event of a temporary absence by the Chair, the alternate representative of the corresponding country, in this case Brazil, would substitute her.
- 0.2.1.4 Next, the Chair requested nominations for the position of Rapporteur of the IABA. The head of the delegation of Paraguay proposed that Mr. José Abelardo Mai, Minister of Agriculture, Food Security and Enterprise of Belize, be elected to serve as Rapporteur. The nomination was unanimously supported.
- 0.2.1.5 On behalf of his country, the Chair expressed his gratitude to the other Member States for having allowed him to chair the IABA up to that date, and to the Director General of IICA, for the joint efforts undertaken to foster greater unity between countries, even amidst the difficult circumstances brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 0.2.1.6 The following persons were elected as officers of the meeting:

Chair:	Tereza Cristina Corrêa da Costa Dias
Rapporteur:	José Abelardo Mai
Secretary, <i>ex officio</i> :	Manuel Otero Justo

0.2.2 Agenda of the meeting

- 0.2.2.1 Pursuant to Article 25 of the Rules of Procedure of the IABA, the Chair asked the representatives of the Member States to consider the provisional schedule for the Twenty-first Regular Meeting of the IABA. He announced that, at the request of the Government of the Dominican Republic, the situation

regarding African swine fever and its arrival in the Americas had been included in the agenda. The provisional schedule was unanimously approved.

0.2.2.2 The Chair then indicated that the working and information documents and draft resolutions for the meeting had been made available in electronic format, in Spanish and English, as stipulated in Article 22 of the Rules of Procedure of the IABA.

0.2.3 Duration of the meeting

0.2.3.1 The plenary decided that the Twenty-first Regular Meeting of the IABA would conclude on Thursday, 2 September 2021 at 11:50 hours (in Costa Rica).

0.2.4 Setting up of committees

0.2.4.1 Pursuant to Article 52 of the Rules of Procedure of the IABA, the Chair asked the heads of delegation whether they considered it necessary to set up committees to examine any of the matters included in the agenda of the meeting, taking into consideration the limitations imposed by the virtual modality.

0.2.4.2 No proposals regarding the establishment of committees were received, but the Chair informed the delegates that these could also be set up during the meeting, if the heads of delegation deemed it necessary.

0.2.5 Deadline for submitting draft resolutions

0.2.5.1 Wednesday, 1 September at 15:00 hours (Costa Rica time) was set as the deadline for submitting draft resolutions.

0.2.6 The right to vote in meetings of the IABA

0.2.6.1 The Chair asked the Legal Advisor to explain the scope and application of the rules governing the right to vote in meetings of the IABA.

0.2.6.2 The Legal Advisor explained that cases of those Member States owing more than two annual quotas to IICA needed to be discussed, to determine whether their right to vote should be suspended under Article 24 of the Convention

on IICA. He reported that four countries were in arrears – one of the countries was not participating in the meeting and the other three were in the process of negotiating their payment.

0.2.6.3 He explained that each of these countries was facing specific challenges and that the usual approach of the Institute was not to suspend the rights of a member that was in arrears, if and when the country provided a justification, as specified in the rules and regulations, expressed a willingness to bring payments up to date and received the authorization of the IABA.

0.2.6.4 Next, the Chair described the procedure for electing the Director General of IICA for the period 2022–2026. She announced that, in accordance with Article 105 of the Rules of Procedure of the IABA, a single nomination for the position had been received – that of Dr. Manuel Otero Justo, on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Argentina. She recalled that, pursuant to Article 101 of that regulation, a Director General may be re-elected only once by vote of the majority of the Member States of the Institute, that is, 18 votes.

0.2.6.5 The Chair indicated that, in keeping with Article 106 of the Rules of Procedure of the IABA, the election could take place by acclamation if there was a sole candidate, provided that a majority of the Member States sitting on the Board was present.

0.2.6.6 Pursuant to the provisions of the Rules of Procedure of the IABA, the Chair asked the delegation of Argentina whether it ratified the nomination of Manuel Otero Justo as Director General of IICA for the period 2022-2026. The Representative of Argentina highlighted Dr. Otero's excellent management during the period 2018-2022 and ratified the nomination.

0.3 Close of the session

0.3.1 The preparatory session of the Twenty-first Regular Meeting of the IABA was adjourned at 07:49 hours on 1 September 2021.

OPENING CEREMONY

OPENING CEREMONY

Opening

The Opening Ceremony of the Conference of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas 2021 and the Twenty-first Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) began at 08:10 hours on 1 September 2021 in the United States of America meeting room at the Headquarters of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA). In attendance were the President of the Republic of Costa Rica, Mr. Carlos Alvarado Quesada; the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Costa Rica, Mr. Rodolfo Solano Quirós; the Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of Costa Rica, Mr. Luis Renato Alvarado Rivera; and the Director General of IICA, Mr. Manuel Otero. Also participating virtually was Mrs. Tereza Cristina Corrêa da Costa Dias, Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Supply of Brazil and current Chair of the IABA.

Remarks by the Chair of the IABA

The Chair of the IABA greeted the participants and thanked the member countries for entrusting her with chairing the meeting. She considered this to be a symbol of the progress women have achieved as producers, administrators, agribusiness officials and high-level political representatives. She conveyed special appreciation to all women and expressed her hope that they would become involved in multiple areas, not only in agriculture, but in all sectors of society.

She considered that sustainable agriculture could be implemented in the hemisphere and stated that she was certain that Brazil and the other member countries of the Institute would continue to supply the world with food and to preserve the environment. She described the Food Systems Summit and the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) as two events that would recognize the contribution of agriculture to food security, as well as its important role in climate change mitigation and adaptation.

She recognized Mr. Manuel Otero for the progress IICA had achieved under his leadership. She commented that there was an opportunity to address important agricultural issues in the future, such as sustainable livestock farming, the development

of agricultural technologies and the improvement of agricultural trade at the international level.

Remarks by the Director General of IICA

The Director General greeted all of the participants and thanked the people of Costa Rica for accommodating the headquarters of the Institute – the Home of Agriculture in the Americas – for almost eighty years. He also expressed his appreciation to Costa Rican authorities for promoting State policies aimed at driving sustainable development.

He expressed his solidarity to the people of Haiti, who had been facing a very difficult situation following a recent earthquake and noted that IICA had joined efforts to mitigate the damages.

He commented that the COVID-19 pandemic had caused a major setback in the social sphere and in the generation of wealth, but that the agriculture sector had demonstrated a high level of resilience, given that it had been able to supply markets in a timely manner. He noted that, within this context, the Institute had contributed to positioning agriculture as a strategic sector for economic recovery.

He mentioned that IICA had been implementing an institutional transformation process aimed at improving the technical cooperation services it offered, as well as becoming a bridge between governments, the private sector, academia, the international community and civil society, to channel efforts towards issues such as land degradation, digital inclusion, the promotion of innovation and environmental protection.

He noted that the climate crisis had drastically altered the dynamics of pests and diseases, and offered two examples: the Fusarium Tropical Race 4 (R4T) disease, which threatened banana production, and recent cases of African swine fever.

He highlighted the consensus reached by countries of the Americas regarding 16 messages prepared ahead of the United Nations Food Systems Summit to position agriculture as a key sector for development that gave countries an identity.

Lastly, he anticipated that the IABA meeting would be a great success, given that the mandates issued by the Board would further strengthen the Institute's role in bringing peace and prosperity to rural areas and in contributing to the achievement of sustainable development for the benefit of our societies.

Remarks by the Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of Costa Rica

The Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of Costa Rica thanked all of the delegations and guests for their participation. He noted that the COVID-19 pandemic had demonstrated the importance of agriculture and the strategic role it played in the economy, both nationally and regionally. He added that farmers had undertaken significant efforts to continue producing, through climate-resilient practices that protect the environment and foster agricultural sustainability.

He warned that, despite the multiple benefits of agriculture, producers in the most remote regions faced serious connectivity issues that hindered the sector's full development and transformation. He emphasized the fact that the pandemic had imposed significant challenges for agriculture in terms of production costs, profitability, logistics and marketing of agricultural products. He noted that, although production costs were continuously increasing, economies required products to become cheaper every day. Therefore, he stressed the importance of establishing farmers' real production costs in order to determine whether current prices for their products were fair.

He mentioned that farmers were expected to produce healthier products through non-polluting production systems, which significantly increased production costs. Therefore, they required greater support to become eligible for credit opportunities and gain access to banking services.

He also referred to the migration process that was occurring in all countries due to the lack of opportunities for youth to achieve personal development and lead a dignified life. He underscored the need to assist all those who wished to continue producing, who should be provided with access to insurance and digital technologies. Lastly, he pointed out that behind every product there was a human being who played an important role in society.

Remarks by the President of the Republic of Costa Rica

The President of the Republic of Costa Rica greeted all of the meeting participants. He considered that governing provided a panoramic view of reality. He made reference to the three current United Nations conventions on soil desertification, biodiversity and climate change, which were interrelated and highly topical issues.

He called for curbing the loss of biodiversity on the planet, given its contribution to water production, air purification and temperature moderation. He also highlighted the impact of climate change, which affected global food security, ecosystems and production systems.

He referred to rural-urban linkages, which yielded major transformations in agriculture. He added that the agricultural system was under a great deal of pressure and that it was therefore necessary to carry out agricultural production in a sustainable manner, improve well-being and foster progress in rural areas.

He mentioned that the Americas had the privilege of counting on the leadership of IICA, which organized meetings in which agricultural leaders from across the continent could reflect, strengthen ties and build consensus for action on agricultural and other related matters.

He considered that, in general, the Americas had unbeatable conditions, competitive advantages, great scientific talent and the capacity to share best practices. Therefore, he urged countries to undertake this challenge with great will and good faith.

He called for bearing in mind the future generations, who would live in a more complex world than the current one. He added that he stood before a group of individuals who understood the agriculture sector; he urged them to provide leaders in their countries with the best guidance possible and wished them success in their duties.

Inauguration of the Interpretive Center for Tomorrow's Agriculture (CIMAG)

The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Costa Rica; the Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of Costa Rica; the Vice-President and Head of Global Stakeholders Strategy and Affairs of Bayer, Mrs. Natasha Santos (participating virtually); and the General Manager of Microsoft for Central America, Mr. Daniel Verswyvel, joined the Director General of IICA at the inauguration of CIMAG. Through CIMAG, the Institute seeks to demonstrate the capacity of digital technologies to transform and improve agriculture, rural life and food security in the Americas.

Remarks by the Director General of IICA, ribbon-cutting ceremony and guided tour

The Director General explained that the CIMAG initiative was promoted by the Institute together with Microsoft, Bayer, Lego (through the Costa Rican distributor Aprender Haciendo) and other companies, for the purpose of demonstrating the key role that new

technologies play in agriculture, through virtual and interactive experimentation. He added that CIMAG showcased the positive impact of artificial intelligence, 3D applications, robotics and other cutting-edge technologies on agriculture, as well as their key role in reducing rural migration and generating greater interest in agricultural professions among the younger generations.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was carried out to inaugurate the Center. Next, participants took a tour of the various interactive exhibitions of multiple technologies that foster innovation in agriculture.

Remarks by the Director of Communication for Central America, Panama and Venezuela and General Manager of Microsoft for Central America

The representatives of Microsoft commented that CIMAG was a fun and educational space developed together with Minecraft, which would facilitate the adoption of technologies that allowed for producing more food in a more sustainable manner and boosting well-being in rural areas. They added that it would enable children and youth, the real agents of change, to become empowered with digital skills and knowledge to care for the environment and water, as well as to achieve sustainable agriculture. They concluded their remarks by indicating that Microsoft was proud to put technology at the service of sustainability in the agriculture sector – a significant contributor to well-being in the region.

Remarks by the Vice-President and Head of Global Stakeholders Strategy and Affairs of Bayer

The Representative of Bayer expressed her satisfaction with the creation of CIMAG at a time when agriculture was at a crossroads, given that it was expected to be efficient and sustainable, while also increasing productivity. She noted that, in the Americas, there was tremendous potential for tomorrow's agriculture, in which farmers would have access to technologies and markets and would receive the support they required to increase the productivity of their land, save time and resources and contribute to reducing carbon in the atmosphere. She expressed her satisfaction at collaborating with IICA on a wide range of projects and stressed the fact that working together yielded more results.

Remarks by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Worship of the Republic of Costa Rica

The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Costa Rica called on the governments of the Member States of the Institute to renew their commitment to an agriculture sector that addressed needs, facilitated processes and afforded a dignified life for human beings. He stressed the fact that IICA had the capacity and the commitment to foster an agriculture sector with a human face.

Close of the session

The Opening Ceremony of the Conference of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas 2021 and the Twenty-first Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) ended at 09:24 hours on 1 September 2021.

**TWENTY-FIRST REGULAR MEETING OF THE
INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF
AGRICULTURE (IABA)**

FIRST PLENARY SESSION

1.1 Opening of the session

1.1.1 The first plenary session of the Twenty-first Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) was called to order at 09:25 hours on 1 September 2021, in the Sala Magna (United States and Canada meeting rooms) at the Headquarters of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA). The session was chaired by Mrs. Tereza Cristina Corrêa da Costa Dias, Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Supply of Brazil.

1.1.2 The Chair expressed her solidarity to the people of Haiti following the recent earthquake, as well as to all peoples in the Americas for the hardships they had experienced as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. She underscored the important role that multilateral cooperation had played in overcoming the pandemic.

1.2 Election of the Director General of IICA for the period 2022-2026

1.2.1 The Technical Secretary informed the plenary that, pursuant to articles 101 and 103 of the Rules of Procedure of the IABA, the IABA was exclusively empowered to elect the Director General, by vote of the majority of the Member States of the Institute. He added that the Director General must be elected at the IABA meeting prior to the expiration of the term in office; therefore, the Director General, who would take office on 15 January 2022, would be elected at the meeting. He clarified that, in keeping with the protocol approved by the Executive Committee in November 2000, the nomination of candidates had begun on 1 March 2021 and had ended on 16 July 2021.

1.2.2 He indicated that, on March 3 of that year, the Government of Argentina had submitted a proposal to re-elect the current Director General, Dr. Manuel Otero, in accordance with Article 105 of the Rules of Procedure of the IABA, and that no other nomination had been received. He noted that, at the Forty-first Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee, held on 28 and 29 June 2021, Dr. Otero had presented a report on the achievements during his term in office. Lastly, he announced that, at the preparatory session for the

current IABA meeting, the Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Argentina had reiterated Dr. Otero's nomination on behalf of the Government of that country.

1.2.3 The Chair of the IABA explained that, pursuant to the Rules of Procedure of that governing body of IICA, the Director General should be elected by acclamation, given that only one candidate had been nominated. There being no objection in that regard, the duly accredited heads of delegation elected Dr. Manuel Otero Justo, the candidate proposed by the Republic of Argentina, by general acclamation, as Director General of the Institute for the period 2022-2026.

1.2.4 Comments by the Member States

1.2.4.1 In her capacity as head of delegation of Brazil, the Chair expressed her appreciation for the work carried out by the Director General during his first term in office. She recognized his ability to facilitate dialogue and coordinate joint work among the countries of the hemisphere for the benefit of agriculture in the region. She reiterated her country's eagerness to continue supporting the Director General during his second term.

1.2.4.2 On behalf of the people and Government of his country, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Costa Rica congratulated Dr. Otero on his re-election. He reiterated his country's commitment to continue supporting and working alongside the Director General to achieve the objectives set out in his work plan for the benefit of the member countries.

1.2.4.3 The Representative of Costa Rica congratulated Dr. Otero on having implemented a transformation process at IICA, organizing technical dialogues among the representatives of all the countries and fostering an agriculture sector with a human face. He thanked the Director General for the support provided to his country and expressed his confidence that very positive results would continue to be achieved.

1.2.4.4 The Representative of Mexico remarked that the unanimous decision to re-elect the Director General reflected the countries' appreciation for his great work at the helm of the Institute and for his vision to strengthen regional and international cooperation. She expressed her satisfaction at participating in the meeting, which she described as an ideal forum to discuss the future of

agriculture in the hemisphere and its role in providing innovative solutions to overcome the COVID-19 pandemic. She underscored the crucial importance of participating in the United Nations Food Systems Summit. She concluded her remarks by congratulating IICA on the inauguration of the Interpretive Center for Tomorrow's Agriculture (CIMAG), which further reaffirmed the Institute's standing as the Home of Agriculture in the Americas.

- 1.2.4.5 The Representative of Colombia congratulated the Director General on his re-election. He recognized the support provided by IICA to internationalize agriculture in Colombia and by the Director General to assist Colombia in developing the Andean Agricultural Agenda of the Andean Community of Nations (CAN), addressing three key issues: a) trade and agribusiness, through a contract farming program; b) support for family farming and rural women; and c) agricultural health. He reiterated his country's commitment to working together with the Director General for the benefit of agriculture in the Americas.
- 1.2.4.6 The Representative of Paraguay congratulated the Director General on his outstanding management during his first term at the helm of the Institute and reiterated his country's support. Likewise, on behalf of the Ministers of the Southern Region, he thanked him for fostering coordination among them as well as strengthening the international standing of the countries of that region.
- 1.2.4.7 The Representative of El Salvador echoed the congratulations to the Director General on his re-election. He thanked IICA for fostering integration among the countries and, specifically, for assisting his country in transitioning from being an importer of products to a generator of wealth, thanks to the contributions of the agriculture sector. He described the Institute as an ally that assists the Americas in overcoming current and future challenges.
- 1.2.4.8 The Representative of Guyana congratulated the Director General. He expressed his confidence that the countries of the Caribbean would continue to benefit from IICA's programs. He thanked the Director General for the support the Institute had provided in the previous years to overcome severe flooding and other disasters in several Caribbean countries.

- 1.2.4.9 The Representative of St. Vincent and the Grenadines congratulated the Director General on his re-election. He underscored the assistance that IICA had provided to its member countries in addressing the COVID-19 pandemic by capitalizing on the strengths of the agriculture sector. He acknowledged the fact that recovering from the impact of the pandemic would not be easy, but that countries must continue to ensure compliance with the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. He noted that his country would continue to undertake efforts together with the Institute to achieve food security.
- 1.2.4.10 The Representative of Chile congratulated the Director General on his proactive efforts to raise the voice of the Americas in key forums, such as the upcoming United Nations Food Systems Summit 2021, as part of a long-term vision aimed at striking a balance between socioeconomic and environmental pillars to meet the major challenge of achieving sustainable development in the region. He added that, as a member of the Southern Agricultural Council (CAS), Chile was also grateful to IICA for serving as the Technical-Administrative Secretariat of CAS, and, in that capacity, giving a sense of unity to the work carried out by the Council.
- 1.2.4.11 On behalf of his Government, the Representative of Argentina expressed his satisfaction at Dr. Otero's re-election and thanked him for promoting a balanced development model in the hemisphere and for achieving the duties entrusted to him through innovative and efficient work. He noted that Argentina valued the continuity of Dr. Otero's work given his experience strengthening relations with the countries, which would allow for further improving institutional management over the next period.
- 1.2.4.12 The Representative of Jamaica echoed the comments made by the Representative of Guyana regarding the great losses caused by Tropical Storm Ida, particularly in the agriculture sector. He congratulated the Director General on his excellent work during his first term, in which he constantly involved the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). He considered that Dr. Otero was the ideal person to head the Institute. He expressed his willingness to continue working with IICA for the benefit of family farming in the region.
- 1.2.4.13 The Representative of Barbados expressed his satisfaction and gratitude to the Director General for the support provided to the countries, particularly those in the Caribbean region. He considered that the Institute's support had

been key to overcoming the great challenges facing the American continent, which included climate change, swine fever and various natural phenomena, such as volcanic eruptions and hurricanes.

- 1.2.4.14 The Representative of St. Kitts and Nevis congratulated Dr. Otero on his re-election and conveyed his support to him, noting that agriculture in the hemisphere, including in the Caribbean region, had become stronger during his term in office. He stated that IICA's support was essential to continue advancing the transformation of agriculture in his country.
- 1.2.4.15 The Representative of the United States of America reiterated his support for the re-election of the Director General, whose first term in office had been characterized by good results, such as the promotion of standards-based trade and science-based agriculture, as well as preparatory activities for the Food Systems Summit 2021. He advocated for ensuring that joint work between the countries and the Institute would foster green recovery and a more prosperous agriculture sector that could better contribute to overcoming challenges such as climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 1.2.5 Remarks by the Director General-elect
 - 1.2.5.1 The Director General conveyed his gratitude for all of the expressions of support. He reiterated his appreciation to the Government of Argentina for supporting his re-election; to all the member countries for affording him the opportunity to establish open, honest and constructive dialogue for the benefit of agriculture in the Americas; to his family for their continued support in his work; and to all IICA personnel throughout the Americas who had committed themselves to agriculture in the region at a historic moment in time, characterized by great challenges.
 - 1.2.5.2 He remarked that IICA's efforts had been aimed at becoming a pragmatic institution that worked closely with the countries and understood their realities, with a view to developing a technical cooperation agenda that was at the service of the Member States.
 - 1.2.5.3 He reiterated that his dream was to transform the Institute into an increasingly relevant, less bureaucratic organization that could provide concrete answers to the countries and foster regional integration by building bridges. He

expressed his commitment to making agriculture a strategic pillar and hallmark of transformation on the continent.

1.3 *Close of the session*

1.3.1 The first plenary session of the Twenty-first Regular Meeting of the IABA was adjourned at 10:10 hours on 1 September 2021.

**CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE
OF THE AMERICAS 2021: “SUSTAINABLE
AGRIFOOD SYSTEMS, THE ENGINE OF
DEVELOPMENT IN THE AMERICAS”**

**CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE OF THE AMERICAS
2021: “SUSTAINABLE AGRIFOOD SYSTEMS, THE ENGINE OF
DEVELOPMENT IN THE AMERICAS”**

Opening of the conference

The Conference of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas, entitled “Sustainable Agrifood Systems, the Engine of Development in the Americas”, began at 10:11 hours on 1 September 2021, in the Sala Magna (United States and Canada meeting rooms) at the Headquarters of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), located in San Jose, Costa Rica. Mrs. Tereza Cristina Corrêa da Costa Dias, Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Supply of Brazil and Chair of the IABA, served as moderator.

Greetings from the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations

The Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations (UN), Dr. Amina J. Mohammed, greeted the participants through a video. She expressed her satisfaction at the organization of the conference, which was aimed at discussing and building consensus regarding the transformation of food systems in the Americas. She indicated that preparations for the Food Systems Summit were in the final stages, despite the difficulties generated by the COVID-19 pandemic, which had taken lives, affected livelihoods and hindered progress on the 2030 Agenda.

She commented that the Pre-Summit held in July had demonstrated that governments and other stakeholders were willing to unite around the issue of food systems. She reported that more than 500 leaders had gathered in person and more than 20,000 representatives from 191 countries had participated virtually in the Summit to discuss how to accelerate food systems actions in order to meet common goals related to human development, the protection of the planet and prosperity. She mentioned that this reflected an effective multilateral process, aimed at taking action on food systems, and, in turn, boosting recovery in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic and getting back on track towards meeting the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

She emphasized the fact that the discussions held as part of that process had shown that solutions and actions must be tailored to local and regional realities, taking advantage of opportunities to innovate and accelerate joint action through inclusive approaches that complement science-based policies and processes. She concluded her remarks by

expressing her hope for a fruitful ministerial conference and her interest in learning about its results.

Keynote address by the Special Envoy to the United Nations Food Systems Summit 2021

Next, Dr. Agnes Kalibata, the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy to the 2021 Food Systems Summit, recognized the value of the conference and the importance of the summit, which had been launched by the UN Secretary-General as an opportunity for dialogue to advance towards the achievement of the SDGs, with a call to take action and meet commitments. She announced that 147 countries were committed to the process.

She informed the participants that the individuals who would work on each of the Summit's action tracks to identify solutions had already been selected. Furthermore, she indicated that 2,500 proposals for action had been received and that 52 of them had been deemed very critical, focusing on: a) feeding people; b) making contributions to minimize climate change and biodiversity loss; c) working with communities, recognizing the fact that the pandemic had increased existing inequalities; d) achieving resilience in the face of COVID-19 and climate change; and e) incorporating innovation and scientific research.

She highlighted the fact that the Summit would be action-oriented, and would include the development of an agenda whose objectives must be achieved through the establishment of commitments and partnerships. She commented that, given the complexity of food systems, the challenge was how to design this process so that actions were carried out without excluding anyone. She announced that a system for monitoring commitments would be established to guide actions towards 2030.

She stated that it was possible to achieve objectives through joint action, citing as an example the agreement between the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), an institution that she heads, and IICA. She expressed her gratitude for having been given the opportunity to participate in the conference and expressed her hope that all of the countries would participate in the Summit, which would drive progress towards achieving the objectives of an agenda for prosperity, people and the planet.

Formalization of the agreement between the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)

An agreement was signed with AGRA, bearing in mind the Institute's third Strategic Statement, which refers to developing public-private strategic partnerships and agreements for the benefit of the agriculture sector in the member countries, by implementing projects of common interest based on shared values, an agreement was signed with AGRA. The agreement will seek to share knowledge and experiences to improve rural well-being, productivity, agricultural trade and food security in an environmentally friendly manner and through the rational use of natural resources.

The Director General of IICA expressed his gratitude to Dr. Kalibata for her interest and commitment to formalizing this historic partnership as a horizontal cooperation mechanism between Africa and the Americas.

Presentation of the Report by the Chair of the 2021 Executive Committee

In his capacity as Chair of the Forty-first Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee, the Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of Paraguay reported that the meeting had been held virtually on 28 and 29 July 2021, and had been attended by the 12 Member States sitting on that governing body, as well as 20 other member countries that had participated as observers. He commented that various topics had been addressed during the meeting, including the Director General's report on progress towards achieving the Medium-term Plan (MTP) for the 2018-2022 period, the financial and administrative management of the Institute and the draft 2022-2023 Program Budget, which had been unanimously endorsed by the Committee.

He indicated that Mrs. Yvonne James of St. Lucia had been elected as a member of the Audit Review Committee (ARC), which had endorsed IICA's financial statements as certified by the external auditors. He added that the Committee had been informed that the Government of the Republic of Argentina had nominated Dr. Manuel Otero for the position of Director General for the period 2022-2026, and he mentioned that a large number of countries had recognized Dr. Otero's positive work at the helm of the Institute from 2018 to 2021.

He reported that the Executive Committee had also discussed the work carried out by IICA ahead of the Food Systems Summit 2021 convened by the Secretary-General of the United Nations. He commented that, in preparation for the summit, the Institute had organized numerous dialogues involving key stakeholders, who had been able to reach

consensus on 16 general messages on hemispheric agriculture that they would convey at the Summit.

He noted that, via Resolution No. 672, the Executive Committee had endorsed the messages about the transformation of agrifood systems, and had requested that the Chair of that governing body and the Director General of IICA send those messages to the Pre-Summit of the United Nations Food Systems Summit, which had been held from 26 to 28 July 2021, in Rome, Italy. He added that this request had been fulfilled, with support from the representatives of the countries of the Americas that had attended the event.

*Introduction to the Conference of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas 2021
“Sustainable Agri-food Systems, the Engine of Development in the Americas”*

The Director General of the Institute stated that the words expressed by Dr. Amina J. Mohammed and Dr. Agnes Kalibata conveyed a key message regarding the Summit: concrete actions would be needed to strengthen agrifood systems through greater dialogue and leadership; to that end, IICA should serve as a bridge.

He reported that, in the fourteen months since the announcement of the Food Systems Summit 2021, the Institute, in coordination with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), had organized three hemispheric ministerial meetings and 40 subregional and national meetings. In addition to participating in numerous technical events convened by the Summit Secretariat and in independent dialogues, IICA had organized three hemispheric dialogues to build consensus among the Member States, with support from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

He explained that, in order to develop an outlook on agrifood systems from the perspective of agriculture in the Americas, the Institute had produced 11 technical documents and a framework document with 16 key messages on the following four topics: a) the transformation of agrifood systems, b) consumer demands and nutritional aspects, c) production strategies and environmental issues, and d) the role of the Americas.

He listed the main principles to properly position agriculture in the hemisphere: a) agrifood systems are not failed systems, but rather systems that can be perfected; b) agricultural producers are the central link in agrifood systems; c) it is necessary to implement differentiated strategies that include family farmers, youth and women, among others; d) trade is key to the future of agrifood systems; e) science is a

fundamental input for sound policymaking; f) consumers will make their own decisions regarding food; g) sustainable and resilient systems are needed; h) special attention should be given to subregions vulnerable to climate change and natural disasters; i) agriculture is part of the solution; and j) public-private investments are needed to support public policies.

Regarding participation in the Food Systems Pre-Summit, he highlighted two events organized by IICA: the “Forum of Female Ministers and Deputy Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas” and the ministerial meeting “Food Systems: The Perspective of Agriculture in the Americas”, which had been attended by representatives of the Member States that would take part in the Pre-Summit.

As part of his final reflections, the Director General emphasized the importance of consolidating the leading role of the Americas, by sending these 16 messages to all international forums and supporting the region’s participation in establishing coalitions at the global level. He also presented some examples of initiatives to move from consensus to action, such as creating an observatory of policies on agrifood systems; developing human resources to transform these systems; promoting sustainable production systems; fostering tropical agriculture, science, technology and innovation; adopting the “One Health” approach, with emphasis on soil restoration; increasing rural digital inclusion; promoting the bioeconomy; improving international trade; implementing actions to address problems in specific regions; and driving financing for development.

He concluded his remarks by stating that, given our wealth of our natural resources and the level of development of agrifood systems, in any future scenario, the member countries of the Institute would be the guarantors of the world’s food and nutrition security and global environmental sustainability. He added that the Americas was the only region that had established a common position regarding how to approach the transformation of agrifood systems.

Dialogue

Comments by the Representative of the Northern Region

On behalf of the Northern Region, the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States of America expressed his support for IICA. He noted that all countries had been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, so it would be necessary to continue undertaking efforts to make the food chain more resilient and to work together to support farmers with

science-based decisions and innovative technologies and tools that foster a resilient agricultural production system.

He added that the countries had been working closely to define standards for fostering good regulatory practices, establish sustainable agricultural production standards and implement measures to mitigate the impact of climate change on production systems. He mentioned that the United States had been supporting IABA Resolution No. 520 regarding maximum residue limits for pesticides.

He called for defining ambitious and creative solutions to create a world with more and better biodiversity and in which rural communities had better living conditions. Lastly, he stated that agriculture must be part of the solution and encouraged the countries to work together to eradicate hunger and face the challenges of the pandemic.

Comments by the Representative of the Caribbean Region

On behalf of the Caribbean Region, the Minister of Agriculture of Guyana explained that there were multiple challenges associated with the development of sustainable agrifood systems, but that the solutions were within the reach of the countries. He pointed out that the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) was implementing an agenda to transform the agrifood system in that region.

He added that the Caribbean was one of the regions most vulnerable to the impact of climate change and natural disasters, which made it necessary to undertake swift efforts to modernize production systems; intensify measures to protect livestock farming; strengthen linkages between the agriculture, tourism and food sectors; establish public-private partnerships to produce food; and adopt digital and climate-smart agricultural technologies.

He noted that support from international organizations and external funding were crucial to increase resilience in the agriculture sector. Lastly, he recognized the support that IICA and its Director General had provided to the Caribbean countries.

Comments by the Representative of the Central Region

On behalf of the Central Region, the Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Food of Guatemala indicated that his country had a wide range of climates that were ideal for production, as well as an exceptional geographic location, although it was vulnerable to the effects of climate change. He also mentioned the strategies that his country had

implemented to promote sustainable agrifood systems and the well-being of the population.

He commented that, within the framework of the Central American Agricultural Council (CAC), there was regional consensus to transform agrifood systems in order to meet the growing demand for food, guarantee food security and increase food production and trade. He noted that this had been possible thanks to the implementation of measures aimed at fostering sanitary and phytosanitary safety and natural resource protection, expanding the supply of healthy and nutritious products for the population, strengthening education, as well as improving access to healthy diets. He cited additional factors that had contributed in this regard, such as the application of innovative technologies, the efficient use of resources, the promotion of resilience, support for cleaner production and the encouragement of public-private partnerships.

He acknowledged the fact that the region played a key role in food security and climate change mitigation, but that its rural areas had vulnerable populations, including women, youth and indigenous peoples. He agreed that the countries of the Americas shared certain characteristics and challenges that should be considered at the United Nations Food Systems Summit, and added that it was important to coordinate the work carried out by specialized agencies. He concluded his remarks by stating that public and private stakeholders must join forces in order to achieve the sustainability of agrifood systems.

Comments by the Representative of the Andean Region

On behalf of the Andean Region, the Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of Ecuador congratulated the Director General of the Institute on his re-election and on the support he had provided in driving Ecuador's sustainable development.

In her capacity as pro tempore Secretary of the Andean Community (CAN), she commented that its member countries were committed to advancing and strengthening the Andean Agricultural Agenda, which would allow for strengthening family farming and food security, as well as reactivating trade in the region.

She explained that the countries' government institutions, producer organizations and private sectors had defined the region's priorities and the mechanisms for implementing its agenda in a participatory manner. She highlighted the role of international cooperation, such as that provided by IICA, which had played an instrumental role in building the agenda and had coordinated actions with other organizations, such as FAO

and CAN. She noted that joint work within the region had allowed for overcoming the socioeconomic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

She highlighted the fact that Andean agriculture was characterized by a wealth of diversity and the development of structural solutions to the issues facing the planet. She listed the three strategic areas of action of the programs and projects included in the regional agenda: 1) agricultural health and food safety, 2) trade and agribusiness development, and 3) family farming, in which women played a fundamental role. She explained that these three areas complemented the cross-cutting issues of technology, innovation and capacity building, in which the Institute was a key player, providing assistance to eradicate rural poverty and malnutrition in children, and to care for the environment.

She reported that, on 26 July, she had participated on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture of Ecuador in the First Forum of Female Ministers and Deputy Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas, which had sparked dialogue among the eleven female ministers and secretaries of agriculture in attendance. She noted that the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock of Ecuador supported the role played by women in agrifood systems and reiterated the need to further the discussions on rural women initiated at the forum. Therefore, she presented, for consideration by the IABA, a resolution to give continuity to the forum of female ministers and deputy ministers, as a platform for dialogue for the benefit of the agriculture sector.

Comments by the Representative of the Southern Region

On behalf of the Southern Region, the Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of Paraguay shared the joint position of the CAS countries, which considered their region to be one of the world's leading suppliers of healthy, nutritious, quality food, and reaffirmed their commitment to sustainable food production.

He remarked that the regional strategy they had developed included propositions that should be put into practice. He added that a sole production model did not exist, given that models were adapted to the productive, environmental and social realities of each country. He considered that international trade was a fundamental pillar for building sustainable, resilient and inclusive food systems, as well as for developing new opportunities without arbitrary measures that could distort the proper functioning of trade. He stressed the importance of countries respecting and continuing to apply the principles and values underpinning the agreements reached through multilateral instruments.

He underscored the fact that the agreements reached in the region had served as input for the main messages that would be presented at the United Nations Food Systems Summit from the perspective of agriculture in the Americas. He highlighted the role played by IICA in driving consensus among the countries of the hemisphere. Lastly, he expressed his hope that the results of the Summit would reflect the reality of agriculture from a broad perspective, while taking into account local particularities.

Comments by the Representative of the Northern Region

On behalf of the Northern Region, the Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Development of Mexico congratulated the Director General on having taken the initiative to raise the voice of agriculture in the Americas, and especially of producers, at the Food Systems Summit. He commented on their consensus to strengthen multilateral schemes, which had demonstrated their relevance and strength during the health emergency triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic.

He considered that the agriculture sector could not continue to produce the way it had over the past 60 years, given the high price that had been paid in terms of the environment and social exclusion. He added that the current challenge involved continuing to produce food for a constantly growing population, but in a more sustainable manner; however, he acknowledged the fact that this structural change would not be easy for all countries to assume and would be simply unaffordable for others. He commented that this fact could not be ignored; otherwise, it could increase inequality between countries.

He highlighted the fact that the agriculture sector had demonstrated its resilience and capacity to adapt to new circumstances, as well as its potential to generate growth, despite the decline experienced by other economic activities at the global level. Lastly, he remarked that the future of agriculture depended on the ability to bring together adequate public policies, the strength of the private sector and inclusion of the poorest populations.

Analysis and comments by the Member States

The Representative of Canada congratulated Dr. Otero on his re-election. He thanked the Institute for its work in favor of food security, trade and the prosperity of the Americas, as well as for preparing the messages for presentation at the Food Systems Summit 2021, given that the voices from the field deserved to be heard at that event.

He mentioned that his country considered innovation to be critical and therefore welcomed the fora organized by IICA to promote this issue, along with research. He highlighted the Cooperative Program in Research and Technology for the Northern Region (PROCINORTE), as an initiative that is key to fostering collaboration in science and agricultural technologies. He referred to other possibilities for collaboration with the Institute, such as the Living Soils of the Americas initiative and the Canadian Food Innovation Network.

He indicated that another key theme for his country was trade and the importance of establishing a rules-based system for food security in the region. In this area too, he offered his country's collaboration. He urged IICA to continue spotlighting the role of rural women, who should not only be present in the fields, but also in the laboratories and other spheres. Thus, he proposed that the region consolidate the Forum of Female Ministers and Deputy Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas. Finally, he thanked the Institute's Representative in Canada for his work.

The Representative of Bolivia acknowledged the important role played by IICA in the Americas. He indicated that with the support of the Institute, as well as other allies and partner countries, fundamental work has been undertaken in relation to the production structure in his country, such as the work within the framework of CAN and CAS. He remarked that it was critical that countries prioritize production, never losing sight of realities specific to their own situation, and complementing national efforts with international cooperation.

He also mentioned that his country had approved legislation to spur the production development of small and medium-sized farmers. He underscored the need to rely on synergies and joint efforts to reactivate the economy in the post-COVID-19 pandemic era. The Representative maintained that women are fundamental to the production structure and development of a country, and thus, Bolivia was promoting women's participation in decision-making and directing efforts to define policies that would allow them to achieve more.

The Representative of Honduras endorsed the congratulations extended to the Director General. He referred to the Institute as one of his country's greatest allies and thus thanked IICA for its collaboration. He expressed his wish that in the future there would be more technical cooperation projects focusing on farmers, such as the initiatives that IICA was currently undertaking in his country, in collaboration with governmental organizations.

Reading and approval of draft resolutions

The Rapporteur read out drafts resolutions: “The transformation of agrifood systems and the role of agriculture in the Americas” and “The contribution of rural women to agriculture in the Americas”, which were approved without modifications.

Status of African swine fever and its arrival in the Americas

Remarks and report by the Minister of Agriculture of the Dominican Republic

The Representative of the Dominican Republic stated that on July 29 the government had officially confirmed the appearance of African swine fever (ASF) in that country and that from there on the issue had become a priority for the State. He indicated that the State had responded immediately, given the health, economic and social implications. A contingency plan had been put in place, using a decentralized approach and securing extensive participation by the private sector.

He revealed that bilateral discussions had been held with authorities from different countries, as well as ongoing communication with the Minister of Agriculture of Haiti, considering that the two countries occupy the same island. He also revealed that contact had been made with international organizations and the country had requested a technical support mission with representatives from the World Organization of Animal Health (OIE), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Regional Organization for Plant and Animal Health (OIRSA) and IICA. This team had remained in the country for 15 days.

He asked the IABA for its support—in spirit and in action—to tackle the emergency, given the importance to the countries. He said he was thankful for the show of solidarity by many countries and international organizations and urged the delegates to approve the resolution instructing the Institute to continue supporting all necessary actions to tackle the emergency and to prevent ASF.

Remarks and report by the Ministry of Agriculture of Haiti

The Representative of Haiti thanked IICA, the Director General and the Member States for the support in addressing the problem of ASF. She explained the difficult situation currently faced by her country, given the shortcomings in the agrifood systems, malnutrition and hunger.

She mentioned that, in addition to the ASF threat, Haiti had been hit by a recent earthquake that had devastated its Southern Department. The Representative spoke of the impact of the earthquake on the agriculture sector, having left more than 50,000 rural families homeless and thousands of hectares of land damaged, which urgently required rehabilitation and restoration.

She also indicated that since the detection of ASF by the health authorities in the Dominican Republic, it had spread, thereby endangering Haiti, given the geographic, social and economic proximity of both countries. She confirmed that an inter-ministerial commission had been activated to address the emergency, with the support of the international organizations that had already been mentioned by the Minister of Agriculture of the Dominican Republic.

She thanked the IICA Delegation in Haiti that had been supporting her country's agriculture sector for 50 years and revealed that the Delegation had assisted Haiti in conducting laboratory analyses, as part of the process to address the emergency caused by ASF.

The Representative stressed that the country was undertaking three major actions to fight the disease: a) the implementation of a massive information and sensitization campaign, b) continued detection and prevention operations, and c) the establishment of a health surveillance system involving all governmental and non-governmental actors in the agriculture sector.

She maintained that the implementation of an agricultural irrigation system, seedbanks, rehabilitation of cultivated soils and environmental protections were priorities for her ministry. Finally, she made an appeal for solidarity for the Haitian people, in general, and the rural agricultural community, specifically.

Presentation by the Director General of the World Organization for Animal (OIE)

The OIE Director General, Dr. Monique Eloit, advised that after more than 40 years since its eradication in the region, ASF had once again been detected in the Americas, specifically in the Dominican Republic, and that, in all likelihood, it would spread to Haiti. Furthermore, she stated that the necessary measures to control the situation had been adopted, given that the disease produces high mortality rates among swine.

She commented that national and international economies had been greatly affected, as had the global supply of pork products. She underscored the fact that, since there was no vaccine, prevention and control were critical. She added that the only tools to control a contagious disease such as this one were biosecurity, respect for public health order, inter-sectoral collaboration (agriculture, customs, tourism, etc.) and coordinated joint actions among countries.

The OIE Director General acknowledged the inter-institutional efforts undertaken by the OIE, FAO, IICA and OIRSA. She issued an appeal to countries to strengthen the capacities of their veterinary services and control measures, as well as to foster communication campaigns based on OIE standards. She also maintained that joint efforts would enable countries to control the disease and therefore urged the delegations to support draft resolution “Ministerial commitment to support the fight against African swine fever”.

Presentation by the Deputy Director General and Regional Representative of FAO for Latin America and the Caribbean

The FAO Deputy Director General and Regional Representative for Latin America and the Caribbean, Mr. Julio Berdegué, reiterated his commitment to continue working with the Institute and its Director General to achieve the organizations’ common goals.

He warned that the arrival of ASF to the Dominican Republic represented a health emergency for the entire hemisphere. He indicated that in the face of this threat, the key words would have to be cooperation, collaboration and coordinated work, without exceptions. He explained that the FAO would work within the global framework to control cross-border animal diseases and the collaborative forums that had been established, with the participation of the OIE, IICA, OIRSA, the Caribbean Animal Health Network (CaribVet) and friendly nations, such as Brazil, Canada, Mexico, Cuba and the United States of America.

He urged the governments of the Dominican Republic and Haiti to work collaboratively and in a coordinated manner to contain the disease. He revealed that once FAO received the reports from the group of experts that had analyzed the situation in both countries, it would spare no effort to assist in implementing the recommendations and mobilizing the financial resources that would be essential.

Analysis and comments

The Chair of the IABA, in her capacity as the Representative of Brazil, explained that ASF is a troubling disease that had been spreading to several countries around the world, with grave consequences. She maintained that addressing the disease was a matter of urgency, pointing out that although not transmissible to humans, it could affect the hemisphere's economy and the livelihood of its people. This would therefore call for coordinated actions among all countries.

The Director General of the Institute expressed his solidarity to the Haitian people, in light of the impact of the August 14 earthquake. He revealed that ICA would work on a draft resolution in support of this Member State, with a view to promoting an urgent campaign to support the donation of seeds for the production season that was slated to begin. With respect to the ASF situation, he pledged IICA's willingness to continue assisting with the actions that had been taking place and to adopt the mandates issued by the current IABA meeting to address the situation.

Reading and approval of draft resolution

The Rapporteur read out draft resolution "Ministerial commitment to support the fight against African swine fever", which was approved without modifications.

Close of the Conference

The Conference of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas 2021: "Sustainable Agrifood Systems, the Engine of Development of the Americas", ended at 12:28 hours on 1 September 2021.

**CONTINUATION OF THE TWENTY-FIRST
REGULAR MEETING OF THE INTER-
AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (IABA)**

SECOND PLENARY SESSION

2.1 Opening of the session

2.1.1 The second plenary session of the Twenty-first Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) was called to order at 08:04 hours on Thursday, 2 September, in the Sala Magna (United States and Canada meeting rooms) at the Headquarters of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA). It was chaired by Mrs. Tereza Cristina Corrêa da Costa Dias, Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Supply of Brazil.

2.2 Report by the Director General on his management during the period 2018-2022

2.2.1 The Director General expressed satisfaction with the first working day of the meeting, which he believed was highly productive, establishing the guidelines to further develop the agrifood systems of the Americas.

2.2.2 He stated that the 2018-2022 Medium-term Plan (MTP) had proposed a series of strategic directions to foster institutional transformation, based on an interpretation of changes in the agriculture sector of the hemisphere, and with a view to providing first-class technical cooperation to the countries.

2.2.3 He described three contextual elements of the 2018-2021 period: the deceleration of the global economy, climate change and the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, all of which had influenced the transformation of agrifood systems. He maintained that the Institute is a service-driven organization, guided by processes that aim for efficiency and efficacy, the promotion of dialogue, knowledge management and the establishment of strategic partnerships.

2.2.4 He underscored the primary institutional achievements of his administration: 1) a more integrated and coordinated organization, 2) the establishment of a knowledge management platform, 3) intensified dialogue mechanisms among countries, regions and other actors, 4) more efficient administrative management, 5) more and better communications, and 6) an open-door approach.

- 2.2.5 With respect to a more integrated and coordinated IICA, he explained that during the 44 months of his administration, the Institute had engaged with 201 partners from the public and private sectors and from civil society. Moreover, it had created a new map of strategic partnerships to administer technical cooperation.
- 2.2.6 In reference to its knowledge management platform, he remarked that IICA was working in accordance with a model based on targeted actions, inter-disciplinary efforts and the strengthening of conceptual frameworks, and implemented by way of five hemispheric programs: Bioeconomy and Production Development; Climate Change, Natural Resources and Management of Production Risks; International Trade and Regional Integration; Territorial Development and Family Farming; and Agricultural Health, Safety and Food Quality. Moreover, there are two cross-cutting areas of focus: innovation and technology; and gender and youth.
- 2.2.7 The Director General also explained that IICA had engaged in more than 850 technical cooperation actions of hemispheric, regional and national scope. For example, he mentioned the Living Soils of the Americas initiative—a partnership with The Ohio State University—which had led to the development of a network of public, private and civil society institutions aiming to reverse soil degradation and increase agricultural sustainability. Another example was the partnership with Precision Agriculture for Development (PAD), designed to promote digital inclusion. Notable examples he mentioned were a project in Northeast Brazil, involving 100,000 producers, as well as a project in the rural zones of Colombia.
- 2.2.8 He reported that IICA had a visiting professionals and internship program, in which 150 young people had participated to date. He also advised the meeting that 67 experiences on good agricultural practices had been systematized and 140 virtual courses had been presented, training 100,000 people in 80 countries. Approximately 40,000 certificates had been issued.
- 2.2.9 The Director General underscored the fact that the Institute had organized and held three hemispheric meetings of ministers and secretaries of agriculture, in conjunction with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). It had also conducted several meetings of regional scope: 14 with the Central American countries, 2 with the Mesoamerican countries, 5 with the Andean Community of Nations (CAN), 5 with the

Pacific Basin countries, 7 with ministers from the Caribbean Region and 10 with the Southern Agricultural Council (CAS).

- 2.2.10 He explained that at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, IICA had put together a High-level Advisory Council for Food Security, with 11 international experts in the political, academic and business spheres, all of whom had recognized experience in technical cooperation issues. He indicated that the council held periodic meeting to analyze issues related to global and hemispheric agriculture and to assess their impact on the Institute's actions. He confirmed that IICA had selected 10 individuals of renowned prestige to serve as IICA Goodwill Ambassadors.
- 2.2.11 He commented that agreements with the Central American Agricultural Council (CAC) and CAS had been renewed, as had the provision of support to CAN and the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS).
- 2.2.12 He reported on IICA's participation in the process leading up to the Food Systems Summit, during which time it had conducted numerous formal and informal meetings at the national, subregional, hemispheric and international levels, involving stakeholders from the public and private sectors and civil society. He mentioned that the process had culminated with the preparation of 11 technical documents and 16 messages that had been presented at the Conference of Ministers on the previous day.
- 2.2.13 In relation to the achievements that pointed to the efficiency of his administration, he mentioned the process-oriented approach, cost reduction, an increase in the cash flow and the improvement in the time to respond to demands. He pointed out that the auditors had issued clean opinions in their reports. These achievements resulted from the implementation of a new business model and financial architecture, the Program to Accelerate the Mobilization and Execution of External Resources (PACE) and a sustained strategy involving institutional monitoring, training and skills certification, network creation and the management of a portfolio of institutional products.
- 2.2.14 He also mentioned that to strengthen its communication, the Institute had established an Advisory Committee on Communication, comprising journalists from eight countries in the Americas. He reported that the number of mentions of IICA in the media had tripled; the dissemination of technical

content had risen significantly; and there had been a substantial increase in the Institute's social media presence.

2.2.15 The Director General then referred to the achievements made under the IICA of Open Doors initiative. The organization had created AgroArt, a virtual art gallery; it had presented a tribute to the heroes of agriculture; for the sixth consecutive year, IICA Headquarters had received the Ecological Blue Flag award and was working towards becoming a carbon neutral organization. Moreover, the Interpretive Center for Tomorrow's Agriculture (CIMAG) had been launched; the Typical Rural House was built, in tribute to Costa Rica's roots; and the organization had also established a Fab Lab, an initiative designed to optimize the use of information and communication technologies in agriculture in the Americas. He recalled that on 7 October, IICA would celebrate its 79th anniversary. On that significant date, the organization would lay the cornerstone of the Plaza of Agriculture of the Americas, which was to be erected at the entrance to Headquarters.

2.2.16 He mentioned that agriculture in the hemisphere should guarantee global food and nutritional security and the environmental sustainability of the planet. Finally, he indicated that the IICA of the 21st Century should be a first-class organization that works alongside countries to strengthen and transform the agrifood systems of the Americas.

2.2.17 Analysis and comments

2.2.17.1 The Chair of the IABA referred to efforts by the Administration of the Institute to rationalize the use of resources, which was something she considered extremely important at a time in which most countries were facing financial difficulties and budgetary restrictions. She commented that IICA should continue working efficiently and facilitating countries' efforts to fulfill their agendas. She mentioned that the Director General had redirected the Institute's actions, by prioritizing projects of interest to the countries.

2.2.17.2 The Representative of Mexico congratulated and thanked the Director General for his achievements since his appointment in 2018. She underscored the formulation of the 2018-2022 MTP; the organization of dialogues and regional and hemispheric discussions; the creation of international partnerships to address priority issues in agriculture; the establishment of a knowledge management platform; the creation of the Advisory Committee

on Communication; and the partnership with the FAO to conduct hemispheric meetings, in a bid to identify solutions to the major challenges in the sector. She also recognized the austerity measures applied by the current Administration and the work of the IICA Delegation in Mexico, which had fostered dialogue, promoted knowledge management and undertaken various technical cooperation actions in coordination with the Secretariat of Agriculture and Rural Development (SADER).

- 2.2.17.3 The Representative of Canada thanked the Director General for his extraordinary work in recent years at the helm of the Institute and for his leadership in promoting good institutional and financial governance. He underscored the response by IICA to the demands of the countries during the COVID-19 pandemic, as an excellent example of coordination to manage the crisis. He indicated that his country also appreciated the Institute's work in the area of international trade, regional integration and gender and youth.
- 2.2.17.4 The Representative of Honduras thanked IICA for collaborating with his country, which considered the Institute as one of its greatest allies in the area of agriculture. He confirmed that he hoped to work with and support the Director General in any new projects he would undertake during the upcoming term.
- 2.2.17.5 The Representative of Trinidad and Tobago congratulated the Director General on his re-election and for his astute leadership. He spoke about the impact of climate change, the crisis triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic and the arrival of African swine fever to the Americas. He offered his country's support to identify measures to control the threat and to mitigate the devastation of agricultural systems. He mentioned that his country would continue working with the Institute to achieve food security.
- 2.2.18 Reading and approval of draft resolutions
- 2.2.18.1 The Rapporteur read out the following draft resolutions: "Management Report of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) for the period 2018-2021", "General power of attorney of the Director General-elect of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture for the period 2022-2026", and "Authorization for the Forty-Second Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee to approve the Medium-Term Plan of

the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) for 2022-2026”. All were approved without modifications.

2.3 *Presentation of Leader of Rurality award to Mrs. Elvia Monzón*

- 2.3.1 The Advisor to the Director General on Institutional Communication introduced Mrs. Elvia Monzón, who is president of a coffee producers’ cooperative in her native Guatemala and also heads a training and organizational initiative for women. He explained that Mrs. Monzón had been a beneficiary of one of the technical cooperation activities of the Central American Program for Integrated Coffee Rust Management (PROCAGICA), funded by the European Union.
- 2.3.2 He also indicated the Institute had conferred eight awards on producers who were making a difference in the sector and who were outstanding, given their work to improve conditions in the agriculture and rural sector.
- 2.3.3 The Director General remarked that the “Leaders of Rurality” program seeks to acknowledge those who are responsible for food production and who are making a difference in multiple spheres, such as crop management, producer organizations, training and trade, among others.
- 2.3.4 He remarked that Mrs. Monzón is a leader in her organization and in her family and a custodian of the environment. He explained that the purpose of the award is to motivate producers to continue making agriculture in the Americas an activity that provides prosperity and well-being.
- 2.3.5 Mrs. Elvia Monzón thanked IICA for recognizing the work of women in rural areas, who get up every day to provide for their families. She also thanked the Institute for its work to benefit small coffee farmers. She indicated that she is a member of a women’s cooperative and represents a second-tier organization that has 700 coffee farmers as members, who also cultivate other products to feed their families.
- 2.3.6 She congratulated all the leaders from the countries of the Americas who were participating in the IABA meeting and whose efforts were benefitting the families of farmers.

- 2.4 *Signing of Agreement between the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)*
- 2.4.1 As part of the strategy to promote the forging of alliances and public and private agreements to benefit the agriculture sector of member countries, the Institute then proceeded to sign a framework agreement with the Green Climate Fund (GCF).
- 2.4.2 It was stated that the purpose of the GCF is to assist in curbing climate change. To this end, it provides support to developing countries to define their nationally determined contributions (NDCs) and to move toward low emission and climate resilient development pathways.
- 2.4.3 The framework agreement will enable IICA to access funds to assist Member States in efforts to adapt to climate change and to mitigate its effects.
- 2.4.4 The Director General indicated that the Institute had satisfied all requirements and undertaken all procedures for accreditation to the GCF. He mentioned that the agreement would open up more opportunities to Member States to allow them to obtain financial and technical resources that would assist them in promoting climate smart agriculture, through projects valuing from USD 10 to 50 million. He explained that IICA would support the countries in designing, executing and evaluating projects to benefit producers.
- 2.4.5 Mr. Javier Manzanares, GCF Deputy Executive Director, mentioned that a few days earlier, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change had published its latest Assessment Report, which had reiterated a warning that, despite considerable efforts, the world was still far from achieving the objectives of the Paris Agreement, and in turn avoiding the devastating effects of climate change. Therefore, this had demonstrated the need for immediate, rapid and large-scale action by all countries.
- 2.4.6 He maintained that the signing of the framework accreditation agreement with the Institute was an important step in ensuring that the commitments by Latin American and Caribbean countries to tackle climate change would be even stronger in the future. He also expressed his hope that the Fund would benefit from IICA's wealth of experience in supporting the climate resilience agenda, through the development of technical cooperation projects.

- 2.4.7 Mr. Manzanares remarked that the GCF was pleased to welcome IICA as the 18th entity accredited in the region. He indicated that the Fund had allocated 1.85 billion dollars to 41 climate projects in Latin America and the Caribbean and explained that this association would enable his organization to increase climate financing in the region. In closing, he said that there was great potential for enhanced cooperation between both organizations and for the promotion of a wide range of climate actions.
- 2.5 *Outlook for Agriculture and Rural Development in the Americas: A Perspective on Latin America and the Caribbean*
- 2.5.1 The IICA Director of Technical Cooperation began the presentation of the report “Outlook for Agriculture and Rural Development in the Americas: A Perspective on Latin America and the Caribbean 2021-2022”. He stressed that this was the ninth edition of the report, which is a joint publication between the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), FAO and the Institute.
- 2.5.2 Afterwards, Mrs. Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary of ECLAC; Mr. Julio Berdegué, FAO Regional Representative for Latin America and the Caribbean; and Mr. Manuel Otero, IICA Director General, presented the report, by way of a video.
- 2.5.3 Mrs. Alicia Bárcena, the ECLAC Executive Secretary, spoke about the global and regional context. She maintained that the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the region had made the analysis of agrifood systems more relevant than ever. She reported that the region had suffered 32% of the total number of COVID-19-related deaths in the world, although it accounted for only 8.4% of the world population. The Executive Secretary mentioned that the crisis had exposed the vulnerabilities of Latin America and the Caribbean, explaining that in 2020 the region saw a 6.8 decline in GDP – the worst contraction in economic activity it had experienced in 120 years. Moreover, the pandemic had also exacerbated social imbalances and structural problems that would persist during the post-pandemic recovery period.
- 2.5.4 She said that the impact of the crisis arising out of the pandemic included increased inequality and poverty. She also pointed out that unemployment had risen, particularly in the informal sector, affecting 80% of workers in the

agriculture sector, in addition to creating a ten-year setback in women's participation in the labor market. According to Mrs. Bárcena, unemployment also contributed to greater food insecurity and malnutrition. She reported that food price indices had grown at a higher rate than the general price index, which had helped to increase the "double burden of malnutrition", that is the coexistence of malnutrition and obesity.

- 2.5.5 She declared that the current scenario had demonstrated the need to move from the emergency to recovery, building a new future through a transformative recovery, based on equality and sustainability. She argued that the region should take advantage of the sense of urgency produced by the crisis to create more robust, inclusive, sustainable and competitive agrifood systems. According to her, this would require the Americas to strengthen its role as a global food supplier, without affecting its biodiversity and fragile ecosystems. It would also need to move towards more agroecological production practices and systems, relying on nature-based solutions and the development of the bioeconomy. Finally, it would have to create synergies and complementarities between ancestral knowledge and scientific knowledge, between digital technologies and life sciences, and between production for export and for local markets.
- 2.5.6 Afterwards, Mr. Julio Berdegué, Regional Director of the FAO, referred to the chapter in the report focusing on agricultural transformation amidst the challenges and opportunities of the post-pandemic scenario. He explained that the Latin America and Caribbean region has an immense food production capacity, given its large tracts of land, seas, freshwater and biodiversity, along with its 17 million farmers and 2 million fisherfolk, most of them small-scale producers who are able to transform natural resources into food for the world.
- 2.5.7 Despite this positive scenario, he felt that the region should determine how to transform its agrifood systems, given that half of its rural population was living in poverty; 60 million inhabitants were suffering from hunger; one third of its soils were degraded and half of its fishing areas were overfished. He explained that, unlike previous generations, farmers today must produce on a planet that is threatened by climate change and these conditions will be even more severe for the farmers of the future, if we do not introduce measures quickly. He also commented that future consumer demand

regarding the way in which we produce food will probably require changes in agrifood systems.

- 2.5.8 He explained that not every aspect of the systems has to change, given that, in some cases, the best response to climate change, to the obesity epidemic caused by poor nutrition, or to hunger, may be to preserve, rather than to transform. He also said that transformation cannot be a radical or immediate process, nor a single unified process for all, but rather the sum of numerous partial, decentralized, autonomous transitions, that are nationally and locally specific, because the countries and the numerous forms of agriculture that co-exist in the region are all unique.
- 2.5.9 He concluded by indicating that the pandemic did not affect food production as much as other sectors, but it did reveal its weaknesses. He explained that, given the threats and opportunities, those with the greatest capacity to innovate will come out ahead.
- 2.5.10 Finally, the Director General of the Institute highlighted the special chapter in the joint report that speaks to the issue of the digitalization of agriculture, as a means of strengthening and accelerating the recovery and transformation of agrifood systems. He remarked that digital technologies represent an alternative to tackle the challenge of how to increase agricultural production, making it more sustainable and resilient, with more efficient and accessible markets, producing safer, more nutritious and traceable food, and allowing for greater inclusiveness and a better quality of life for all players in rural areas. He explained that digital technologies enable efficient generation and processing of large volumes of data, facilitate the connection between people and devices and help to strengthen linkages between rural and urban areas.
- 2.5.11 He said that the digitalization of agriculture in Latin America and the Caribbean is in its infancy and its application is still limited and unequal, as illustrated by the following: a) a low level of connectivity, demonstrated by the fact that 60% of the rural population of our hemisphere has no access to quality internet service; b) the fact that existing capacities for the full use of digital technologies are still very limited, since less than 17% of rural inhabitants are versed in using digital technologies; and c) the limited user friendliness and usefulness of some available technologies.

- 2.5.12 He remarked that the time had come to move towards achieving three minimum conditions: a) the development of a long-term vision based on leadership, political compromise and policy integration, which should be differentiated; b) the implementation of efficient and inclusive institutional and governance mechanisms, through intersectoral and inter-institutional coordination processes within the framework of partnerships with civil society and private sector stakeholders; and c) the development of a series of tools to enable anticipation, evaluation and formulation of policies that are science-based.
- 2.5.13 He commented that institutional frameworks should be revamped. He pointed to one policy weakness – the fact that only 17% of the public agricultural budget was invested in innovation, biosecurity and infrastructure, despite the well-recognized economic and social returns generated from this investment. Finally, he emphasized that institutional transformation should be supranational in scope, which would call for the participation of international cooperation and financing organizations, academia and research systems.
- 2.5.14 Analysis and comments
- 2.5.14.1 Mrs. Jeanette Sánchez, Director of ECLAC’s Natural Resources Division, congratulated Dr. Manuel Otero on his re-election as Director General of IICA and reaffirmed ECLAC’s commitment to continue collaborating with the Institute, as it had over the last twelve years, through joint research on agrifood systems and actions aimed at driving agricultural development in the Latin American region. She said that ECLAC shares IICA’s vision to build more sustainable, resilient and inclusive food systems that create well-being for rural families and regions. Finally, she thanked FAO for assisting in the preparation of the report.
- 2.6 2020 Report on strategic partnerships
- 2.6.1 The IICA Director of External and Institutional Relations presented the 2020 report on the Institute’s strategic alliances, with the support of a video that she projected.

- 2.6.2 She mentioned that IICA recognizes that strategic alliances play a fundamental role in identifying solutions to the new challenges in the hemispheric agriculture sector.
- 2.6.3 She explained that the Institute's strategic alliances are based on four main pillars: a) Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) number 17, which seeks to strengthen the means of implementing and revitalizing the global partnership for sustainable development; b) the 2018-2022 MTP, which positions IICA as a multilateral organization with a new framework of strategic alliances, aimed at procuring external, human and financial resources to address the needs of its 34 Member States; c) the Institute's third Strategic Statement, which emphasizes the development of public and private partnerships and agreements to benefit the agriculture sector; and d) IICA's new business model, aimed at strengthening technical cooperation for the long-term.
- 2.6.4 She indicated the Institute was of the view that strategic alliances should: a) be inclusive and long term, fostering sustainable relationships with multiple intersectoral partners; b) impact development, by promoting efficient and first-class development actions, in conjunction with partners that add value and complement IICA's actions; c) facilitate work in networks, enabling IICA to improve its positioning and prestige throughout the world, by establishing networks with partners at different spheres of influence; and d) improve the mobilization of external resources, through innovative and sustainable financing schemes that facilitate investment to achieve a resilient agriculture sector in the 34 Member States.
- 2.6.5 She pointed out that in 2020, the Institute worked with 211 counterparts and signed 34 agreements with institutional partners and public and private organizations: 11 international organizations, 7 public sector entities, 7 private entities, 6 academic and research institutions, 2 civil society organizations and a multilateral development bank. Moreover, she said that the agreements covered the following areas: territorial development and family farming; climate change and natural resources; production risks; innovation and technology; agricultural health, safety and food quality; bioeconomy and production development; gender and youth; and international trade and regional integration.

2.7 Remarks by the Secretary-General of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM)

2.7.1 Dr. Carla Barnett, Secretary-General of CARICOM, indicated that in addition to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Caribbean had to address other essential areas to achieve food security.

2.7.2 She maintained that IICA was a key CARICOM partner, collaborating with the community on several initiatives in its strategic plan to benefit the agriculture sector, such as initiatives to improve the economy, through income and employment generation; to boost agricultural resilience; to improve trade; to foster greater competitiveness of the sector; and to achieve sustainability in the region.

2.7.3 She explained that CARICOM was also implementing actions to safeguard natural resources, foster agrotourism, strengthen agrifood systems, promote food security and tackle extreme climate events. She also pointed out that the 16 messages of the Institute to position agriculture at the Food Systems Summit coincided with the objectives of the Community. She ended her message by indicating that public and private partnerships are essential to enabling the Caribbean to overcome the obstacles it faces and to achieve its proposed objectives.

2.8 Financial and programmatic-budgetary situation

2.8.1 Financial Statements of IICA for 2019 and 2020 and Reports of the External Auditors

2.8.1.1 The Director of Corporate Services reported that the 2019 and 2020 financial statements had been prepared, audited and approved in strict adherence to generally accepted accounting principles in the United States (US GAAP). He presented the results of the 2020-2019 external audit, carried out by the audit firm Deloitte, which concluded that “(...) the financial statements of IICA present fairly, in all material aspects, the financial position of IICA as of the years ended 31 December 2020 and 2019”. He emphasized that for the third consecutive year the statements had received a clean audit opinion.

2.8.1.2 He mentioned that the external auditors had included a special chapter on measures that the Institute had implemented to tackle the adverse effects of

the COVID-19-pandemic. The auditors had pointed out that IICA's rapid response to the emergency had prevented operations from being affected significantly. He also stated that the external auditors had concluded that the work from home and flexible work modality had been operating successfully in all the Institute's delegations, while offering greater protection to employees and enabling compliance with the measures implemented by the countries.

2.8.1.3 He said that the external auditors had noted that IICA's strategy of prioritizing expenses to respond to the needs of the Member States, as well incurring savings in budgetary expenses and optimizing the use of resources, had enabled the Institute to safeguard its finances.

2.8.2 Twenty-sixth and Twenty-seventh Reports of the Audit Review Committee (ARC)

2.8.2.1 Mrs. Carla Pike pointed out that the work of the external auditors complied with International Auditing Standards and with IICA's rules. She also stated that, in the opinion of the external auditors, IICA's financial statements presented fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of IICA as at 31 December 2020 and 2019, as well as changes in its net assets and cash flow as at the above dates, in accordance with US GAAP.

2.8.2.2 She stated that the ARC was encouraging the Institute to follow up on the timely collection of outstanding quotas. Moreover, in light of events arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, she recommended that IICA continue with initiatives to economize and to safeguard its financial position. Finally, she congratulated the Institute on having received a clean opinion from the external auditors.

2.8.3 2022-2023 Program Budget

2.8.3.1 The IICA Director of Corporate Services outlined the basic principles used in developing the Institute's Program Budget for the 2022-2023 two-year period: a) the Program Budget funds the MTP; b) the Regular Fund is financed from the quotas of Member States and miscellaneous income; c) the Program Budget is aligned with the Institute's strategic planning and programming; d) miscellaneous income had declined by 28.57% (USD 1,000,000) with respect to 2019, when it amounted to USD 3,500,000;

and e) the IICA quota scale had been defined on the basis of the percentages approved by the Organization of American States (OAS).

2.8.3.2 He indicated that the income budget for the 2022-2023 two-year period was USD 32,074,100. Of this amount, USD 29,574,100 had been derived from Member State quotas and USD 2,500,000 from miscellaneous income. He advised that the percentage allocation of the resources of the Regular Fund, according to budgetary chapter, was as follows: a) direct technical cooperation services: 88.9% in 2022 and 89.1.0% in 2023; b) management costs: 6.1% for the biennium; c) general costs and provisions: 4.3% in 2022 and 4.1% in 2023; and d) renewal of infrastructure and equipment: 0.7% for the biennium. Finally, he gave details on IICA's allocation of resources, by programming center and major object of expenditure.

2.8.4 Report on the collection of quotas

2.8.4.1 The Manager of the Financial Management Division presented the Report on the Collection of Quotas from Member States, both as at the close of 2020, as well as for the current year, updated to 25 August 2021. She referred to Article 23 of the Convention on IICA and Resolution No. 414 of the IABA, "Revised Measures for the Collection of Quotas Owed to the Institute", which states that Member States shall contribute to the financial support of the Institute through annual quotas established by the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), in accordance with the calculation system for OAS quotas.

2.8.4.2 She indicated that at the end of 2020, 16 countries were up to date in their payments, 15 were in regular status (owning quota payments for less than two years) and 3 were in arrears (owing more than two years of payments). She also reported that as at August, 11 countries were up to date in their payments; 19 were in regular status and 4 were in arrears. She advised that as at 25 August of the current year, USD 21.6 million had been received from the Member States.

2.8.4.3 She stressed that pursuant to IABA Resolution 414, quotas for the current year would be considered overdue if they had not been paid by 30 June of the same year, as this was considered a reasonable date for payment of the annual quotas, which are due on 1 January of each year. Finally, she requested the support and efforts of the Member States to pay their quotas, given that is

essential to enabling the Institute to continue undertaking technical cooperation actions and fulfilling its work plan to benefit the Member States.

2.8.5 Reading and approval of draft resolutions

2.8.5.1 The Rapporteur read out draft resolutions “2022-2023 Program Budget”, “Report on the collection of quotas” and “2019 and 2020 Financial statements of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, Report of the external auditors and Twenty-sixth and Twenty-seventh report of the Audit Review Committee (ARC)”, which were approved without modifications.

2.9 Close of the session

2.9.1 The Second Plenary Session of the Twenty-first Regular Meeting of the IABA was adjourned at 10:36 hours on 2 September 2021.

THIRD PLENARY SESSION

3.1 Opening

The Third Plenary Session of the Twenty-first Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IABA) began at 10:38 hours on Thursday, 2 September, in the Sala Magna (United States and Canada meeting rooms) of the Headquarters of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), chaired by Mrs. Tereza Cristina Corrêa da Costa Dias, Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Supply of Brazil.

3.2 Matters pertaining to the governing bodies of IICA

3.2.1 Approval of the Bylaws of the Inter-American Commission on Organic Agriculture (ICOA)

3.2.1.1 The Technical Secretary explained that the ICOA is a permanent commission established by the IABA, and that it had proposed amending its bylaws, in order to fulfill its mandate more effectively. He advised the plenary that the ICOA had presented its report and its proposal to amend its bylaws at the Forty-first Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee. He reported that on 27 July 2021, the draft bylaws had been sent to the Member States of the Executive Committee to allow them to review them and to send their observations. Moreover, the draft amendments were uploaded to the online information system of the meeting, for consideration and subsequent approval by the IABA.

3.2.2 Report on the Status of Resolutions of the Twentieth Regular Meeting of the IABA and of the Fortieth and Forty-first Regular Meetings of the Executive Committee

3.2.2.1 The Technical Secretary stated that the reports on the status of resolutions adopted at the Twentieth Regular Meeting of the IABA and the Fortieth and Forty-first Regular Meetings of the Executive Committee had been made available to the Member States in advance via the online information system of the meeting, in accordance with institutional regulations. He explained that

the reports provided details on the status of implementation of each of the resolutions adopted at the aforementioned meetings.

3.2.3 Date and venue of the Twenty-second Regular Meeting of the IABA

3.2.3.1 The Technical Secretary informed the delegates that up to that time no Member State had offered to host the Twenty-second Regular Meeting of the IABA, and thus the meeting would be held at IICA Headquarters in the second half of 2023.

3.2.4 Analysis and comments

3.2.4.1 The Representative of Haiti thanked the Institute for the solidarity and support given to her country to overcome the devastation of the recent earthquake; for its technical cooperation actions to combat African swine fever (ASF); and for actions to support the Haitian agriculture sector.

3.2.4.2 The Representative of the United States of America underscored the importance of continuing to work together to support science-based decision-making and to use technologies and tools that would guarantee resilient and sustainable agricultural production. He remarked that in 2019, the IICA Member States approved Resolution No. 520 of the IABA, “Ministerial commitment to pesticide-related provisions of the WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures”. Moreover, he said that since then, IICA had continued with processes to register and align maximum residue limits, in accordance with good practices, science and Codex Alimentarius.

3.2.5 Reading and approval of draft resolutions

3.2.5.1 The Rapporteur read out draft resolutions “Amendments to the Bylaws of the Inter-American Commission on Organic Agriculture (ICOA)”, “Status of the Resolutions of the Twentieth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture and the Fortieth and Forty-first Regular Meetings of the Executive Committee” and “Date and venue of the Twenty-Second Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture”. The resolutions were approved without modifications.

3.3 *Close of the session*

- 3.3.1 The Third Plenary Session of the Twenty-first Regular Meeting of the IABA was adjourned at 10:50 hours on 2 September 2021.

CLOSING SESSION

4.1 Opening

4.1.1 The closing session of the Twentieth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) began at 10:51 hours on 2 September 2021, in the Sala Magna (United States and Canada rooms) of the Headquarters of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA). It was chaired by Mrs. Tereza Cristina Corrêa da Costa Dias, Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Supply of Brazil.

4.2 Remarks by the Director General of IICA

4.2.1 The Director General thanked the Chair of the IABA for her excellent steering of the meeting, as well as the Rapporteur for his work and all the Member States for supporting his re-election. He assured them that he was committed to continue working with the entire IICA team to make this an institution providing first-class technical cooperation.

4.2.2 He also thanked the countries for endorsing the 16 messages that summarized the vision of the Americas and that would be presented at the United Nations Food Systems Summit and other global forums.

4.2.3 He assured them that he was pleased that the meeting had touched on so many important issues and had approved the related resolutions. He expressed his wish that the next IABA would be a face-to-face meeting, although safeguarding everyone's health was still the top priority.

4.3 Remarks by the IABA Rapporteur

4.3.1 The Representative of Belize, in his capacity as Rapporteur, thanked the plenary for allowing him to assume this role and remarked that the two days of work and consensus had underscored the importance of IICA's work to benefit the member countries.

4.4 Remarks by the Chair of the IABA

4.4.1 The Representative of Brazil, in her capacity as Chair of the IABA, commented that the meeting had been highly productive, raising issues that were key to making the region a producer of safe food. She thanked the Rapporteur for his work in reading out the draft resolutions and thanked the Member States for appointing her as Chair of the meeting. She stated that she was pleased at the level of responsibility and involvement shown by all the delegations and for their contributions to benefit agriculture in the Americas.

4.5 Close of the meeting

4.5.1 The closing session of the Twenty-first Regular Meeting of the IABA was adjourned at 11:00 hours on 2 September 2021.

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IICA/JIA/Res. 530 (XXI-O/21)
2 September 2021
Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 530

**MANAGEMENT REPORT OF THE INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR
COOPERATION ON AGRICULTURE (IICA) FOR THE PERIOD 2018-2021**

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (IABA), at its Twenty-first Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/JIA/Doc. 406 (21), “Report by the Director General on his Management During the Period 2018-2021” and the corresponding presentation by the Director General of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) on that same issue,

CONSIDERING:

That the Executive Committee, at its Forty-first Regular Meeting, by means of Resolution IICA/CE/Res. 670 (XLI-O/21), resolved to accept the 2018-2021 Management Report of the Director General; and

That the Management Report presented by the Director General at the Twenty-first Regular Meeting of the IABA contains an adequate summary of the work of the Institute, under the leadership of Dr. Manuel Otero, during the period 2018-2021, as well as the results obtained during this period, which were made possible through the support provided by the Member States of the Institute,

RESOLVES:

1. To accept the 2018-2021 Management Report presented by the Director General.
2. To congratulate the Director General and the staff of the Institute on the results achieved in technical cooperation during the aforementioned period, as well as in the process to modernize IICA at the financial and technical levels.

IICA/JIA/Res. 531 (XXI-O/21)

1 September 2021

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 531

**THE TRANSFORMATION OF AGRIFOOD SYSTEMS AND THE ROLE
OF AGRICULTURE IN THE AMERICAS**

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (IABA), at its Twenty-first Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/JIA/Doc. 407 (21), “IICA on the Road to the 2021 Food Systems Summit: a vision from the perspective of agriculture in the Americas”,

CONSIDERING:

That the Secretary-General of the United Nations (UN) convened the Food Systems Summit 2021 to evaluate how the global food system is functioning and to propose actions by the international community to achieve healthier, more sustainable and equitable food systems;

That the Summit represents a unique opportunity to define actions at the national and international levels, aimed at creating agrifood systems that are more efficient and capable of satisfying the multiple objectives required to enable all people to access sufficient food that is safe for human health, sufficiently nutritious, as well as environmentally and socially sustainable;

That agrifood system transformation processes should take into account the views and facilitate the participation of agricultural producers, other production chain stakeholders and the ministries of Agriculture of the countries of the Americas;

That the value of the contribution of the hemisphere’s agriculture sector to global food and nutrition security should be acknowledged, bearing in mind the following three principles: a) agricultural producers should be adequately represented and their leading role in the transformation of food systems should be fully recognized; b) decisions and

public policies should be science-based; and c) agriculture is part of the solution to the main challenges that humanity should consider when looking to the future;

That the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), as the agency of the Inter-American system specializing in agriculture, has become involved in the process leading up to the Food Systems Summit 2021, by assisting and supporting its Member States and by organizing numerous dialogues for action, in which key stakeholders have participated and reached a consensus regarding messages that the agriculture and rural sector of the Americas should convey at the Summit;

That, by way of these dialogues, the participants have arrived at a definitive consensus with respect to the transformation and strengthening process required to improve agrifood systems in our hemisphere;

That, on the occasion of the Food Systems Pre-Summit in Rome, Italy, IICA presented a document presenting the perspective of the Americas in relation to agrifood systems, which had been approved at the Forty-first Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Institute, and which reflects the joint position of the countries of the Americas ahead of the UN Food Systems Summit; and

That IICA is a member of the Summit Champions Network, a position from which it is seeking to ensure that the voice of the farmers of the Americas is heard at the Summit,

RESOLVES:

1. To express full support for the general messages of the hemisphere's agriculture sector with a view to the Food Systems Summit 2021, which are incorporated as an annex to this resolution.
2. To request that the Chair of the IABA and the Director General of the Institute send these messages to the Summit.
3. To invite the Member States of IICA, where possible, to incorporate these messages in support of the agrifood systems of the Americas into the positions that they will adopt at the Food Systems Summit 2021.
4. To request that the Director General include in the 2022-2026 Medium-term Plan (MTP) of the Institute a strategic and proactive

approach to agrifood system transformation in the Americas, which will enhance the contribution of the hemisphere's agriculture sector to global food and nutrition security, bearing in mind the following principles: a) recognition of the important role of agricultural producers in this process, b) the need to generate solutions to bring about this change, based on the priorities of the countries; and c) the promotion of partnerships and coalitions with all production sectors.

5. To thank IICA and the Director General for the excellent work undertaken to support the participation of Member States in the process leading up to the Food Systems Summit 2021.

ANNEX

On the road to the United Nations Food Systems Summit: key messages from the perspective of agriculture in the Americas¹

1. Framework for a conceptual and policy-related discussion on food systems²

The 2021 United Nations Food Systems Summit presents a unique opportunity to advance processes that will enable the continued transformation of food systems to sustainably enhance food and nutritional security throughout the world.

Agricultural producers, and other food systems stakeholders should be central to the process of transformation and the ministries of Agriculture of the countries of the Americas and should take into account their perspectives. In preparation for the Summit, these countries—through the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)—are highlighting the contribution of the agriculture sector of the Americas to global food and nutritional security and are thus emphasizing the following three principles: i) agricultural producers should be adequately represented and their leading role in the transformation of food systems should be fully recognized; ii) the decisions and policies to be adopted should be science-based; and iii) agriculture is part of the solution to the main challenges faced by humanity now and into the future.

Based on this, the Institute has organized several related dialogues, engaging the participation and contribution of key stakeholders, who have reached a consensus regarding messages that the agriculture and rural sector of the Americas should convey at the Food Systems Summit. The dialogues have allowed the participants to arrive at a definitive consensus with respect to the transformation and strengthening process required to improve food systems in the hemisphere, and globally. Therefore, a series of messages are being proposed, which have been grouped into four general categories that are summarized below and then explained in greater detail in section 2 of this document.

First of all, **certain principles for the transformation of food systems** have been identified. While broadly speaking, global food systems have functioned efficiently to feed the world's growing population, many people across the globe lack access to

¹ This document has been prepared on the basis of three dialogues that were held with representatives of the Member States on May 12 and 25 and on June 15, 2021.

² The terms “food systems” and “agrifood systems” are used interchangeably in this document, in order to recognize agriculture’s central role in achieving food security.

sufficient, safe, and affordable food. There are still certain challenges and room for improvement in various areas including: production; agricultural health and food safety; nutritional quality; and in the three dimensions of sustainability: environmental, economic and social. The agriculture sector has played a central role in this system and has proven itself to be resilient to shocks and stresses. On the other hand, the proposed transformation should of necessity consider environmental health (with special emphasis on soil health and water), as well as human and animal health, given their importance and the interconnection between the three dimensions. Furthermore, international agricultural trade is a key aspect of food systems, given its direct impact on the orientation of production and consumption processes. Thus, it should be open, transparent and predictable, while safeguarding against the unilateral imposition of unjustified tariff and non-tariff barriers.

The second area of messaging addresses issues related to **consumer demand and nutritional aspects**. It emphasizes that for a diet to be healthy and balanced it should include diverse foods in sufficient quantities and should be available to all strata of the population. Decisions on what to consume are individual and it is the responsibility of States to promote food-related educational and informational campaigns.

The third category focuses on **production strategies and environmental matters**. Strategies should seek to capitalize on scientific and technological innovations, digitalization and the bioeconomy, among other aspects. Their implementation will call for adequate levels of public and private investment, as well as the support of international cooperation and financing.

Category four emphasizes the **role of the Americas** in global food and nutritional security and the provision of ecosystem services. The region comes to this debate from the perspective that the Americas will be pivotal to achieving long-term environmental and food equilibrium—in all its dimensions—as a primary actor in international food markets and a region endowed with abundant natural resources and biodiversity that must be conserved for future generations. On the other hand, although the countries of the region face common challenges, there is also a great deal of heterogeneity among and within each of them, as they have different subsystems, subregions and approaches to production. Therefore, instead of generalizing or proposing universal formulas, we should be guided by the principle of locally adapted solutions according to national realities. Tackling the challenges will call for production policies in rural areas, as well as social protection policies targeting the most vulnerable sectors. Poverty and inequality persist within the region and are incompatible with the notion of progress that underpins the debate leading up to the Summit

The close to 17 million family farmers in agrifood systems deserve special mention and recognition, as their production is closely tied to the food security of the American hemisphere and to many of the achievements made within the framework of these systems. Also worthy of special mention and attention are the women, young people, rural poor, and indigenous groups who are a part of the diversity of rural societies in the Americas.

The key specific messages for each of these four areas are detailed below, reflecting and embodying the essence of food systems in the Americas.

2. Main messages

2.1 Transformation of agrifood systems

Message 1. In recent decades, global food systems have largely successfully met the food demand, which has been increasing, due to population growth and greater per capita income. Thus, future transformation should build on the system's demonstrated strengths and contributions already made.

Message 2. Agricultural producers and other food systems workers are an essential and central link in the food system. Without agricultural production, there would be no raw material to transform into food, thereby seriously endangering food security. In addition, agriculture is central to poverty eradication, rural development and provides key ecosystem services for sustainable food systems.

Message 3. The transformation of global food systems should strike a balance among the following objectives: the capacity to increase food production levels and variety; agricultural health and food safety; nutritional diversity and quality; and environmental, economic and social sustainability. It is recognized that there is no single model and the balances and trade-offs will differ according to country and subregion, and responsibilities; thus, transformation should be varied, in keeping with the realities and specificities of each location, ensuring that this transition is just and fair, leaving no one behind.

Message 4. Open, transparent and predictable international trade is essential for an efficient global food system and should be governed by multilateral rules and standards, with a view to promoting agricultural trade liberalization and a reduction in tariff and non-tariff restrictions. The multilateral system should play an increasingly active role

in limiting and reducing measures which distort trade and production and ensure the adoption and application of science-based sanitary and phytosanitary measures.

2.2 Consumer demand and nutritional aspects

Message 5. Decisions about what to consume should be left to consumers. Consumer choices could be based on historical and cultural factors and on accessibility and availability, among other considerations, and should be respected. The State should educate and inform the public about healthy diets and develop prevention campaigns to safeguard public health, based on the latest information and scientific evidence.

Message 6. High-quality protein, carbohydrates (grains and sugars), fats and fortified and biofortified foods are the building blocks of a balanced and nutritious diet that contributes to human health.

Message 7. The desired and necessary increase in fruits, legume and vegetable consumption will only be possible if significant efforts are made to increase production and educate the population for the consumption of these products and in the logistics for their commercialization, thus making them more competitive and accessible, particularly to lower-income consumers.

Message 8. The implementation of sustainable production systems throughout the entire value chain, within the context of “One Health” or other approaches that benefit public health, is a useful strategy to develop agrifood systems that optimize health outcomes recognizing the interconnection between people, animals, plants, and their shared environment.

2.3 Production strategies and environmental factors

Message 9. The new frontiers of science and technology represent a strategic opportunity to move towards developing a more productive and sustainable agriculture sector, given that they facilitate greater precision and efficiency. Circular and bioeconomy approaches that focus on resource use efficiency (including the sustainable intensification of production), the reduction and reuse of agricultural production waste for the production of other goods, as well as investment in research and development (R+D), are key aspects of this new scenario.

Message 10. Food production systems are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change. The challenges posed by climate change make it essential to focus efforts on adaptation in order to ensure the resilience of the system and maintain the production necessary for food security. Agricultural production should move in the direction of sustainable systems that provide a balance between carbon

emission and carbon capture, while considering positive external factors resulting from ecosystem services, all of which will require systems that quantify and promote their usage. The new technologies contribute to reconciling agricultural production with environmental and ecosystem health, which is an indispensable factor for agriculture's resilience.

Message 11. Achieving a more balanced and efficient food system will require an investment plan for widescale development of production, transportation, and logistics technology and infrastructure. For these investments to be effective, countries must design and execute medium-term strategic plans that facilitate the creation of public-private partnerships. States should invest in basic infrastructure and public goods, into which private actors may then channel their investments. These efforts will call for significant support from international cooperation and financing

2.4 The role of the Americas

Message 12. The Americas contribute to global food and nutritional security, by being the main food exporting region and the largest ecosystem service provider and source of biodiversity. The region is also critical to environmental sustainability and the mitigation of climate change effects at the global level.

Message 13. For agriculture to contribute to achieving these global balances, there must be production inclusion and social protection policies geared towards ensuring social and economic sustainability and addressing the deficiencies experienced by the most vulnerable sectors in rural areas. These policies should apply to the entire spectrum of producers and pay special attention to the needs of family farmers, youth, rural women and rural poor and indigenous groups.

Message 14. Agricultural producers are at the heart of agrifood systems in the Americas, operating within a wide variety of systems and production approaches, including family farming. It is therefore essential that they participate in the debate surrounding the differentiated strategies to be implemented and their design.

Message 15. The Caribbean requires special consideration, given that it is a food import-dependent subregion, subject to frequent natural disasters and climate change and made up of smaller and less agriculturally competitive island States. Strengthening resilience to climate events, reducing levels of food insecurity and applying international cooperation and financing approaches to deal with the new context are priorities that should be considered, particularly with respect to the Eastern Caribbean and Haiti.

Message 16. The food insecurity situation with social, economic and environmental implications affecting the Northern Triangle of Central America also deserves special attention.

IICA/JIA/Res. 532 (XXI-O/21)
2 September 2021
Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 532

**REPORT ON “THE OUTLOOK FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL
DEVELOPMENT IN THE AMERICAS: A PERSPECTIVE ON LATIN AMERICA
AND THE CARIBBEAN”**

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (IABA), at its Twenty-first Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

The report, “The Outlook for Agriculture and Rural Development in the Americas: A Perspective on Latin America and the Caribbean”,

CONSIDERING:

That, in Ministerial Declaration Bávaro 2001, the countries of the Americas pledged to target the problem of rural poverty and to make significant strides in reducing it;

That Article 3.a of the Rules of Procedure of the IABA establishes that this highest-level governing body of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) is to take note of the report of the Director General of the Institute on the status of the development of agriculture and the rural milieu in the Americas; and

That the General Directorate has presented to the Member States of the Institute the report entitled “The Outlook for Agriculture and Rural Development in the Americas: A Perspective on Latin America and the Caribbean,” which was prepared jointly by IICA, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), and which highlights the key role of agrifood systems in the rural and agricultural transformation in Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as the actions needed to drive that transformation in the recovery period in the aftermath of the Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic,

RESOLVES:

1. To accept the report, “The Outlook for Agriculture and Rural Development in the Americas: A Perspective on Latin America and the Caribbean,” a document that will prove extremely useful for the governments of the region as input for analysis and policy formulation.
2. To urge ECLAC, FAO and IICA to continue to jointly prepare this report, to operate the platform www.agrirural.org and to generate additional, complementary products, by allocating the necessary human, financial and other resources to successfully carry out these tasks.
3. To request that the member countries of the Institute supply the official information required to continue advancing towards the development of a competitive, sustainable and inclusive agriculture sector.

IICA/JIA/Res. 533 (XXI-O/21)

2 September 2021

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 533

**AUTHORIZATION FOR THE FORTY-SECOND REGULAR MEETING OF
THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO APPROVE THE MEDIUM-TERM PLAN
OF THE INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR COOPERATION ON
AGRICULTURE (IICA) FOR 2022-2026**

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (IABA), at its Twenty-first Regular Meeting,

CONSIDERING:

That Article 2.a of the Rules of Procedure of the IABA states that a function of this highest-level governing body of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) is to adopt measures related to the policies and actions of the Institute and, consequently, to approve IICA's medium-term plans (MTPs);

That the Director General-elect, with the participation of the Member States, is required to prepare a proposed IICA MTP for the period 2022-2026, based on the mandates issued by the Executive Committee and the IABA;

That, to facilitate implementation of the MTP, there must be consistency between the mandates of the Plan and the Institute's budget, and that, therefore, it is advisable to ensure that said Plan establishes the financial requirements for its implementation in the period 2022-2026; and

That, inasmuch as the IABA will not hold a regular meeting in 2022, authority must be delegated to the Executive Committee, at its Forty-second Regular Meeting, to review and approve the proposed IICA MTP for 2022-2026 and the necessary adjustments to the allocation of funds in the 2022-2023 Program Budget for its implementation,

RESOLVES:

1. To instruct the Director General to prepare the Institute's MTP for 2022-2026, in consultation with the Member States, bearing in mind the IABA and Executive Committee resolutions that are currently in force, and to include in the Plan a strategic and proactive approach to agrifood system transformation that enhances the contribution of the hemisphere's agriculture sector to global food and nutrition security and recognizes the important role of agricultural producers in this process.
2. To authorize the Executive Committee to approve, at its Forty-second Regular Meeting, IICA's 2022-2026 MTP, together with adjustments to the allocation of funds under the Institute's 2022-2023 Program Budget required for its implementation.

IICA/JIA/Res. 534 (XXI-O/21)
2 September 2021
Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 534

**THE CONTRIBUTION OF RURAL WOMEN TO AGRICULTURE IN
THE AMERICAS**

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (IABA), at its Twenty-first Regular Meeting,

CONSIDERING:

That approximately 58 million women live in rural areas in Latin America and the Caribbean and despite the fact that, like men, they are engaged in food production, their work is under-reported and undervalued, and only 10% of them have access to credit and only 5% to technical assistance programs;

That it is essential and extremely relevant that the countries of the Americas incorporate women into agricultural development and rural production processes, under conditions that enable equity and gender equality; therefore, highlighting the role of rural women and fostering the development of sound public policies that are of benefit to them is a matter of urgency;

That tackling gender inequalities and reducing the gender-related gaps that rural women face will require the implementation of gender sensitive policies, programs and affirmative actions, as well as the increased participation of rural women in decision-making, particularly in mixed enterprises and in the public sector;

That, in implementing the 2018-2022 Medium-term Plan (MTP), the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) has sought to guarantee the full participation of women in an equal opportunity environment and to promote their empowerment in all areas of participation, with a view to building their capacities, valuing and promoting their contribution to production processes, and increasing their access to the benefits of rural development;

That, on July 27th of this year, the Director General convened, the I Forum of Female Ministers and Deputy Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas within the

framework of the 2021 Food Systems Pre-Summit in Rome, Italy, and 12 countries participated;

That the women participating in that forum expressed an interest in establishing an institutional forum for discussion and information exchange to share experiences on dealing with matters such as access to credit, availability of new technologies, land tenure and ownership and other areas in which rural women in the Americas have been historically disadvantaged; and

That the Institute is continuously creating opportunities for dialogue with woman leaders in rural areas of the Americas that address their problems, as well as their needs and contributions to the development of rurality, and that these dialogues have resulted in the establishment of the Hemispheric Platform for Rural Women, which is a valuable tool that will contribute to their empowerment,

RESOLVES:

1. To ensure that the contribution of rural women of the Americas to agricultural and rural development is fully recognized in all cultural, social, and productive sectors, particularly, given the severe limitations imposed on rural women by the global health emergency triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic.
2. To endorse the conclusions of the I Forum of Female Ministers and Deputy Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas and other rural women's forums in the hemisphere, with respect to the need to spur the development of sound public policies with a gender focus that benefit women who live and work in rural areas.
3. To entrust the Director General of IICA with the task of creating an institutional discussion forum for women who are Ministers, Deputy Ministers and other high-level public sector authorities, as well as representatives of rural women of all ethnicities in the Member States of the Institute, in a bid to raise awareness about the role of rural women and to propose gender-sensitive policies that reduce gender gaps and inequalities and facilitate women's participation and inclusion in rural development on an equal footing.

4. To request that the Director General ensure that the strategic vision and technical cooperation actions aimed at reducing gender gaps and inequalities are strengthened in the 2022-2026 Medium-term Plan, with a view to increasing the empowerment and equitable inclusion of rural women in the development of the agrifood systems of the Americas.

IICA/JIA/Res. 535 (XXI-O/21)

1 September 2021

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 535

**MINISTERIAL COMMITMENT TO SUPPORT THE FIGHT AGAINST
AFRICAN SWINE FEVER**

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (IABA), at its Twenty-first Regular Meeting,

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT:

The dietary, economic and social importance of the pork sector in the countries of the Americas,

CONSIDERING:

That on 29 July 2021, the Government of the Dominican Republic issued an official notification regarding the appearance of African swine fever (ASF) in that country, using the mechanism established by the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE);

That the Minister of Agriculture of the Dominican Republic informed the participants at this Regular Meeting of the IABA about the current situation and actions that are being taken to manage ASF in that country;

That the Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Haiti informed the participants at this Regular Meeting of the IABA about actions that his country is implementing to prevent ASF;

That ASF could affect the stability of the pork industry in the Hemisphere, particularly for medium- and small-scale farmers, and therefore, collaboration between official veterinary services and the private sector is imperative;

That ASF poses no risk to human health, neither from direct contact with affected animals nor through the consumption of any product of pork origin;

That appropriate management of a health emergency requires transparent communication among the different actors involved in attention, response and recovery;

That, to mitigate the progressive spread and endemic persistence of ASF, application of the OIE's international standards on ASF is recommended, as well as the adoption of recommendations by the Standing Group of Experts on African Swine Fever (SGE-ASF) of the Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs);

That the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures of the World Trade Organization (WTO) reaffirms the right of member countries to protect the health of humans and animals;

That the aforementioned agreement establishes that the health measures of these countries should be based on scientific principles and risk analysis to ensure that international trade takes place without discrimination or unjustified restrictions;

That capacity building in risk analysis, as well as the updating and improvement of the emergency plans of official agricultural health services are essential for the prevention and control of transboundary and other animal diseases; and

That the implementation of national, regional and hemispheric actions and initiatives, supported by the coordinated and complementary actions of international organizations, is important for efforts to prevent and combat ASF, as they allow for the optimization and adequate use of the available technical and financial resources, while also facilitating safe trade,

RESOLVES:

1. To thank the Government of the Dominican Republic and the Government of Haiti, by way of their Ministers of Agriculture, for the efforts that both countries are undertaking in the health, economic and social spheres to control and eradicate ASF.
2. To recognize the importance of the implementation of national, regional and hemispheric actions and initiatives by the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), the International Regional Organization for Plant and

Animal Health (OIRSA), the General Secretariat of the Andean Community (SG-CAN), the Standing Veterinary Committee of the Southern Cone (CVP), the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the Caribbean Animal Health Network (CaribVET), the Pan-American Association of Veterinary Sciences (PanVet), the Latin American and Caribbean Feed Industries Association (FeedLatina), the Ibero-American Pork Organization (OIPORC) and the veterinary services of the countries of the Americas, to prevent and combat ASF in a coordinated and complementary manner, under the umbrella of the GF-TADs.

3. To request that the Director General of IICA assist in the development and execution of binational projects and actions and the implementation of work plans defined at the subregional level to support efforts to address the emergency, in coordination with the GF-TADs, to eradicate the source of the outbreaks and to prevent and contain the spread of the virus, thereby enabling the American hemisphere to regain its ASF-free status.
4. To request that the Director General of IICA, in collaboration with the Member States of the Institute and the GF-TADs, identify financial and technical resources to support the development and execution of projects and actions to prevent ASF, focusing on the following issues:
 - a) Technical capacity building of official veterinary services;
 - b) Risk management and communication;
 - c) Updating and improvement of health emergency preparedness and management plans, including the development of ASF contingency plans, standardized operations manuals and recovery plans, aimed at protecting production, trade and the food supply; and
 - d) Development and strengthening of strategic alliances, in particular public-private partnerships.

IICA/JIA/Res. 536 (XXI-O/21)

2 September 2021

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 536

**SUPPORT FOR THE RECOVERY OF THE AGRICULTURE AND RURAL
SECTOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF HAITI**

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (IABA), at its Twenty-first Regular Meeting,

CONSIDERING:

That the Republic of Haiti experienced the effects of an earthquake on August 14 in the country's southern peninsula, resulting in the regrettable loss of at least 2,000 lives and extensive material damage, including the destruction of more than 61,000 homes, and affecting close to 137,000 families, particularly in rural areas;

That, among other serious consequences, the damage to agricultural production, rural infrastructure and food supply channels has further endangered the food security of that country's inhabitants;

That the agriculture sector and food security in Haiti have been further debilitated by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the recent passage of Tropical Storm Grace;

That the international community has mobilized efforts in support of the Republic of Haiti, to assist the Government and people to tackle the emergency and to strengthen national capacities to enable a swift recovery; and

That the countries of the Americas, in collaboration with the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and other international organizations, have always been sympathetic in emergencies of a similar nature and their solidarity and support have made a decisive impact on agricultural rehabilitation, the re-establishment of the affected population and on the strengthening of capacities to address future emergencies,

RESOLVES:

1. To express complete solidarity with the people and Government of the Republic of Haiti and to recognize the efforts being made to address the current emergency.
2. To urge the member countries of IICA, to the extent that they are able, to commit to provide technical and financial assistance to support that country, particularly resources that will help to guarantee food security.
3. To instruct IICA to collaborate with its strategic partners to provide technical cooperation services and to coordinate the necessary assistance to mitigate the impact on the agriculture and rural sector of Haiti, particularly to support family farmers with seeds and inputs, given the upcoming planting season for corn and beans.

IICA/JIA/Res. 537 (XXI-O/21)

2 September 2021

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 537

2022-2023 PROGRAM BUDGET

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (IABA), at its Twenty-first Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/JIA/Doc. 408 (21), “2022-2023 Program Budget”,

CONSIDERING:

That the Convention on the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) establishes:

- i. In Article 8.b, that a function of the IABA is “to approve the biennial Program-budget and to determine the annual quotas of the Member States”,
- ii. In Article 14.b, that a function of the Executive Committee is “to examine the proposed biennial Program-budget that the Director General submits to the Board and to make such observations and recommendations as it deems appropriate”, and
- iii. In Article 23, that “the Member States shall contribute to the maintenance of the Institute through annual quotas established by the Board, in accordance with the system for calculating quotas of the Organization of American States”;

That the Director General submitted the proposed 2022-2023 Program Budget to the Regular Meeting of the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues (SACMI), held in April 2021; and

That the Director General submitted the proposed 2022-2023 Program Budget for consideration by the Executive Committee at its Forty-first Regular Meeting, in a format consistent with the structure and content established in the rules currently in effect, and that, by way of resolution IICA/CE/Res. 673 (XLI-O/21), the Committee recommended that the IABA approve it,

RESOLVES:

1. To approve the overall allocation of USD 32,074,100 per year from the Institute's Regular Fund for the 2022-2023 Program Budget, financed by;
(i) USD 29,574,100 in annual quota contributions from the Member States, as indicated in the scale attached hereto as Annex A, which includes the assessed quotas computed in accordance with the percentages established in the quota scale approved by the OAS General together with over-quota contributions, and (ii) USD 2,500,000 per year in estimated miscellaneous income
2. To approve the use of resources for the 2022-2023 Program Budget, in the amount of USD 32,074,100, in accordance with the allocations for each of the chapters, headings and programs specified in Document IICA/JIA/Doc. 408 (21), "2022-2023 Program Budget," of which a summary by chapter is attached to this resolution as Annex B.
3. To authorize the Director General to effect transfers among chapters of the Program Budget, provided that the total transfers do not significantly affect the priorities approved.
4. To authorize the Director General to make the necessary adjustments in the allocation of resources approved in this resolution, should the combined income for fiscal years 2022 and 2023 fall below the estimated levels, and to inform the Executive Committee and the IABA of this situation.
5. To instruct the Director General to ensure that any additional over-quota contribution received that exceeds the total amount approved for the 2022-2023 biennium is applied to the Regular Fund to finance the 2022-2023 Program Budget.

ANNEX A
Quota Scales of Member States, Over-Quota Contributions,
and Miscellaneous Income - 2022 and 2023 (in USD)

MEMBER STATES	2022				2023			
	IICA				IICA			
	OAS ¹	ASSESSED QUOTA	OVER-QUOTA	TOTAL QUOTAS	OAS ¹	ASSESSED QUOTA	OVER-QUOTA	TOTAL QUOTAS
	%	USD ²	USD ²	USD ²	%	USD ²	USD ²	USD ²
Antigua and Barbuda	0.037	10,900	1,100	12,000	0.044	12,900	1,100	14,000
Argentina	3.458	1,014,500	247,000	1,261,500	3.687	1,082,100	247,000	1,329,100
Bahamas	0.054	15,800	7,000	22,800	0.058	17,000	7,000	24,000
Barbados	0.038	11,100	5,500	16,600	0.044	12,900	5,500	18,400
Belize	0.037	10,900	1,100	12,000	0.044	12,900	1,100	14,000
Bolivia	0.081	23,800	600	24,400	0.086	25,200	600	25,800
Brazil	14.359	4,212,500	0	4,212,500	15.309	4,493,000	0	4,493,000
Canada	11.297	3,314,200	0	3,314,200	12.045	3,535,100	0	3,535,100
Chile	1.631	478,500	14,600	493,100	1.739	510,400	14,600	525,000
Colombia	1.888	553,900	0	553,900	2.013	590,800	0	590,800
Costa Rica	0.295	86,500	2,500	89,000	0.315	92,400	2,500	94,900
Dominica	0.037	10,900	1,100	12,000	0.044	12,900	1,100	14,000
Dominican Republic	0.309	90,700	3,500	94,200	0.329	96,600	3,500	100,100
Ecuador	0.463	135,800	3,500	139,300	0.494	145,000	3,500	148,500
El Salvador	0.088	25,800	12,500	38,300	0.093	27,300	12,500	39,800
Grenada	0.037	10,900	1,100	12,000	0.044	12,900	1,100	14,000
Guatemala	0.197	57,800	13,800	71,600	0.210	61,600	13,800	75,400
Guyana	0.037	10,900	1,700	12,600	0.044	12,900	1,700	14,600
Haiti	0.037	10,900	4,200	15,100	0.044	12,900	4,200	17,100
Honduras	0.050	14,700	3,200	17,900	0.053	15,600	3,200	18,800
Jamaica	0.061	17,900	5,100	23,000	0.065	19,100	5,100	24,200
Mexico	7.458	2,187,900	0	2,187,900	7.951	2,333,500	0	2,333,500
Nicaragua	0.037	10,900	2,800	13,700	0.044	12,900	2,800	15,700
Panama	0.220	64,500	6,000	70,500	0.235	69,000	6,000	75,000
Paraguay	0.100	29,300	8,800	38,100	0.107	31,400	8,800	40,200
Peru	1.158	339,700	9,400	349,100	1.235	362,500	9,400	371,900
Saint Kitts and Nevis	0.037	10,900	1,100	12,000	0.044	12,900	1,100	14,000
Saint Lucia	0.037	10,900	1,100	12,000	0.044	12,900	1,100	14,000
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	0.037	10,900	1,100	12,000	0.044	12,900	1,100	14,000
Suriname	0.037	10,900	4,200	15,100	0.044	12,900	4,200	17,100
Trinidad and Tobago	0.149	43,700	15,000	58,700	0.159	46,700	15,000	61,700
United States of America	53.150	15,592,500	0	15,592,500	49.990	14,671,400	0	14,671,400
Uruguay	0.343	100,600	7,900	108,500	0.366	107,400	7,900	115,300
Venezuela	2.236	656,000	0	656,000	2.384	699,700	0	699,700
SUB TOTAL	99.490	29,187,600	386,500	29,574,100	99.451	29,187,600	386,500	29,574,100
Cuba	0.514	150,800	0	150,800	0.548	160,800	0	160,800
TOTAL QUOTAS	100.004	29,338,400	386,500	29,724,900	99.999	29,348,400	386,500	29,734,900
MISCELLANEOUS INCOME²		2,500,000		2,500,000		2,500,000		2,500,000
TOTAL REGULAR FUND³		31,687,600		32,074,100		31,687,600		32,074,100

Note: 1) The Kingdom of Spain contributes an annual quota of USD 60,000 as an Associate Member, pursuant to the agreement adopted in the First Plenary Session of the Eleventh Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture, held on November 26, 2001, in Bávaro, Dominican Republic.

1/ As per Resolution CP/RES. 1103 (2168/18), adopted by means of AG/RES. 1 (LIII-E/18) of the Organization of American States General Assembly.

2/ In USD rounded to the nearest hundred.

3/ The total of the Regular Fund does not include Cuba.

ANNEX B**Allocation of the Regular Fund by Chapter - 2022 and 2023 (in USD)**

CHAPTER	2022		2023	
	REGULAR FUND		REGULAR FUND	
	USD	%	USD	%
CHAPTER I: Direct Technical Cooperation Services	28,529,014	88.9%	28,572,045	89.1%
CHAPTER II: Management Costs	1,944,481	6.1%	1,943,625	6.1%
CHAPTER III: General Costs and Provisions	1,374,000	4.3%	1,332,000	4.2%
CHAPTER IV: Renewal of Infrastructure and Equipment	226,605	0.7%	226,430	0.7%
TOTAL	32,074,100	100.0%	32,074,100	100.0%

IICA/JIA/Res. 538 (XXI-O/21)
2 September 2021
Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 538

REPORT ON THE COLLECTION OF QUOTAS

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (IABA), at its Twenty-first Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/JIA/Doc. 409 (21), “Report on the Collection of Quotas”,

CONSIDERING:

That financing of the operation of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and its technical cooperation projects can only be achieved if Member States remain current with the payment of their annual quota contributions;

That the IABA, at its Thirteenth Regular Meeting, by means of Resolution IICA/JIA/Res. 414 (XIII-O/05), adopted the document “Revised measures for collecting quotas owed to the Institute”;

That, thanks to the support of the Ministers of Agriculture and other authorities in the Member States, the measures adopted and the efforts of the General Directorate of IICA, the collection of quotas has contributed to the satisfactory implementation of the technical cooperation services established in the 2020-2021 Program Budget of the Institute; and

That the payment of quotas by the Member States must be accelerated to enable the Institute to continue fulfilling its mission to encourage, promote and support agricultural and rural development in the countries, especially given the issues they are facing as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic,

RESOLVES:

1. To thank the Ministers of Agriculture and Foreign Affairs, as well as other high-level government officials of IICA's Member States, for the efforts they have been making to honor their annual quota payments to the Institute in a timely fashion.
2. To acknowledge the fact that, amidst the difficult situation that IICA and its Member States are facing as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, it has become even more important to maintain in effect the measures established by the Executive Committee and the IABA to urge the Institute's Member States to make their annual quota payments and pay arrears for previous years in a timely fashion.
3. To maintain in effect the measures established by the Executive Committee and the IABA to encourage the Member States to make their annual quota payments to IICA in a timely fashion and to pay arrears for previous years.
4. To instruct the Director General of the Institute to continue efforts to collect the quotas of the Member States, both for the current year and previous years, and to keep the Member States informed of progress in this area.
5. To strengthen the commitment of the Member States to remain current with the payment of their annual quotas, and to reach an agreement with IICA, as necessary, for the payment of quotas owed for previous years.

IICA/JIA/Res. 539 (XXI-O/21)

2 September 2021

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 539

**2019 AND 2020 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE INTER-AMERICAN
INSTITUTE FOR COOPERATION ON AGRICULTURE (IICA), REPORT OF THE
EXTERNAL AUDITORS AND TWENTY-SIXTH AND TWENTY-SEVENTH
REPORTS OF THE AUDIT REVIEW COMMITTEE (ARC)**

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (IABA), at its Twenty-first Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Documents IICA/JIA/Doc. 410 (21), “Financial Statements of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) for 2019 and 2020 and Reports of the External Auditors”, and IICA/JIA/Doc. 411 (21), “Twenty-sixth and Twenty-seventh Reports of the Audit Review Committee (ARC)”,

CONSIDERING:

That the Executive Committee, pursuant to articles 3.c and 4.d of its Rules of Procedure, examined, at its Fortieth and Forty-first Regular Meetings, the financial statements of the Institute and the reports of the external auditors for 2019 and 2020, and by means of resolutions IICA/CE/Res. 662 (XL-O/20) and IICA/CE/Res. 675 (XLI-O/21), recommended that the documents in question be submitted for the consideration of the IABA;

That, in its Twenty-sixth and Twenty-seventh Reports, the ARC stated that it had examined the reports of the external auditors and found that the General Directorate of the Institute had properly administered IICA’s financial resources, in accordance with the rules of the Institute and with generally accepted auditing standards; and

That the Executive Committee, at its Fortieth and Forty-first Regular Meetings, resolved to approve said reports by means of resolutions IICA/CE/Res. 662 (XL-O/20) and IICA/CE/Res. 675 (XLI-O/21),

RESOLVES:

1. To approve the 2019 and 2020 financial statements of the Institute, as well as the reports of the external auditors.
2. To accept the Twenty-sixth and Twenty-seventh Reports of the ARC.
3. To express to the members of the ARC the satisfaction and appreciation of the IICA Member States for the work accomplished.

IICA/JIA/Res. 540 (XXI-O/21)

2 September 2021

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 540

**AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION
ON ORGANIC AGRICULTURE (ICOA)**

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (IABA), at its Twenty-first Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/JIA/Doc. 416 (21), “Proposed Amendments to the Bylaws of the Inter-American Commission on Organic Agriculture (ICOA),”

CONSIDERING:

That organic agriculture has been experiencing continuous growth, in response to the accelerated growth in the demand for these types of agricultural products in national and international markets;

That via Resolution IICA/CE/Res. 484 (XXVIII-O/08), the Executive Committee resolved to establish the ICOA and requested that the General Directorate of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) provide it with the services of a Technical Secretariat;

That the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), at its Fifteenth Regular Meeting, via Resolution IICA/JIA/Res. 455 (XV-O/09), approved the Bylaws of the ICOA, which was established as a special committee, in accordance with Article 52 of the Rules of Procedure of the IABA;

That the ICOA has proposed the updating of its Bylaws to improve the regulatory framework that governs it, and thus strengthen organic agriculture;

That the Executive Committee, by way of Resolution IICA/CE/Res. 668 (XL-O/20), entrusted the Director General of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) with the task of preparing, in consultation with the

ICOA Member States, proposed modifications to the Bylaws of the Commission for submission to this governing body of IICA for its consideration;

That, at its Forty-first Regular Meeting, the Executive Committee, via Resolution IICA/CE/Res. 683 (XLI-O/21), requested that the Director General of the Institute submit the proposed modifications to the Bylaws of the ICOA to the Member States of the Executive Committee for their review; and

That, pursuant to the above, the Director General sent the proposal for the new ICOA Bylaws to the Member States for their consideration,

RESOLVES:

1. To approve the ICOA Bylaws, incorporating them as an annex to this resolution.
2. To request that the Director General of the Institute, by way of ICOA's Technical Secretariat, inform the ICOA Member States, of the approval of its revised Bylaws, and also to inform them that ICOA continues to be a Special Committee of the IABA, under Article 52 of the IABA Rules of Procedure.

**BYLAWS OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION FOR
ORGANIC AGRICULTURE (ICOA)**

CHAPTER ONE: ORGANIZATION, FUNCTIONS AND MEMBERSHIP

Article 1: Nature

1. The Inter-American Commission for Organic Agriculture (ICOA) is a Special Commission established by the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), in accordance with Article 52 of its Rules of Procedure.
2. The ICOA shall have technical autonomy in the discharge of its functions, within the parameters established in the Convention on the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, these Bylaws and the resolutions of the IABA and the Executive Committee. The ICOA is subordinate and answerable to the Executive Committee and has no legal relationship of authority with IICA.

Article 2: Structure

The ICOA shall accomplish its objectives through:

- a. The Assembly of the ICOA;
- b. The Board of Directors (BD/ICOA); and
- c. The Executive Secretariat.

Article 3: Objectives and Functions

Objectives

The objectives of the ICOA are:

- a. To contribute to the development of organic agriculture in ICOA Member States, serving as a technical body for knowledge management and the sharing and dissemination of appropriate information in a timely manner;

- b. To contribute to the strengthening of the institutional structures of the Competent¹ Authorities for the Control² and Development³ of organic agriculture in the ICOA Member States;
- c. To coordinate and promote the development and harmonization of standards and procedures to stimulate and regulate the production, control and development of and trade in organic foods in the ICOA Member States; and
- d. To serve as a mechanism for consultation, liaison and reciprocal cooperation among the competent governmental bodies that promote and establish standards for the development and control of organic agriculture in each ICOA Member State.

Functions

The functions of the ICOA are:

- a. To monitor the international environment that impacts organic agriculture in the region, send out alerts to the Member States of the ICOA and advocate for the adoption of positions by the public and private sectors and the building of common regional strategies on topics that are relevant to organic agriculture;
- b. To encourage the organization of workshops, seminars, fora and virtual or face-to-face training sessions on relevant topics to contribute to the strengthening of the Competent Authorities and the overall development of organic agriculture;
- c. To advise and work with the respective Member States of the ICOA in preparing standards to govern organic agriculture and in implementing and consolidating the offices of the Competent Authorities;
- d. To promote horizontal cooperation among the Member States of the ICOA to facilitate the exchange of information and sharing of experiences to bring development levels with regard to organic agriculture more in line with one another;
- e. To gather, compile and share information of interest to the Member States of the ICOA and maintain an up-to-date database on organic agriculture with official information from the offices of the Competent Authorities and other pertinent information of interest to support the decision-making processes of stakeholders in organic agriculture;

¹ The term, Competent Authority, will be used indiscriminately to refer to Competent Authorities for both the Control and the Development of organic agriculture, unless otherwise specified.

² Competent Authorities for the Control of Organic Agriculture are those entities that are responsible for regulating and managing activity and guaranteeing the organic status of products.

³ Competent Authorities for the Development of Organic Production are those entities tasked with the development, promotion and advancement of the organic sector.

- f. To prepare an annual report on the status of organic agriculture in the Americas, based on information which the Competent Authorities of the ICOA shall provide at the request of the Executive Secretariat;
- g. To report on relevant events that affect the development of organic agriculture and that might be of interest to the Member States of the ICOA;
- h. To coordinate activities and establish positions with international multilateral and other cooperation organizations that support activities in aid of organic agriculture, especially in international fora;
- i. To serve as the main advisory body of the Member States of the ICOA and other related entities that so request, on organic agriculture-related topics;
- j. To consider other matters related to inter-American cooperation in the field of organic agriculture entrusted to it by the IICA Executive Committee;
- k. To submit to the IICA Executive Committee an annual report on its activities, which may include recommendations and draft resolutions for its consideration;
- l. To establish liaison and cooperative ties with other similar entities in the Member States of the Inter-American system, so as to achieve mutual objectives; and
- m. To mobilize resources for the execution of its activities, in accordance with Article 24 of these Bylaws.

Article 4: Membership

1. Members of the ICOA may be:
 - a. Full members:

Full members of the ICOA are those Member States of the Inter-American System that have expressed their desire to be a State Party to the Commission, via a letter from their Ministry of Agriculture, and have provided legal assurance, in accordance with their national laws, of their commitment to abide by the financial obligations established in the ICOA Rules of Procedures as well as the Bylaws of the Commission. The ICOA was established through the initiative, promotion and funding of IICA, which provides it with legal, institutional and financial support. Moreover, IICA, pursuant to the ICOA Bylaws, shall be considered a member of the ICOA.

Full Members States of the ICOA may be:

- i. All Member States of the Inter-American System that are members of the Network of Competent Authorities in Organic Agriculture in the Americas, established in Managua, Nicaragua, in August of 2007;

- ii. Other Member States of the Inter-American System that request inclusion in the Commission through their respective Minister of Agriculture, with the approval of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, via a letter addressed to the BD/ICOA, which much then request the approval of the ICOA Assembly; and
- iii. IICA as a cooperating organization.

b. Permanent observer members:

Other States that are not part of the Inter-American System but that have Competent National Authorities in organic production duly established to develop, control and regulate organic agriculture. These States shall request inclusion in the Commission, through their Ministry of Agriculture or maximum authority, in a letter addressed to the BD/ICOA, which shall then request the approval of the ICOA Assembly.

2. Withdrawal of a full member or permanent observer:

Any full Member State of the ICOA or permanent observer may withdraw from the Commission, by sending a letter to the BD/ICOA, signed by its Minister of Agriculture or maximum authority. The withdrawal shall take effect ninety days following receipt of the letter by the BD/ICOA, during which time the Member State of the ICOA may reconsider its request and cancel it.

CHAPTER TWO: ASSEMBLY OF THE ICOA.

Article 5: Purpose and Functions

Purpose

The purpose of the Assembly of the ICOA is to serve as an inter-American forum for the Competent Authorities in Organic Agriculture in Member States of the ICOA to exchange views and share experiences, and thereby take appropriate decisions to gear their actions towards fulfilling the established objectives and mandates.

Functions

The functions of the Assembly of the ICOA are:

- a. To establish policies to achieve the objectives and fulfill the functions established in Article 3 of these Bylaws;
- b. To elect the members of the BD/ICOA;
- c. To approve the Work Plan and Budget of the ICOA prepared and presented by the BD/ICOA;
- d. To propose to the Executive Committee of IICA amendments to these Bylaws for its approval; and
- e. To approve the Rules of Procedure of the ICOA and amendments thereto, if this is considered necessary for the achievement of its objectives and the discharge of its functions.

Article 6: Venue and Frequency of the Meetings

1. The ICOA shall hold a Regular Meeting of its Assembly each year. The frequency shall be determined by the Assembly. The venue of this meeting shall be determined at the previous Regular Meeting. If more than one country offers to host the meeting, the decision shall be made by a simple majority vote and in the event of a tie shall be decided by the Chairman of the BD/ICOA. When no country offers to host the meeting, the Annual Regular Meeting shall be held at IICA Headquarters.
2. Should they wish to be considered, member countries offering to host the next meeting of the Assembly should do so no later than two days before the meeting of the Assembly in which the matter will be decided. Interested member countries should prepare a letter, issued and signed by their Ministry of Agriculture, and sent to the Board of Directors of the ICOA, through the Executive Secretariat.
3. The Assembly of the ICOA may hold face-to-face Special Meetings, convened pursuant to the adoption of a resolution by a favorable two-thirds majority vote of Member States in the Assembly, or by correspondence or email, at the request of the BD/ICOA, or at least ten of its Member States. In accordance with Article 17 of these Bylaws, the BD/ICOA shall determine the venue of the Special Meeting, taking into account the offers from Member States to host the meeting and the principle of rotation. When no country offers to host the meeting, the venue of the Assembly shall be IICA Headquarters.
4. Where necessary, the BD/ICOA may convene a virtual meeting of the ICOA Assembly

Article 7: Participation in the Assembly of the ICOA

Representation

1. Each full member, including IICA, has the right to send a Regular Representative to the Assembly of the ICOA, who shall have the right to participate and to vote. Each Permanent Observer Member State, has the right to send a Regular Representative to the Assembly of the ICOA, who shall have the right to participate but not to vote. In both cases, the delegate may be accompanied by alternate representatives and/or advisors, who must be accredited to the Assembly, through the Executive Secretariat of the ICOA.
2. The Regular Representative of each Member State in the Assembly shall be the official in charge of the duly established Competent Authority for the Control or Development of Organic Agriculture in that State or, in his/her stead, an extremely experienced and recognized staff member of that Authority, who has been designated by the official in charge of the Competent Authority in the Member State.
3. The Director General of IICA, or his/her representative, shall have the right to participate and to vote in the deliberations of the Assembly of the ICOA, in both the plenary sessions and those of the committees and subcommittees. The Director General may not participate in the elections of members to the ICOA Board of Directors, nor in the election of the Chairman of the Board.

Observers

If their participation is requested in writing, sufficiently in advance, the following may be represented by observers at the meetings of the Assembly of the ICOA and shall have the right to participate but not to vote, subject to the decision of the Chair of the Assembly.

- a. Member States of the Inter-American System that are not members of the ICOA, which have asked to participate in the meeting and have received the approval of the BD/ICOA;
- b. Inter-American regional and subregional government entities and organizations involved in organic agriculture;
- c. Specialized bodies and agencies connected with the United Nations and other public international organizations; and
- d. Countries or organizations outside of the Americas with which ICOA has signed collaboration agreements and which, in both parties' opinion, should participate in the Assembly.

Guests

Other persons or institutions, including representatives of civil society, not included in this Article, may attend the meetings of the Assembly of the ICOA as special guests, subject to approval by the BD/ICOA, and in consultation with the government of the host country

Article 8: Officers of the Assembly of the ICOA

1. There shall be a Chair and a Vice Chair of the Assembly of the ICOA. The Chair shall be the Competent Authority in Organic Agriculture in the host country, and the Vice Chair shall be the representative of the Member State that follows the country of the Chair in alphabetical order.
2. In the event that the Assembly is held at IICA Headquarters, the Chairman of the BD/ICOA shall preside in the interim until a Chair is elected by vote.
3. If the Assembly is conducted by virtual means, the Chairman of the Board of Directors will preside over the meeting.

Article 9: Agenda

1. With support from the Executive Secretariat, the BD/ICOA shall prepare the preliminary agenda for each session of the Assembly of the ICOA and shall submit it for the consideration of Member States at least three months prior to the inauguration of the meeting of the Assembly. Member States shall have 30 consecutive days to submit their observations on the preliminary agenda to the Chairman of the BD/ICOA. The BD/ICOA shall prepare the final agenda on the basis of these observations.
2. The agenda thus approved may only be modified or amended during the meeting of the Assembly of the ICOA by a vote of two-thirds of the Member States present.

Article 10: Sessions and Meetings

Each meeting of the Assembly of the ICOA shall consist of the plenary sessions and as many presentations as may be necessary to cover the entire agenda of the meeting.

Article 11: Committees

1. The Assembly of the ICOA may establish committees, subcommittees and working groups, as required. The committees may be standing committees or may be for a limited time.
2. The Assembly of the ICOA shall designate coordinators for each committee, subcommittee and working group, who shall be responsible for following up on the work entrusted and presenting reports on the results to the General Assembly.
3. The meetings of the committees, subcommittees and working groups may be virtual or face-to-face, depending on the nature of the work to be accomplished and the availability of resources.
4. Wherever possible, IICA member countries shall provide technical, human and financial resources, etc., to undertake the work entrusted by the Assembly and/or by the BD/ICOA.

Article 12: Quorum

1. The quorum of the plenary sessions shall consist of more than one-half of the Member States of the ICOA.
2. The quorum of the committees, subcommittees and working groups of the Assembly of the ICOA shall consist of more than one-half of the Member States sitting on each of those bodies.
3. The presence of the IICA Representative will not count towards the number needed to constitute the quorum.

Article 13: Voting

1. The decisions of the Assembly of the ICOA shall be adopted at the plenary sessions, except for special cases when it is necessary to vote by correspondence, or by email, in which case this procedure shall be determined by the Assembly and coordinated by the Executive Secretariat of the ICOA. Each Member State shall have the right to one vote, which the Competent Control and Development Authorities of the Member State should agree on, in the event that both Authorities are taking part in the Commission. The IICA Representative shall have the right to one vote.
2. If no consensus is reached in the deliberations, decisions of the Assembly of the ICOA shall be adopted by a simple majority vote of the Member States present.
3. In the committees, subcommittees and working groups, decisions shall be adopted by a simple majority vote of Member States present.

4. Voting in a meeting of the Assembly, committee, subcommittee or working group, as the case may be, shall not take place unless the requirements with respect to the corresponding quorum have been met and Member States have been duly advised to participate in advance of the meeting.
5. As used in these Bylaws, the term “absolute majority” means over half of all ICOA Member States, whether or not they are present at a meeting of the Assembly. The term “simple majority” means that a topic under debate in any session of a committee, subcommittee or working group has received a favorable vote from the majority of those present at the meeting.
6. If decisions need to be made concerning urgent matters and the Assembly is not in session, the correspondence or email voting procedure may be employed. In such cases, at the written request of the BD/ICOA, presented through its Chairman, or at the request of more than half of the representatives of the Member States, by means of a signed petition, the Executive Secretary shall send all the Member States the information related to the matter in question, including a proposal to resolve the issue. He/ she shall also ask the Member States to cast their votes and inform them of the deadline for receipt of the votes submitted in writing or by email. Once the deadline has passed, the Executive Secretary shall count the votes, certify the result and inform the Member States of the outcome. The decisions of the Assembly taken using this procedure shall be adopted by an absolute majority vote of the Member States.

CHAPTER THREE: THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS (BD/ICOA)

Article 14: Membership

1. The Board of Directors (BD/ICOA) is the governing body of the ICOA and comprises five members:
 - a. Three of the members of the BD/ICOA, shall be elected by direct vote from among the full members of the ICOA.
 - b. The fourth member of the BD/ICOA shall be the representative of the Full Member State that is designated to host the next Regular Meeting of the ICOA Assembly.

In cases in which,

 - i. IICA is the host;
 - ii. no country has been designated by the Assembly to host the next Regular Meeting;

- iii. the host country of the Assembly meeting is one of the three members elected by direct vote;
- iv. the host country of the upcoming meeting of the Assembly is an observer state; or
- v. the next meeting of the Assembly is slated to be virtual with no physical venue,

the fourth member shall be elected by a simple majority vote during the Regular Meeting of the Assembly in which the next venue will be decided or by a simple majority vote during a virtual or face-to-face Special Meeting of the Assembly subsequently convened for that purpose.

- c. IICA, through the Director General, shall appoint the fifth member of the Board of Directors. This fifth member shall not be elected by the Assembly, but shall be appointed by the IICA Director General for three-year periods. This cannot be the same IICA staff member designated to oversee the Executive Secretariat of ICOA.
2. The members of the BD/ICOA elected by direct vote by the Assembly shall serve for a three-year term. One of the members shall be replaced each year at the Regular Meeting of the Assembly.
 3. The term of the member of the BD/ICOA who is the representative of the host country of the next Regular Meeting, and the term of the member appointed within the framework of the exceptions indicated in Article 14(1b), shall begin at the end of the Assembly in which his/her country was chosen as the host of the next meeting, or at the end of the Assembly in which the country was elected within the framework of the exceptions outlined in Article 14(1b), respectively, and shall finish at the end of the Assembly hosted by his/her country, or at the end of the Assembly that took place within the framework of the exceptions indicated in Article 14(1b), respectively.
 4. The representative of each Member State on the BD/ICOA shall be the official in charge of that State's duly established Competent Authority in Organic Agriculture or, in his/her stead, an extremely-experienced and recognized official in that field, who has been accredited to the BD/ICOA, through the Executive Secretary, by the official in charge of the Competent Authority of the Member State.
 5. If, due to some unforeseen event, no Regular Meeting of the Assembly is held during the calendar year, the terms of the members of the BD/ICOA shall be extended until the next Regular Meeting, so that no more than one member is elected at that next Regular Meeting and in subsequent Regular Meetings.
 6. If a Member State resigns its membership on the BD/ICOA, the BD/ICOA shall appoint another member to take its place until the next Regular Meeting, when a special election will be held to choose a member to serve out the remainder of the

term of the member that resigned. Special elections of this kind shall not be taken into account for the purposes of the application of paragraph 5 of this Article.

Article 15: Designation of the Board and Election of Officers

1. The Assembly of the ICOA shall elect the members and officers of the BD/ICOA during its final plenary session, except for the IICA Representative on the ICOA Board of Directors, who shall be appointed by the Director General of the Institute, and who cannot serve as Chairman of the BD/ICOA.
2. Any full member, except IICA, may propose itself as a candidate for membership and/or chairmanship on the Board of Directors, which will require that the delegate of that Country be specifically endorsed for that purpose, by way of credentials or an accreditation letter addressed to the Assembly.

Article 16: Chairman of the Board of Directors

The Chairman of the BD/ICOA shall have the following specific responsibilities:

- a. To chair the sessions of the Board of Directors;
- b. To supervise and coordinate the discharge of the functions of the BD/ICOA, especially during the period between its Regular Meetings; and
- c. To represent the ICOA in its dealings with the IABA and the Executive Committee of IICA, and with other organizations that participate in the development of organic agriculture within and outside of the region.

Article 17: Functions of the Board of Directors

The functions of the BD/ICOA are as follows:

- a. To carry out the decisions of the Assembly of the ICOA, taking into account the rules governing the operation of the IABA and the Executive Committee of IICA;
- b. To achieve and enforce the objectives specified in Article 3;
- c. To decide the dates of the Regular and Special Meetings of the Assembly of the ICOA and the venue for Special Meetings, and modify the dates and venues of either, as and when necessary;
- d. To prepare the draft agendas of the Regular and Special Meetings of the Assembly of the ICOA and submit them to the members of the ICOA for consideration, through the Executive Secretary, to comply with the provisions of Article 9;

- e. To propose to the Assembly of the ICOA any amendments it deems necessary to these Bylaws and, should any be adopted, to its Rules of Procedure;
- f. To adopt any urgent measures that cannot wait until the next meeting of the Assembly of the ICOA, which shall remain in effect until the Assembly of the ICOA can consider them;
- g. To represent the ICOA, through its Chairman or another member of the BD/ICOA, in international, regional or national meetings or conferences devoted to organic agriculture or collateral activities;
- h. With the collaboration of the Executive Secretariat, to prepare studies, draft agreements and inter-American treaties and other documents related to organic agriculture in the hemisphere;
- i. To examine and approve the annual report on the activities of the ICOA prepared by its Executive Secretariat;
- j. To present the annual report on the activities of the ICOA to the General Assembly of the ICOA;
- k. To present the annual report on the activities of the ICOA to the Executive Committee;
- l. To create any technical committees and working groups that it deems necessary and establish their work programs;
- m. Within the framework of the objectives of the ICOA, to plan and coordinate the inter-American activities within its purview, related to organic agriculture;
- n. To study and approve the Work Plan of the ICOA and the proposed budget prepared by its Executive Secretariat, ensuring the greatest possible economy, but bearing in mind the ICOA's obligation to achieve satisfactory results in its work programs;
- o. To present the Work Plan and operational budget for consideration and approval by the ICOA at the Regular Meeting of its Assembly;
- p. To oversee implementation of the Work Plan and budget of the ICOA approved by the Assembly.
- q. To administer and leverage financial resources to maintain the organization.
- r. To adequately ensure that members abide by their commitments and pay their quotas.

Article 18: Meetings and Venue of Meetings of the Board of Directors

1. The BD/ICOA shall hold a Regular Meeting each year—whether face-to-face or virtually—preferably in the country where the Regular Meeting of the Assembly is to take place. The meeting may be held two days before the Regular Meeting of the Assembly.

2. The BD/ICOA may hold special face-to-face or virtual meetings when necessary, subject to the availability of resources. The Executive Secretary shall convene special meetings at the request of the Chairman of the BD/ICOA or at the written request of two or more members.

Article 19: Quorum

The quorum to convene a meeting of the BD/ICOA shall consist of more than one-half of its members. The participation of the Board member appointed by IICA shall not be taken into account in the quorum count.

Article 20: Voting

1. In the deliberations of the BD/ICOA, each member shall have one vote and decisions will be adopted by a simple majority vote.
2. Voting in a meeting of the BD/ICOA shall not take place unless the corresponding quorum requirements have been met and the members of BD/ICOA were duly notified prior to the meeting.
3. If decisions need to be made concerning urgent matters and the BD/ICOA is not in session, the procedure of voting by correspondence or email may be employed. In such cases, at the written request of the Chairman of the BD/ICOA or at the request of two or more of its members, through a signed petition, the Executive Secretary shall send the members of the BD/ICOA the information related to the matter in question, including a proposal for resolving the issue. He/ she shall also ask the members to cast their votes and inform them of the deadline for receipt of the votes, in writing or by email. Once the deadline has passed, the Executive Secretary shall count the votes, certify the result and inform the members of the BD/ICOA of the outcome.

CHAPTER FOUR: THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

Article 21: Objectives and Functions

1. The Executive Secretariat is the permanent, central, technical, administrative and executive entity of the ICOA. It shall coordinate the technical, administrative and executive services needed to implement the decisions of the Assembly of the ICOA and the BD/ICOA, and shall perform the functions assigned to it by those bodies.

2. The General Directorate of IICA shall serve as the Executive Secretariat of the ICOA, which will be established through the signing of a General Cooperation Agreement between ICOA and IICA. This will enable ICOA to operate in the inter-American sphere and to receive technical and administrative support for its operations, within the scope of the competencies and capacities that IICA may assume.

Article 22: The Executive Secretary of the ICOA

In consultation with the BD/ICOA, the Director General of IICA shall appoint the Executive Secretary of the ICOA, who shall have the following functions:

- a. To carry out the institutional, technical and administrative tasks entrusted to the Secretariat and to coordinate the administrative services provided by that Secretariat;
- b. To prepare and present an Annual Work Program and budget for the consideration and approval of the BD/ICOA in the first instance, and subsequently for final approval by the Assembly of the ICOA;
- c. To assist in the coordination and collaborate in the execution of the work plans of any working groups established by the Assembly of the ICOA and the BD/ICOA;
- d. To make the preparations for the Regular and Special Meetings of the Assembly of the ICOA and the BD/ICOA;
- e. To verify the credentials of the participants in the Assemblies of the ICOA and the BD/ICOA, and ensure that the minutes and resolutions of the meetings of those bodies meet IICA's requirements in terms of form and style.
- f. To prepare annual reports on the situation of organic agriculture with the information provided by the Competent Authorities that are members of the Commission, and any other data deemed to be pertinent;
- g. To prepare an annual report on the activities carried out by the ICOA.
- h. To perform his/her functions in accordance with the regulations and other rules of IICA and ICOA.
- i. To follow-up on agreements made and commitments undertaken in regular meetings and sessions, special meetings and other sessions convened by the BD/ICOA, the Assembly, the committees, working groups and others bodies.
- j. To propose and/or prepare topics for the annual work of the Commission.
- k. To oversee the administration of the necessary resources to achieve the work plan of the Assembly and/or the BD/ICOA in coordination with IICA, other cooperation organizations, institutions and/or cooperating countries that have similar interests to the ICOA.

- I. To provide, through its status as a legal entity, the framework for the receipt of contributions from ICOA Member States.

Article 23: Secretariat Services

In accordance with the funds allocated in IICA's Program Budget, the Director General of IICA shall provide the ICOA with Executive Secretariat services and any other services required to achieve the objectives established in Article 3.

CHAPTER FIVE: RESOURCES OF THE ICOA.

Article 24: Sources of Financing of the ICOA

The main resources of the ICOA shall come from:

- a. Funds from the annual quotas contributed by Member States to defray expenses for activities approved by the Assembly of the ICOA, the amount and payment schedule of which shall be determined in the Operating Regulations of the ICOA;
- b. Funds from ICOA Member States to defray the expenses of representatives and the activities for which they are responsible;
- c. Funds from IICA to defray expenses for activities related to Article 23 of these Bylaws.
- d. Financial assistance, donations and specific contributions from technical and financial cooperation agencies;
- e. Financial assistance, donations and specific contributions from institutions, individuals and legal entities.
- f. Financial assistance, donations and contributions from the host and other countries to defray the costs of meetings.

These specific funds shall be managed and accounted for pursuant to the Rules of Procedure of the General Directorate and the Financial Rules of IICA.

Article 25: Other Resources

The Member States of the ICOA and other institutions may channel and offer other resources, materials, facilities and equipment, and temporarily assign personnel to the Executive Secretariat for internships and to provide professional support services.

CHAPER SIX: OFFICIAL AND WORKING LANGUAGES

Article 26: Languages

If sufficient resources are available, and if it proves necessary, interpretation services and translations of pertinent documents shall be provided at the meetings.

CHAPTER SEVEN: GENERAL PROVISIONS RELATED TO THE BYLAWS AND RULES OF PROCEDURE

Article 27: Governing Provisions

The ICOA shall be governed by the present Bylaws, any Rules of Procedure that may be adopted, and the pertinent resolutions of the IABA and the Executive Committee of IICA.

Article 28: Amendments

These Bylaws approved by the Executive Committee, pending final approval by the IABA, may only be amended by the IABA or the Executive Committee of IICA, on their own initiative or at the request of the ICOA.

Article 29: Rules of Procedure of the ICOA

1. The ICOA may adopt Rules of Procedure, provided that they are consistent with these Bylaws. If Rules of Procedure are adopted, the Executive Secretary shall present them to the Executive Committee of IICA for informational purposes.
2. Procedural issues related to the Assembly, not provided for in these Bylaws or in any Rules of Procedure that may be adopted, shall be resolved by the Assembly. Procedural issues related to the BD/ICOA, not provided for in these Bylaws or in any Rules of Procedure that may be adopted, shall be resolved by the BD/ICOA.

Article 30: Entry into Force and Duration

1. These Bylaws shall enter into force on the date of their approval by the Executive Committee, pending final approval by the IABA.
2. The ICOA and its Bylaws shall remain in force for an indefinite period of time and may be abolished by a resolution of the Executive Committee, pending final approval.

IICA/JIA/Res. 541 (XXI-O/21)

2 September 2021

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 541

**STRENGTHENING OF THE STRATEGIC ALLIANCES OF THE
INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR COOPERATION ON AGRICULTURE
(IICA)**

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (IABA), at its Twenty-first Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

The formalization, within the framework of said Meeting, of the different general cooperation agreements and memorandums of understanding between the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), for the benefit of the countries of the Americas,

CONSIDERING:

That the Institute's 2018-2022 Medium-term Plan (MTP) includes strategies to strengthen the Institute's capacities through the development of strategic alliances with similar institutions; and

That strategic alliances with organizations with similar functions and objectives to IICA are extremely valuable, as a means of a) conducting complementary activities with institutions that specialize in research and knowledge-creation; b) driving thematic complementarity with organizations that specialize in a variety of issues related to agriculture and rural life; c) carrying out joint activities; and d) promoting the management of externally funded cooperation projects,

RESOLVES:

1. To thank the Director General of IICA and the different strategic partners of the Institute for their efforts in formalizing cooperation agreements and

memorandums of understanding with IICA, in order to strengthen and bolster international technical cooperation for the benefit of agriculture and the rural territories of the Americas.

2. To urge the Member States to support and promote the joint actions resulting from the Institute's new strategic alliances, in their respective countries and with regional integration mechanisms.

IICA/JIA/Res. 542 (XXI-O/21)

2 September 2021

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 542

**GENERAL POWER OF ATTORNEY OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL-ELECT OF
THE INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR COOPERATION ON AGRICULTURE
FOR THE PERIOD 2022-2026**

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (IABA), at its Twenty-first Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/JIA/Doc. 412 (21), “General Power of Attorney to the Director General-elect for the 2022-2026 term,”

CONSIDERING:

That within the framework of the Twenty-first Regular Meeting of the IABA held on 1 September 2021, Mr. Manuel Rodolfo Otero Justo was elected Director General of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) for the period 2022-2026;

That this election was conducted in accordance with the provisions of articles 8.f and 19 of the Convention on IICA, and articles 2.f, 103 and 106 of the Rules of Procedure of the IABA;

That during the 2022-2026 period, which begins on 15 January 2022 and ends on 15 January 2026, the Director General-elect shall legally represent the Institute;

That pursuant to Article 20 of the Convention, the Director General is the legal representative of IICA and is also responsible for administering the General Directorate; and

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 the Institute,

RESOLVES:

1. To grant to the Director General-elect a general power of attorney for a period of four years, beginning 15 January 2022, so that he may faithfully fulfill the responsibilities of Director General conferred upon him under Article 20 of the Convention on IICA 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, in particular, to Article 1253 of said Code.
3. To authorize the Director General-elect, Mr. Manuel Rodolfo Otero Justo, to grant and revoke powers of attorney of all kinds, and to register the power of attorney conferred upon him, where indicated.
4. To request that the Director General-elect carry out the other legal procedures required to comply with this resolution.

IICA/JIA/Res. 543 (XXI-O/21)

2 September 2021

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 543

**STATUS OF THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE TWENTIETH REGULAR MEETING
OF THE INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE AND THE FORTIETH
AND FORTY-FIRST REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE**

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (IABA), at its Twenty-first Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Documents IICA/JIA/Doc. 413 (21), “Status of the Resolutions of the Twentieth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA)”, and IICA/JIA/Doc. 414 (21), “Status of the Resolutions of the Fortieth and Forty-first Regular Meetings of the Executive Committee,”

CONSIDERING:

That the abovementioned status reports demonstrate that the General Directorate of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) has complied with the resolutions adopted at the Twentieth Regular Meeting of the IABA, and has carried out satisfactorily the tasks required to comply with the resolutions adopted at the Fortieth and Forty-first Regular Meetings of the Executive Committee,

RESOLVES:

To accept the reports “Status of the Resolutions of the Twentieth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA)” and “Status of the Resolutions of the Fortieth and Forty-first Regular Meetings of the Executive Committee”.

IICA/JIA/Res. 544 (XXI-O/21)

2 September 2021

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 544

**DATE AND VENUE OF THE TWENTY-SECOND REGULAR MEETING OF THE
INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (IABA), at its Twenty-first Regular Meeting,

CONSIDERING:

That, in accordance with Article 16 of the Rules of Procedure of the IABA, regular meetings of this governing body of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) are to be held every two years and, therefore, it is necessary to establish the date and venue of the Twenty-second Regular Meeting of the IABA in 2023; and

That, in accordance with Article 18 of said Rules of Procedure, if no Member State offers to host the regular meeting of the IABA, the meeting is to be held at the Headquarters of the Institute, in San Jose, Costa Rica,

RESOLVES:

To hold the Twenty-second Regular Meeting of the IABA at IICA Headquarters, in San Jose, Costa Rica, in the second half of 2023, without prejudice to the possibility of the Executive Committee accepting an invitation to hold the meeting at another site, pursuant to Article 18 of the Rules of Procedure of the IABA.

SIGNING OF THE REPORT

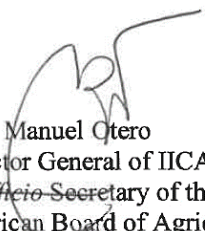
**SIGNING OF THE REPORT OF THE TWENTY-FIRST
REGULAR MEETING OF THE INTER-AMERICAN
BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

Pursuant to Article 85 of the Rules of Procedure of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), the Report of the Twenty-First Regular Meeting of the IABA is hereby signed at 12:00 hours on the second day of September of the year two thousand and twenty-one, in San Jose, Costa Rica.


This report will be edited by the Technical Secretariat of the meeting. It will then be published in the four official languages of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) in the Official Documents Series, all versions being equally authentic and valid.

The Secretariat shall file the original texts in the archives of the Institute and send copies of the official version of this report to the governments of the Member States, the Associate Countries, the Permanent Observers of the Institute and other participants in the meeting, and will make a digital version of the document available via the IICA website.

San Jose, Costa Rica.



Manuel Otero
Director General of IICA
Ex-officio Secretary of the
Inter-American Board of Agriculture
(IABA)



Tereza Cristina Corrêa
Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and
Food Supply of Brazil and Chair of the
Inter-American Board of Agriculture for
2021

ANNEXES

ANNEX 1: PROVISIONAL AGENDA
IICA/JIA/Doc. 405 (21)

- | | |
|---|------------------------|
| 1. Provisional schedule | IICA/JIA/Doc. 404 (21) |
| 2. Report to the Member States | |
| 2.1. Report by the Director General on his Management during the Period 2018-2021 | IICA/JIA/Doc. 406 (21) |
| 3. Conference of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas “Sustainable Agri-food Systems, the Engine of Development in the Americas” | |
| 3.1. Technical document: IICA on the Road to the 2021 Food Systems Summit: A Vision from the Perspective of Agriculture in the Americas | IICA/JIA/Doc. 407 (21) |
| 4. Strategic partnerships | |
| 4.1. The Outlook for Agriculture and Rural Development in the Americas: A Perspective on Latin America and the Caribbean | Unnumbered |
| 4.2. 2020 Report on strategic partnerships | No document |
| 5. Financial and programmatic-budgetary situation | |
| 5.1. 2022-2023 Program Budget | IICA/JIA/Doc. 408 (21) |
| 5.2. Report on the Collection of Quotas | IICA/JIA/Doc. 409 (21) |
| 5.3. Financial Statements of IICA for 2019 and 2020 and Reports of the External Auditors | IICA/JIA/Doc. 410 (21) |
| 5.4. Twenty-sixth and Twenty-seventh Reports of the Audit Review Committee (ARC) | IICA/JIA/Doc. 411 (21) |

6. Matters pertaining to the governing bodies of IICA

- | | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| 6.1. Election of the Director General of IICA for the period 2022-2026 | No document |
| 6.2. General Power of Attorney of the Director General-elect for the 2022-2026 Term | IICA/JIA/Doc. 412 (21) |
| 6.3. Report of the Representative of the IABA to the Governing Council and Board of Directors of CATIE for the Period 2020-2021 | Information document No. 01 (21) |
| 6.4. Status of the Resolutions of the Twentieth Regular Meeting of the IABA | IICA/JIA/Doc. 413 (21) |
| 6.5. Status of the Resolutions of the Fortieth and Forty-first Regular Meetings of the Executive Committee | IICA/JIA/Doc. 414 (21) |
| 6.6. Date and Venue of the Twenty-second Regular Meeting of the IABA | IICA/JIA/Doc. 415 (21) |
| 6.7. Proposed Amendments to the Bylaws of the Inter-American Commission for Organic Agriculture (ICOA) | IICA/JIA/Doc. 416 (21) |

7. Other matters

ANNEX 2: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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