

DECLARATION

7th Gathering of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network on Climate Change
15th Gathering of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network for Gender Equality

A food secure future: Building people and planet-centered responses

September 28- 29, 2023
Mexico City, Mexico

We, parliamentarian delegates from 18¹ countries in the Americas and the Caribbean, have convened on September 28 and September 29, 2023, in Mexico City at the Senate of the Republic, for the 7th Gathering of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network on Climate Change and the 15th Gathering of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network for Gender Equality, held jointly under the title ***A food secure future: Building people and planet-centered responses***.

This Gathering provided an opportunity for exchange with colleagues and subject matter experts on inclusive and innovative good practices to uphold the right to food while promoting sustainability and resiliency through multisectoral cooperation. During the gathering, it was stressed that women's leadership and climate-smart agricultural practices are integral to achieving food security for our hemisphere. Our dialogues also highlighted the urgency of addressing climate change with legislative frameworks that are gender-responsive and intersectional.

Considering the above and,

Recognizing:

1. That food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life².
2. That ensuring the continual availability and distribution of nutritious and affordable food for all is an achievable goal that requires, in particular, political will to address entrenched inequalities, transform food systems and promote sustainable agricultural practices.

¹ Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Saint Lucia and Uruguay.

² [Rome Declaration - World Food Summit, Plan of Action](#)

3. That the right to food is enshrined in numerous international instruments, such as [the Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition](#), the [Rome Declaration on World Food Security](#), the [Sustainable Development Goal \(SDG\) 2: Zero Hunger](#), the [International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights](#), [the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women](#), and [the Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#), as well as regional treaties and national constitutions.
4. That violating the human right to food infringes on the enjoyment of other interdependent human rights including the right to life and the right to health.
5. That despite advances in reducing global hunger, recent phenomena like economic shocks, climate change and environmental degradation, certain land use and water management practices, extreme weather events, and geopolitical tensions have resulted in higher food prices which have particularly impacted countries of the Global South.
6. That four out of every 10 persons in our hemisphere³ or approximately 267 million people were moderately or severely food insecure in 2021,⁴ and that if current trends continue, the region will fail to achieve SDG 2 by 2030.
7. That statistically, in every region, women are more food insecure than men.⁵ Addressing the gender gap in food production would reduce food insecurity by 45 million people; and by closing the wage gap in agricultural jobs, global GDP would increase by approximately USD 1 trillion.⁶
8. That despite having unequal access to capital assets, including land and farm technologies, women in most developing countries produce between 60 and 80 percent of the food.⁷ In spite of this, women's contributions to the food system are underpaid, under-recognised, and undervalued.
9. That food insecurity also disproportionately impacts the rural poor, migrants, Indigenous, Afrodescendent, and Indo-descendent peoples, among other traditionally marginalized groups due to socio-economic inequalities, discrimination, and stigma.⁸
10. That in the Americas and the Caribbean, the prevalence of overweight and obesity, and their associated public health challenges including malnutrition, has reached epidemic levels affecting

³ [Another 4 million people thrust into hunger across the region](#), UN Caribbean

⁴ [Latin America and the Caribbean 2021 Regional Overview of Food Security and Nutrition, Statistics and Trends](#). FAO

⁵ [The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2023](#), FAO

⁶ [The Status of Women in Agrifood Systems](#), FAO

⁷ [Women produce up to 80% of food in developing countries](#), FAO

⁸ [Reducing Inequalities for Food Security and Nutrition](#), FAO

children under the age of five and people across all economic levels in both rural and urban areas, among others.⁹

11. That the problems of food loss and food waste have numerous repercussions for the sustainability of food systems and negative impacts on economies, food security and nutrition, and the environment.
12. That drought, storm, floods, wildfires and other natural hazards negatively impact food security causing declines in crop and livestock production, disrupting communication and transportation systems, and fuelling forced migration.
13. That human dependence on fossil fuels in agricultural production and distribution threatens the accessibility, affordability, and availability of food due to its vulnerability to export and production disruptions, susceptibility to price shocks, and long-term environmental consequences on water and air quality, soil health, and the ability to grow crops.
14. That soil degradation, caused by agricultural, industrial, and commercial pollution; loss of arable land; overgrazing and deforestation; and long-term climatic changes, poses various problems leading to the reduced quality and quantity of crops.
15. That the nutritional value of crops is declining as evidenced by the reduced concentrations of protein and essential minerals in numerous plant species due to rising CO₂ levels caused by climate change.¹⁰
16. That population growth, urbanization, and underinvestment in rural infrastructure – combined with trade incentives and monopolization practices, increased competition with imported foods, and praedial larceny¹¹ – create disadvantages in market access and profitability for small and medium-scale holder farmers and fisher-folks requiring innovative and holistic policy responses.
17. That the actions taken by parliaments, when informed by scientific evidence, participatory processes, and international cooperation, can be pivotal in rethinking the global food system from gender and climate-smart approaches in order to achieve food security for all.

⁹ [Regional Overview of Food Security and Nutrition – Latin America and the Caribbean 2022](#), Pan American Health Organisation; [Obesity and overweight](#), National Heart, Lung and Blood institute; [The Burden of Malnutrition at a Glance](#), Global Nutrition Report 2022

¹⁰ [The impacts of climate change on human health in the United States: A scientific assessment](#), US Global Change Research Program

¹¹ “Praedial larceny is simply the theft of agriculture produce, which is well recognized in the (CARICOM) region as a practice that is contributing negatively to the environment in which agriculture producers (crop/livestock/marine fishers and aquaculturists) conduct business.” [Food Security in CARICOM](#)

We commit to:

1. Adopt approaches in our legislative work that acknowledge the urgency of addressing the crisis of food insecurity in our region, and promoting measures grounded in principles of food sovereignty to make our food systems more sustainable and climate resilient.
2. Establish spaces for the substantive participation of women, the rural poor, Indigenous, Afrodescendent, and Indo-descendent peoples, smallholder farmers and fisherfolk, migrants and other traditionally marginalized groups in decision-making processes to build more sustainable food systems.
3. Promote the use of gender analysis in legislative undertakings aimed at the food crisis that include issues such as equal access to agricultural technologies, technical assistance, productive resources, tenure security and control over land.
4. Call on relevant authorities to collect disaggregated data, especially by gender, race and ethnicity, and by geographic zones (rural-urban), and develop a national information system that includes food insecurity and vulnerability.
5. Develop new legislation or reform existing laws, incorporating principles of circular economy, to reduce and eliminate food loss and waste in all sectors in the value chain and connected food systems, promoting the involvement of all stakeholders including producer organizations, the private sector, distributors and retailers, and consumers.
6. Promote investments towards rural communities with the objective of improving their transportation infrastructure and strengthening their access, especially for women, to basic services, capital goods, and microcredit.
7. Promote community-based food production models grounded in principles of food sovereignty that recognize and promote traditional cultural practices aligned with local experiences and knowledge, so that communities may contribute to the meaningful definition and development of food policies that are appropriate from a cultural, ecological, social, and economic perspective.
8. Work through ParlAmericas, the Parliamentary Front Against Hunger, and multilateral bodies and in coordination with civil society organisations, women's organisations, and youth to share good legislative practices and successful experiences in the fight against hunger and fulfilling the right to food.

Adopted in Mexico City on September 29, 2023