

REPORT

Quito, Ecuador

28 March – 1 April
2022 (hybrid)

Thirty-seventh Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean

The designations employed and the presentation of material in this information product do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) concerning the legal or development status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or borders. The mention of specific companies or products of manufacturers, whether or not these have been patented, does not imply that these have been endorsed or recommended by FAO in preference to others of a similar nature that are not mentioned.

The opinions expressed in this information product are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the views or policies of FAO.

© FAO, 2022

FAO encourages the use, reproduction and dissemination of material in this information product. Except where otherwise indicated, material may be copied, downloaded and printed for private study, research and teaching purposes, or for use in non-commercial products or services, provided that appropriate acknowledgement of FAO as the source and copyright holder is given and that FAO's endorsement of users' views, products or services is not implied in any way.

All requests for translation and adaptation rights, and for resale and other commercial use rights should be addressed to copyright@fao.org.

FAO information products are available on the FAO website (www.fao.org/publications) and can be purchased through publications-sales@fao.org.

FAO Member Nations to which the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean provides services

Antigua and Barbuda	Dominica	Panama
Argentina	Dominican Republic	Paraguay
Bahamas	Ecuador	Peru
Barbados	El Salvador	Saint Kitts and Nevis
Belize	Grenada	Saint Lucia
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	Guatemala	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Brazil	Guyana	Suriname
Chile	Haiti	Trinidad and Tobago
Colombia	Honduras	Uruguay
Costa Rica	Jamaica	Venezuela
Cuba	Mexico	(Bolivarian Republic of)
	Nicaragua	

Date and place of FAO Regional Conferences for Latin America and the Caribbean

1st	- Quito (Ecuador), 18-25 September 1949
2nd	- Montevideo (Uruguay), 1-12 December 1950
3rd	- Buenos Aires (Argentina), 1-10 September 1954
4th	- Santiago de Chile (Chile), 19-30 November 1956
5th	- San José (Costa Rica), 12-21 November 1958
6th	- Mexico, D.F. (Mexico), 9-20 August 1960
7th	- Río de Janeiro (Brazil), 17-27 November 1962
8th	- Viña del Mar (Chile), 13-29 March 1965
9th	- Punta del Este (Uruguay), 5-16 December 1966
10th	- Kingston (Jamaica), 2-13 December 1968
11th	- Caracas (Venezuela), 12-20 October 1970
12th	- Cali (Colombia), 21 August-2 September 1972
13th	- Panamá (Panama), 12-23 August 1974
14th	- Lima (Peru), 21-29 April 1976
15th	- Montevideo (Uruguay), 8-19 August 1978
16th	- Havana (Cuba), 26 August-6 September 1980
17th	- Managua (Nicaragua), 20 August-10 September 1982
18th	- Buenos Aires (Argentina), 6-15 August 1984
19th	- Bridgetown (Barbados), 5-13 August 1986
20th	- Recife (Brazil), 2-7 October 1988
21st	- Santiago (Chile), 9-13 July 1990
22nd	- Montevideo (Uruguay), 28 September-2 October 1992
23rd	- San Salvador (El Salvador), 29 August-2 September 1994
24th	- Asunción (Paraguay), 2-6 July 1996
25th	- Nassau (Bahamas), 16-20 June 1998
26th	- Mérida (Mexico), 10-14 April 2000
27th	- Havana (Cuba), 22-26 April 2002
28th	- Guatemala City (Guatemala), 26-30 April 2004
29th	- Caracas (Venezuela), 24-28 April 2006
30th	- Brasilia (Brazil), 14-18 April 2008
31st	- Panamá (Panama), 26-30 April 2010
32nd	- Buenos Aires (Argentina), 26-30 March 2012
33rd	- Santiago (Chile), 6-9 May 2014
34th	- Mexico City (Mexico), 29 February -3 March 2016
35th	- Montego Bay (Jamaica), 5-8 March 2018
36th	- Managua (Nicaragua), 19-21 October 2020 (virtual)
37th	- Quito (Ecuador), 28 March-1 April 2022 (hybrid)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Pages
Summary of the main recommendations	iii
	Paragraphs
I. Introductory items	
Organization of the Regional Conference	1-2
Election of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons and appointment of the Rapporteur.....	3-4
Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable	5-6
Inaugural ceremony	7
Statement by the Head of State	8
Statement by the Director-General of FAO.....	9
Statement by the Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council	10
Statements to the Regional Conference	11-16
II. Regional and Global Policy and Regulatory Matters	
Regional results, priorities, the <i>four betters</i> , and the Sustainable Development Goals – Part I...	17-18
III. Programme and Budget Matters	
Regional results, priorities, the <i>four betters</i> , and the Sustainable Development Goals – Part II..	19-20
Update on the development of the FAO Science and Innovation Strategy	21-22
Update on the development of the new FAO Strategy on Climate Change	23-24
IV. Thematic Sessions	
Food and agricultural input price increase	25
Exchange of national innovations for <i>better production, better nutrition, a better environment</i> and a <i>better life</i>	26-27
V. Other Matters	
Summary of the recommendations of the Regional Commissions.....	28
Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPoW) 2022-2025 for the Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean	29
Date and place of the 38th Session of the Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean	30

SUMMARY OF THE MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS

MATTERS REQUIRING THE ATTENTION OF THE COUNCIL

- *Regional results, priorities, the four betters, and the Sustainable Development Goals – Part I (paragraph 18)*
- *Regional results, priorities, the four betters, and the Sustainable Development Goals – Part II (paragraph 20.f to 20.h and 20.j to 20.t)*
- *Update on the development of the FAO Science and Innovation Strategy (paragraph 22)*
- *Update on the development of the new FAO Strategy on Climate Change (paragraph 24)*

MATTERS REQUIRING THE ATTENTION OF THE CONFERENCE

- *Regional results, priorities, the four betters, and the Sustainable Development Goals - Part II (paragraph 20.a to 20.e and 20.i)*
- *Summary of the recommendations of the Regional Commissions (paragraph 28)*
- *Date and place of the 38th Session of the Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean (paragraph 30)*

I. Introductory Items

Organization of the Regional Conference

1. The 37th Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean (LARC 37) was held from 28 March to 1 April 2022. The meeting was convened in hybrid modality on an exceptional basis, and without creating a precedent, in light of the global COVID-19 pandemic and associated public health concerns, with some representatives attending in person in Quito, Republic of Ecuador, and others participating virtually. This followed consultations by the Director-General with the Government of the Republic of Ecuador and the Latin America and Caribbean Regional Group.
2. The Regional Conference was attended by 586 participants from 33 Members, including: 1 Head of State; 1 Prime Minister; 1 Vice-President; 64 Ministers; Vice-Ministers and Permanent Secretaries; 18 Ambassadors; 3 Observer Members; Representatives of 8 United Nations organizations; 4 intergovernmental organizations; 14 civil society organizations; 1 Parliamentary Fronts against Hunger representative; 13 private sector organizations; and 13 scientific and academic organizations.

Election of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons and appointment of the Rapporteur

3. The Regional Conference elected as Chairperson Mr Pedro Álava González, Minister for Agriculture and Livestock of Ecuador, who expressed his appreciation for his appointment and welcomed delegates to the meeting; Mr Zulfikar Mustapha, Minister for Agriculture of Guyana and Mr Edward Centeno, Minister for Agriculture of the Republic of Nicaragua, were elected as Vice-Chairpersons.
4. The Regional Conference elected Ambassador Mariano Jiménez Talavera, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Honduras to FAO as Rapporteur.

Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable

5. The Regional Conference examined the Provisional Agenda and adopted its revision (*Appendix A*) and the Timetable. The list of documents submitted to the meeting is contained in *Appendix B*.
6. The Regional Conference agreed to give the floor to the spokespersons appointed by civil society organizations, the private sector, the scientific community and academia, and the Parliamentary Fronts against Hunger during the consultations preceding the current Session, in the order in which the floor was requested, as an expression of interest in their participation in the work of FAO and in line with the experience of the previous four Sessions of the Regional Conference.

Inaugural ceremony

7. The inaugural ceremony of the Regional Conference was held on 30 March in the presence of Mr Guillermo Lasso Mendoza, Constitutional President of the Republic of Ecuador, Mr Ariel Henry, Prime Minister of Haiti, Mr Alfredo Borrero, Vice-President of the Republic of Ecuador, Mr Juan Carlos Holguín, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility of the Republic of Ecuador and Dr QU Dongyu, Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The authorities delivered their statements without necessarily reflecting the position of the Regional Conference.

Statement by the Head of State

8. Mr Guillermo Lasso Mendoza, Constitutional President of the Republic of Ecuador, welcomed the holding of the 37th Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean and underscored its importance as a forum for debate on current challenges and opportunities pertaining to food, agriculture and rural economies. He emphasized the importance of reducing malnutrition, particularly chronic child malnutrition, and of generating rural employment and fostering agrifood trade to enhance rural economic opportunities. He stressed the need to address the effects of climate change on agriculture, agricultural soil protection, and science and innovation with a view to preventing health-related threats to agricultural production. Lastly, he stressed the importance of advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with the aim of ending hunger and food insecurity, leaving no one behind.

Statement by the Director-General of FAO

9. In his statement to the Regional Conference, Dr QU Dongyu, Director-General of FAO, extended his gratitude to the Government and to the people of Ecuador for hosting LARC 37 in exceptionally challenging conditions. He also extended his gratitude to Mr Pedro Álava González, Minister for Agriculture and Livestock of Ecuador for his commitment and efficient Chairpersonship of LARC 37, and to all Ministers, delegates and participants of LARC 37. The Director-General highlighted the serious effects of COVID-19 in Latin America and the Caribbean, and the lessons offered by the pandemic, including the centrality of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the crucial need to transform agrifood systems to be MORE efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable. He highlighted the main elements of the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31 as a path toward *better production, better nutrition, a better environment* and a *better life*, leaving no one behind, as well as the Strategic Framework's alignment to the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Director-General emphasized that the three regional priorities for FAO responded to the needs of the region expressed during the wide multi-stakeholder consultation process within the countries and with governments. He congratulated the region on a highly inclusive Regional Conference, with 36 consultations prior to it. Noting that hunger, food insecurity and threats to agriculture are once again rising in the region, the Director-General reaffirmed his commitment to taking into account the recommendations emanating from the Regional Conference.

Statement by the Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council

10. Mr Hans Hoogeveen, Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council, remarked that Latin America and the Caribbean was at the forefront of the global fight against hunger, and expressed regret over the COVID-19 pandemic having taken its toll on progress made in the past 20 years. He mentioned that the region had actively promoted healthier diets to counter overweight, obesity, and non-communicable diseases. He also applauded the region for the growth of sustainable agriculture, and the efforts made to reverse natural resource degradation. He highlighted the opportunities presented by the digitalization of agriculture and agricultural innovations for transforming the region's agrifood systems with a view to making them MORE sustainable, resilient, inclusive, and efficient.

Statements to the Regional Conference

11. In his capacity as Chairperson of the 36th Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean, Mr Edward Francisco Centeno Gadea, Minister for Agriculture and Livestock of the Republic of Nicaragua, delivered his statement, contained in information document *LARC/22/INF/6* (annexed), in which he thanked Members for the confidence placed in Nicaragua during the session and congratulated the Government of Ecuador for hosting the 37th Session of LARC.

12. Mr Gabriel Ferrero, Chairperson of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), delivered his statement, contained in information document *LARC/22/INF/7* (annexed).

13. The spokesperson of the Civil Society Organizations delivered her statement, stemming from the consultation with civil society organizations of Latin America and the Caribbean held on 4 and 7 March 2022, which is included in information document *LARC/22/INF/9* (annexed).

14. The spokesperson of the Private Sector delivered his statement, stemming from the consultation with private sector organizations of Latin America and the Caribbean, held on 25 February 2022, which is included in information document *LARC/22/INF/10* (annexed).

15. The spokesperson of the Parliamentary Fronts against Hunger delivered his statement, stemming from the consultations held with national and regional coordination bodies for the fronts between 3 and 10 March 2022, which is contained in information document *LARC/22/INF/11* (annexed).

16. The Regional Conference took note of the statement by the spokesperson of the Scientific and Academic Committee, stemming from the consultation with the Committee held on 2 March 2022, which is included in information document *LARC/22/INF/12* (annexed).

II. Regional and Global Policy and Regulatory Matters

Regional results, priorities, the four betters, and the Sustainable Development Goals – Part I

17. The Regional Conference:

- a) recognized the results achieved by the Organization in the region in 2020-2021 in responding to the priorities and recommendations identified by the Regional Conference at its 36th Session;
- b) took note of the transformative actions that had taken place since the arrival of FAO Director-General Dr QU Dongyu and his team in 2019 to ensure an Organization that is fit-for-purpose, modern, inclusive and agile, and the introduction of corporate initiatives including, inter alia, the Hand-in-Hand Initiative, the global Action on Green Development of Special Agricultural Products: One Country One Priority Product, the 1 000 Digital Villages initiative, the Technical Platform for Family Farming and the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Programme and encouraged FAO to continue dialogue with Members on such initiatives to maximize the impact of the Organization's work at the national and regional level;
- c) recognized FAO's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, which leveraged the Organization's convening power and supported Members in strengthening the resilience of their agrifood systems and in keeping them functioning, as food production and supply held firm in a context of major stress;
- d) took note of the alignment of FAO's country-level planning process to the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework, building on United Nations development system (UNDS) efforts to collectively support countries and address their national priorities and needs in fulfilling the SDGs under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- e) recognized the importance of South-South and Triangular Cooperation, and highlighted the work of FAO with other relevant stakeholders such as the private sector, civil society, the Parliamentary Front against Hunger, the academic world, and the scientific community, among others, and stressed that this type of cooperation fostered resource mobilization, technical exchanges, capacity-building, knowledge management, innovation and the implementation of good practices;
- f) noted the over USD 260 million that had been allocated to programme implementation in the region during the 2020-21 biennium;
- g) acknowledged with appreciation the 78 percent increase in resources mobilized compared to the previous biennium, which exceeded the target and reflected the catalytic use of the Technical Cooperation Programme resources, as well as Members' and financing partners' confidence in FAO's capacity to support progress towards the fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

- h) highlighted FAO's support in combating illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, in order to contribute to the sustainability of fisheries in the region;
 - i) recognized FAO's contribution to food and nutrition security, particularly through support and recommendations for the development of public policies and regulations on this subject, especially on nutritional education, school feeding programmes and the promotion of value chains and healthy diets;
 - j) stressed the need for FAO to use multilaterally agreed language, especially that agreed under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in preparing its Documents, Strategic Frameworks and Plans of Action; and
 - k) recognized with concern the trend towards ageing among agricultural producers and the strong need for a focus on the involvement of youth in agricultural entrepreneurship initiatives through FAO's technical and innovation plans.
18. The Regional Conference recommended that FAO:
- a) continue and strengthen its resource mobilization efforts with a view to fostering public and private investments in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31 and the Country Programming Frameworks, highlighting the importance of proactively identifying and materializing new opportunities for increasing the Organization's efficiency and effectiveness in the region; and
 - b) accord greater importance to foresight analysis, knowledge management, digitalization of agrifood systems, and enhancing innovative experiences across countries, subregions, and regions, especially to promote rural roots with an emphasis on smallholder family farmers, namely peasant and indigenous farmers.

III. Programme and Budget Matters

Regional results, priorities, the four betters, and the Sustainable Development Goals – Part II

19. The Regional Conference:
- a) recalled with satisfaction the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31 and its strategic narrative of supporting the transformation, that should be encouraged in a coherent manner, as appropriate, in accordance with, and dependent on national contexts and capacities, to achieve MORE efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems for *better production, better nutrition, a better environment, and a better life*, leaving no one behind, to support the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and FAO's three Global Goals of Members, while recognizing that the *four betters* identified in the Strategic Framework should be seen and addressed through a food systems approach, with a balance of the social, environmental and economic dimensions of sustainable development and within the framework of FAO's mandate;
 - b) stressed the fundamental role of agrifood systems in supporting economic recovery, promoting access to healthy diets, generating employment in rural and in urban areas, in managing natural resources sustainably, and in accelerating progress towards the achievement of the SDGs, with special attention to the most vulnerable groups;
 - c) noted with concern the persistence of the COVID-19 pandemic and its socioeconomic consequences in the region, the fragile, slow and uneven economic recovery, the substantial increase in poverty, hunger and food and nutritional insecurity, and the widening inequality between and within countries;
 - d) noted with appreciation FAO's support to Members in the design and implementation of national policies to combat hunger and malnutrition in all its forms, highlighting its support for dialogue between States and representatives of civil society, the private sector and other stakeholders on recommendations to promote healthy diets in our societies;

- e) acknowledged FAO's support to Members on family farming, with technical assistance for the design and implementation of policies and programmes in the context of the UN Decade of Family Farming (2019-2028) and the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030);
- f) expressed alarm at the increase in hunger and food insecurity in the region since 2015, intensified by the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as in all forms of malnutrition;
- g) recognized the threats and challenges posed by the climate crisis, water scarcity and drought, soil degradation, biodiversity loss, deforestation, plant and animal pests and diseases, and natural disasters;
- h) expressed concern the increase in earmarked voluntary contributions provided to FAO, and called for a thorough analysis of their role and effects;
- i) stressed the need for FAO to use multilaterally agreed language, especially that agreed under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in preparing its Documents, Strategic Frameworks and Plans of Action;
- j) urged Members to strengthen multilateralism, solidarity and international cooperation, particularly South-South and triangular cooperation to achieve SDG 2, Zero Hunger, leaving no one behind, in compliance with paragraph 30 of resolution A/RES/70/1 adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 25 September 2015 on sustainable development: *"States are strongly urged to refrain from promulgating and applying any unilateral economic, financial or trade measures not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations that impede the full achievement of economic and social development, particularly in developing countries"*;
- k) took note of the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture 2022; and
- l) took note of the declaration of the International Year of Camelids in 2024.

20. The Regional Conference recommended that FAO:

- a) continue supporting Members in ensuring that agrifood systems and value chains recover from the negative effects of the COVID-19 pandemic by implementing the Programme Priority Areas of the FAO Strategic Framework for 2022-31 in the region, with particular emphasis on the recovery of decent work, especially among women and youth and the eradication of child labour as well as in guaranteeing the right to adequate food, in the context of national food security, in particular for families in vulnerable situations, women, children, young people, native and Indigenous Peoples, peasants, people of African descent and those whose food security and nutrition had deteriorated;
- b) continue supporting Members in implementing national policies to reduce all forms of malnutrition and promote the consumption of healthy and adequate food and increase awareness of the importance of promoting healthy diets for all;
- c) encourage urgent action to contribute to ensuring that agrifood systems, according to their individual characteristics, adapt and contribute to mitigating climate change, addressing the degradation of natural resources, ecosystem restoration and the increased frequency and intensity of disasters and natural events, recognizing the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and the role of the region in global food security;
- d) support Members to increase public and private investment and strengthen institutional capacity in science and innovation;
- e) support Members in advancing the digitization of agrifood systems and rural societies;
- f) provide technical assistance for the design, implementation and evaluation of policies and programmes in the context of the UN Decade of Family Farming (2019-2028) and the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030);
- g) adapt the implementation of the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31 to the local contexts, supporting countries, as appropriate and in accordance with national context and capacities, in support for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to achieve efficient, inclusive,

resilient and sustainable agrifood systems, by implementing the Programme Priority Areas through three Regional Initiatives that had to call on balanced resources:

- i. *Regional Initiative 1: Sustainable agrifood systems to provide healthy diets for all* supporting Members in accelerating progress towards the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and, in particular, SDG 1 (No poverty), SDG 2 (Zero hunger), SDG 3 (Good health and well-being), SDG 4 (Quality education), SDG 10 (Reduced inequalities), SDG 11 (Sustainable cities and communities), SDG 12 (Responsible consumption and production) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the goals).
 - ii. *Regional Initiative 2: Prosperous and inclusive rural societies* supporting Members in accelerating progress towards the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and, in particular, SDG 1 (No poverty), SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 5 (Gender equality), SDG 6 (Clean water and sanitation), SDG 8 (Decent work and economic growth), SDG 9 (Industry, innovation and infrastructure), SDG 10 (Reduced inequalities), SDG 14 (Life below water) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the goals);
 - iii. *Regional Initiative 3: Sustainable and resilient agriculture* supporting Members in accelerating progress towards the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and, in particular, SDG 1 (No poverty), SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 3 (Good health and well-being), SDG 12 (Responsible consumption and production), SDG 13 (Climate action), SDG 14 (Life below water), SDG 15 (Life on land) and SDG 16 (Peace, justice and strong institutions);
- h) provide Members with integrated normative, technical, policy, operational and investment mobilization support, applying a programmatic approach to the implementation of the Regional Initiatives, leveraging existing mechanisms to avoid the duplication of efforts;
 - i) analyse the repercussions of the excessive increase in food and agricultural input prices and excessive market volatility, and the need for maintaining supply and logistics chains linked to food and nutrition security active, and provide guidance to Members upon request;
 - j) provide technical assistance to Members, upon request, to strengthen their statistical systems, including censuses, in accordance with national data protection regulations, to produce information on agrifood systems for better decision making;
 - k) support the strengthening and affordability of systems for the collection, standardization, analysis of data and effects and early warnings related to climate events;
 - l) provide technical assistance to Members to strengthen and improve their capacity, resilience and access to markets, food supply chains and trade in accordance with World Trade Organization rules;
 - m) support Members to develop their food supply chains and trade with the aim of promoting the inclusion of family farming and small and medium-sized enterprises in markets and international trade to contribute to food and nutritional security;
 - n) maintain and enhance support to Members to implement the Hand-in-Hand Initiative with the aim of strengthening planning and investment mobilization processes, and the inclusion of holistic approaches that accelerate agricultural transformation and sustainable rural development, in a coherent manner, as appropriate, and in accordance with existing contexts and priorities;
 - o) provide technical assistance and facilitate dialogues to support Members in the struggle against IUU fishing, in order to contribute to the sustainability of fisheries in the region;
 - p) give special attention and support to Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in accordance with the SAMOA Pathway agreements, contributing to the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions, and to the mobilization of financial resources for Members upon request;

- q) provide technical and financial assistance to Members, in particular Caribbean SIDS, through the FAO Priority Programme Area Better Production 2, “Blue Transformation”, to conserve and sustainably use oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, including through improving national policies and programmes, promoting technological innovation and engaging the private sector, in order to achieve SDG 14 (Life below water) targets, with the aim of achieving MORE efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable aquatic food systems, and ensuring an increasing contribution to poverty reduction and income generation for small-scale fishers and fish farmers, including youth, in accordance with the “2021 Committee on Fisheries Declaration for Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture”, in line with the Report of the 168th Session of the Council;
- r) strengthen science and evidence-based decision-making for marine resource management through research and capacity-building of Caribbean Members through the Nansen Programme;
- s) provide support to Members to ensure diversity of land uses, soil fertility and health, the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in agrifood systems and the provision of ecosystem services; and
- t) organize and support activities with Members to promote the economic and cultural importance of camelids, in the framework of the UN Declaration on the International Year of Camelids, 2024.

Update on the development of the FAO Science and Innovation Strategy

21. The Regional Conference:

- a) highlighted that science and innovation underpinned a wide range of approaches, technologies and practices, in particular the recognition of the value of native or Indigenous Peoples’ ancestral knowledge, which could contribute to tackle agrifood systems challenges;
- b) stressed that science and innovation are powerful drivers for improving agrifood systems and could promote inclusion and the generation of opportunities for producers, particularly native and Indigenous Peoples, peasant communities and people of African descent, women and youth;
- c) acknowledged the contribution that the Strategy would make toward strengthening FAO’s normative work with all its Members, and developing countries in particular, with a solid scientific basis;
- d) expressed its aspiration for the development of FAO’s Science and Innovation Strategy to act as a key tool to contribute to the implementation of the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31 and underscored its cross-sectoral and cross-cutting relevance across the Organization’s work;
- e) took note with appreciation of the consultative process that were ongoing for the development of the FAO Science and Innovation Strategy with a view to having it endorsed at the 170th Session of the FAO Council; and
- f) took note of the draft vision, goal, scope and pillars of the FAO Science and Innovation Strategy.

22. The Regional Conference recommended that FAO:

- a) consider the different contexts and priorities of Members in the region when implementing the FAO Science and Innovation Strategy;
- b) adopt an approach that would ensure access to and affordability of innovations in an inclusive, non-discriminatory manner;
- c) promote partnerships, particularly with public and private sector research institutions, and exchanges between and among Members; and

- d) use multilaterally agreed language, especially that agreed under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in preparing its Documents, Strategic Frameworks and Plans of Action.

Update on the development of the new FAO Strategy on Climate Change

23. The Regional Conference:

- a) took note of the process for developing the new FAO Strategy on Climate Change, as requested by the 166th Session of the FAO Council, in the context of the recent evaluation of the Organization's contribution to climate action (SDG 13), through an inclusive process, with a view to improving its alignment with the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement;
- b) took note of the pillars suggested in the Outline, in particular farmer capacity strengthening, innovative solutions to adapt to climate change, and the importance of partnerships with regional, international and national organizations and the use of science and innovation as a basis for proposals for action; and
- c) stressed the need for FAO to use multilaterally agreed language, especially language agreed under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in preparing its Documents, Strategic Frameworks and Plans of Action.

24. The Regional Conference recommended that FAO:

- a) mainstream the principles established in the Paris Agreement, including equity in the implementation of the Strategy, and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, in light of regional and subregional priorities and needs and differences in each Member's contexts, and acknowledge the importance of technology development and transfer for improving resilience to climate change and reducing greenhouse gas emissions;
- b) consider international environmental agreements such as those of the 26th Conference of the Parties (COP 26) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) through the Glasgow Climate Pact, the Paris Agreement and, as appropriate, the Glasgow Declaration on Forests and Land Use in its work;
- c) support Members, at their request, in implementing adaptation and mitigation measures to address the challenges of climate change, and in strengthening their national, subregional and regional policies, strategies and mechanisms, in a consistent manner, as appropriate, and in accordance with existing contexts and capacities;
- d) provide specific support to SIDS, recognizing their unique climate vulnerability, to increasingly access climate finance, develop value chains and capacity-building resources to strengthen their agrifood systems and support the development of oceanographic and fisheries research, through initiatives such as the Nansen expedition vessel, to achieve sustainable fisheries and aquaculture;
- e) continue to include in its work support for family farmers, peasants and native and Indigenous Peoples, people of African descent and native communities, women and youth, valuing science, evidence and ancestral and traditional knowledge, to address climate change-related challenges and promote the efficient, sustainable and resilient use of productive resources, with emphasis on the creation of new opportunities for decent work, with a gender lens, and the generation of new sources of agricultural and rural income;
- f) support Members in updating and implementing, as appropriate and at the request of Members, their climate commitments in accordance with their mandate in the agrifood sector, in line with their contributions determined at the national level under the Paris Agreement, in a consistent manner and in accordance with existing contexts and priorities;
- g) foster, enable and improve the development of and access to climate and environmental finance mechanisms, non-reimbursable funds and risk transfer mechanisms that foster access to insurance and guarantees, on favourable and inclusive terms for Members, regional and

- subregional organizations and other key partners, with special attention to family farmers, peasants, native or Indigenous Peoples, people of African descent and communities;
- h) use holistic and innovative approaches in its work, including biotechnology, genome editing, no-tillage and other technical tools, promoting linkages between climate change, restoration of productive ecosystems, integrated water resource management, land-use planning and management, and combating desertification, soil degradation and illegal deforestation; and
 - i) mainstream suggestions received from the 37th Session of the Regional Conference and continue the ongoing consultation process for the draft Strategy on Climate Change to be discussed by the FAO Council at its 170th Session.

IV. Thematic Sessions

Food and agricultural input price increase

25. Mr Máximo Torero Cullen, FAO Chief Economist, shared updated information on the situation regarding food and agricultural input prices and presented an analysis of their impacts on the region's agrifood systems.

Exchange of national innovations for better production, better nutrition, a better environment and a better life

26. With the aim of helping to build solutions to the various challenges affecting the region's agrifood systems, Members shared and discussed innovations for *better production, better nutrition, a better environment, and a better life*, leaving no one behind. The innovations discussed are unique to the countries that developed them and do not necessarily reflect the consensus of the LARC 37 or commit other Members. The approaches used by the countries are set out below:

- a) Members shared their experiences in the design and implementation of innovative policies, plans, programmes and regulations that address the *four betters* in a cross-cutting manner in order to show that the region is addressing the challenge of transforming agrifood systems, taking into account the context of each country and subregion;
- b) Members appreciated having the space and the opportunity to share and exchange experiences and innovations concerning the *four betters*;
- c) the innovations presented, which relate to different productive sectors, approaches and intervention types, were developed in a complex and adverse context determined by the COVID-19 pandemic and its negative socioeconomic impacts, climate change and water scarcity, excessive food and agricultural input price rises and excessive market volatility;
- d) the experiences shared proved successful because they were based on the use of science and innovation, and benefited from international solidarity and cooperation, in particular through South-South and Triangular Cooperation, and from coordinated work and exchange between Members and their regional and subregional organizations;
- e) the experiences shared showed that implementing innovations, sustaining them and achieving short and medium-term impacts requires political will, commitment and clear goals, as well as public and private investments and resources, institutional changes and sustained capacity-building processes;
- f) Members presented innovations for *better production* that involve: the use of science, technology and innovation for sustainable and resilient agriculture, livestock, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture; the use of sustainable land, forest and water management approaches; the management of plant pests and diseases such as fusarium and animal diseases such as African swine fever; technical and financial assistance services, credit, insurance, guarantees; efficient systems to address the water crisis and ensure the availability of water for production and community forestry management, access to infrastructure, the development of

- value chains with a territorial approach that generate decent work, particularly for family farmers, peasants, native or Indigenous Peoples and people of African descent, youth and women; and the use of organic fertilizers, taking into account the current situation of volatility and rising fertilizer prices;
- g) Members presented innovations for *better nutrition* highlighting: school feeding programmes that encourage public procurement of products from family farming and micro, small and medium-sized enterprises and promote healthy food consumption; food and nutrition education and front-of-pack food labelling laws; regulation for a healthier food supply; food safety information and monitoring systems; measures to promote agrifood markets and trade, increasing physical and financial access to healthy diets and healthy food environments, with special emphasis on the most vulnerable groups;
 - h) Members presented innovations for a *better environment*, highlighting: conservation and restoration approaches as a prerequisite for sustainable and resilient agrifood systems; measures to address the challenges of water scarcity through integrated water management and innovations in water harvesting, storage and efficient use; low-carbon agriculture, including the use of biotechnology, reclamation of degraded soils, agroforestry systems, degraded landscape restoration practices, and crop diversification and use of seed banks; the importance of strengthening key sectors such as deforestation-free coffee, livestock and cocoa; sustainable fisheries and aquaculture; restoration of forests, productive landscapes and key ecosystems; and schemes for certifying and developing ecosystem services, in particular those provided by tropical forests;
 - i) Members presented innovations for a *better life*. These highlight the need for a holistic vision that identifies challenges and opportunities for including and developing the most vulnerable groups, as well as reducing inequalities and eradicating poverty and hunger while applying a transformative gender approach;
 - j) the innovations presented showed the importance of coherence, coordination and multisectoral synergies at local level, which allowed for complementary approaches to strengthen the agrifood sector. These should be based, in particular, on micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, tourism, fisheries, forestry, integrated management of landscapes and ecosystem services, and social protection; and
 - k) the innovations for a *better life* require infrastructure, particularly connectivity, and good-quality public and private services such as technical assistance and financial services, which can be provided more effectively and efficiently using new communication and information technologies. Other requirements include mainstreaming science, evidence-based findings, new technologies and innovative institutional designs to support development and resilience, contribute to managing disaster risks, and achieve a sustained impact on people's well-being.
27. While discussing and commenting on innovations that Members presented regarding the *four betters*, the importance of systematizing and analysing the innovations presented was noted, as well as the importance of opening up spaces for dialogue between Members for a fruitful exchange of knowledge, experiences and good practices. The Organization could facilitate this at the request of Members. The proposed spaces for exchange could address issues such as: a) identifying mechanisms for achieving fair prices and full financial inclusion for family farmers, b) effective measures to address the current situation of excessive food and agricultural supply prices rises and excessive market volatility, and c) the transfer of knowledge on effective innovations in areas relevant to the *four betters*.

V. Other matters

Summary of the recommendations of the Regional Commissions

28. The Regional Conference:

- a) reaffirmed FAO's role in the technical secretariats of the Regional Commissions and endorsed the recommendations of the Latin American and Caribbean Forestry Commission (LACFC), the Commission on Livestock Development for Latin America and the Caribbean (CLDLAC), the Commission on Small-scale, artisanal fisheries and aquaculture of Latin America and the Caribbean (COPECAALC), and the Working Group on Agricultural and Livestock Statistics for Latin America and the Caribbean (FAO-OEA/CIE-IICA), which are contained in document *LARC/22/INF/8*; and
- b) called for regular meetings of the Regional Commissions to be held no later than the first semester of the second year of the biennium, so that the recommendations and technical decisions can be addressed in time and adequately for the Regional Conference.

Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPOW) 2022-2025 for the Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean

29. The Regional Conference took note of the MYPOW for the period 2022-2025, which is appended in document *LARC/22/4*.

Date and place of the 38th Session of the Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean

30. The Regional Conference welcomed the generous offer by the Government of Guyana to host the 38th Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean, to be held in 2024 and recommended that the offer be accepted.

APPENDIX A

Agenda

Senior Officers Meeting (28-29 March 2022)

- 1) Election of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairpersons, and appointment of Rapporteur
- 2) Adoption of the Agenda and Timetable

I. Regional and Global Policy and Regulatory Matters

- 3) Regional results, priorities, the *four betters*, and the Sustainable Development Goals – Part I¹

II. Programme and Budget Matters

- 4) Regional results, priorities, the *four betters*, and the Sustainable Development Goals – Part II²
- 5) Update on the development of the FAO Science and Innovation Strategy
- 6) Update on the development of the new FAO Strategy on Climate Change

III. Other Matters

- 7) Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPOW) 2022-2025 for the Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean

Ministerial Session (30 March-1 April 2022)*Inaugural ceremony*

- 8) Statement by the Director-General
- 9) Statement by the Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council
- 10) Statement by the Chairperson of the 36th Session of the Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean
- 11) Statements to the Regional Conference
 - Chairperson of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS)
 - Spokesperson of the Civil Society Organizations
 - Spokesperson of the Private Sector
 - Spokesperson of the Parliamentary Fronts against Hunger
 - Spokesperson of the Scientific and Academic Committee

Thematic Sessions

- 12) Food and agricultural input price increase
- 13) Exchange of national innovations to achieve *better production, better nutrition, a better environment* and a *better life*
 - *Better production*: Innovative small-scale family farming and small and medium enterprises in the agrifood sector
 - *Better nutrition*: Innovations for healthy diets for all
 - *Better environment*: Innovations for agrifood systems that mitigate and are adapted to climate change

¹ Document LARC/22/3/Rev.1 “Results for FAO in the Latin America and Caribbean region 2020-21”.

² Document LARC/22/2 “Priorities for FAO in the region under the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31”.

- *Better life*: Innovations to promote inclusive rural transformation and to reduce rural poverty and inequalities

Other Matters

- 14) Summary of the recommendations of the Regional Commissions
- 15) Any other matters
- 16) Date and place of the 38th Session of the Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean
- 17) Adoption of the Report of the Regional Conference

Closure of the Regional Conference

APPENDIX B

Symbol	Title
LARC/22/1	Provisional Annotated Agenda
LARC/22/2	Priorities for FAO in the region under the FAO Strategic Framework 2022-31
LARC/22/3/Rev.1	Results for FAO in Latin America and the Caribbean region 2020-21
LARC/22/4	Multi-Year Programme of Work (MYPOW) for the Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean
LARC/22/5	Update on the development of the new FAO Strategy on Climate Change
LARC/22/6	The outline and roadmap of the FAO Science and Innovation Strategy
INF Series	
LARC/22/INF/1	Information Note
LARC/22/INF/2/Rev.1	Provisional Timetable
LARC/22/INF/3/Rev.1	Provisional List of Documents
LARC/22/INF/4	Statement by the Director-General
LARC/22/INF/5	Statement by the Independent Chairperson of the FAO Council
LARC/22/INF/6	Statement by the Chairperson of the Thirty-sixth Session of the Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean
LARC/22/INF/7	Statement by the Chairperson of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS)
LARC/22/INF/8	Summary of the recommendations of the Regional Commissions
LARC/22/INF/9	Statement by the Spokesperson of the Civil Society Organizations
LARC/22/INF/10	Statement by the Spokesperson of the Private Sector
LARC/22/INF/11	Statement by the Spokesperson of the Parliamentary Fronts against Hunger
LARC/22/INF/12	Statement by the Spokesperson of the Scientific and Academic Committee
LARC/22/INF/13	Update on the development of the new FAO Strategy on Climate Change – Information Note 1 – December 2021
LARC/22/INF/14	Update on the FAO Science and Innovation Strategy – Information Note 1 – December 2021