

IICA/CE/Res.349(XXI-O/01)
26 July 2001
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RESOLUTION No. 349

2001 SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS ACTION PLAN

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Twenty-first Regular Meeting,

CONSIDERING:

That the OAS General Assembly's decision in Resolution AG/RES.1728(XXX-O/00) "to recognize the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) as the primary ministerial forum within the OAS for analyzing and building consensus on policies and strategic priorities for the improvement of agriculture and rural life in the Hemisphere" constitutes a major milestone in the transformation of the Institute;

That in Resolution AG/RES.1728, the OAS General Assembly also recognized "the need to integrate the expertise and experience of IICA as the inter-American specialized agency on agriculture into the policy-making and programming activities and issues relating to agriculture within the framework of the Inter-American System and the agenda of the Summits of the Americas";

That the Third Summit of Heads of State and Government meeting in Quebec earlier this year resolved in the Plan of Action to "instruct the Ministers of Agriculture, during the next meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture, to promote, in cooperation with the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), joint action by all the actors of the agricultural sector to work towards the improvement of agricultural and rural life that enables the implementation of the Plans of Action of the Summits of the Americas";

That the Declaration of Quebec expressly recognized the value of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture and called upon it, together with other organs of the OAS and regional and international institutions, "to establish greater coordination for support to the implementation and follow-up to the Plan of Action of this Summit";

That the cooperation called for by the Summit can be strengthened by reaching common agreement among IICA, the other institutions of the OAS, and the Member States

with regard to the interpretation of the Summit mandates, and that a process of open communications and consultations is essential for reaching that agreement and developing a Plan of Action for Agriculture for implementing Summit mandates;

That the implementation of the Summit mandates is a complicated process which requires the aggregation and articulation of diverse interests within the agricultural sector and should take into account financial realities and related concerns;

That the innovative use of technology of the planning process is laudable and should be used in the future development of IICA's Medium Term Plans;

That the process of preparing a response to the Summit requires consultations among all Member States so that they can develop a Ministerial Declaration and guidelines for a Plan of Action,

RESOLVES:

1. To instruct the Director General to establish immediately an electronic forum through which representatives of the Member States may exchange proposals and observations to obtain feedback regarding mandate 5 of section 10 of the Plan of Action of the Third Summit, for the Ministerial Declaration and guidelines for the Plan of Action, in response to the Summit mandates, and for the development of IICA's future medium-term plans. In addition, the forum will be used to inform the interested public on the process and to receive comments on same.

2. To instruct the Director General to prepare, as a working document for the Planning Process, a written summary of all past, present, and currently planned activities directly related to Summit mandates. This document should include a description of the results (or in the case of planned activities, anticipated results) of those activities.

3. To instruct the Director General to convoke a meeting in late September or early October of interested Member States for the purpose of reaching consensus and discussing the content of the Ministerial Declaration and, where possible, guidelines for the Plan of Action. It should also review the summary referenced in the preceding operative paragraph of this resolution as well as input from the electronic forum.

4. To instruct the Director General to submit to the Member States prior to the above-referenced meeting a document setting out the direct and indirect costs (in terms of necessary financial and human resources of the Institute) for formulating the agreed upon documents.
5. To congratulate the Director General, and all of IICA's personnel, for the advances they have made in achieving the inclusion of the theme of Agriculture and Rural Life in the Summit process and to transmit that message to the Inter-American Board of Agriculture.
6. To support the General Directorate in its efforts to help Member States in the process of responding to the Summit of the Americas Plan of Action in preparation for the meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture.
7. To urge Member States which have not yet done so, to designate without delay, their respective delegates in the Ministerial process and to support the efforts of those delegates.