

Recommendations – WG2. Food Security

In light of the irrefutable and conclusive evidence of a worrying trend developing in the countries of our Hemisphere, and of the increase in serious problems such as undernourishment, malnutrition, obesity, diabetes and other chronic diseases, all of which are associated with poor and distorted eating habits, and have become serious public health issues in all of our countries, we urge men and women parliamentarians and ParlAmericas member Parliaments to reassert our commitment to food and nutrition security, as well as to seriously engage in, or continue the necessary discussions within our Legislatures, in order to enact and further strengthen new and existing legal instruments that will allow us to directly address the roots of these evils by exercising our oversight role over the policies implemented by our Executive branches. Our suggestions, which are the result of our concerns and of the discussions held at this forum, should also be extended to all integration processes that are currently developing in Latin America and the Caribbean.

We recommend:

1. Encouraging a massive and ongoing awareness-raising campaign that promotes healthy lifestyles and eating habits, in line with people's dietary requirements, and which provides information on non-advisable foods;
2. Promoting, protecting and respecting women's and infants' right to breastfeeding, in accordance with recommendations issued by the World Health Organization;
3. Establishing regulations to prevent the sale and advertising of unhealthy foods and products at public schools, and providing for the availability of and ensuring access to drinking water, so that the right to food may be guaranteed;
4. Developing mechanisms to implement family, school and community agriculture programmes that promote the production of safe and healthy foods, with the additional support of scientific research centres that are committed to developing knowledge that may in turn be applied to further strengthening food and nutrition security;
5. Promoting the participation in, and implementation of, the Codex Alimentarius, which provides for food safety, ingredient regulation, the trade in excessively processed food (junk food), and correct and understandable food labelling, with a view to preventing the import and trade of poor-quality products; and
6. Promoting food and nutrition security as a high priority for states, in all our respective Parliaments, further underscoring the need for budget allocations that will guarantee the implementation of policies and programs designed to fight hunger and food insecurity.