



联合国
粮食及
农业组织

Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Organisation des Nations
Unies pour l'alimentation
et l'agriculture

Продовольственная и
сельскохозяйственная организация
Объединенных Наций

Organización de las
Naciones Unidas para la
Alimentación y la Agricultura

منظمة
الغذية والزراعة
للأمم المتحدة

E

FAO REGIONAL CONFERENCE FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

37th Session

Quito, Ecuador, March 28 – April 1, 2022

Statement by the Spokesperson of the Private Sector

1. We, the private sector, represent the agricultural, livestock, fishery, forestry and aquaculture production and food and beverage processing system, which includes large-scale production and marketing, integrated into value chains in export markets, as well as micro and small-scale producers, including artisans and family farmers, organized through various business models such as associations and cooperatives, among others.
2. As part of oceanic and terrestrial ecosystems, our commitment is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote sustainable production in forests and other ecosystems. We believe in production that guarantees food security and ensures healthy diets, according to the needs of each population. We take seriously the challenges presented by the impacts of climate change and the loss of biodiversity on our activities, without ignoring the need to balance these efforts with productivity, profitability, the protection of millions of jobs in safe work environments and the needs of future generations, as tools to combat poverty and hunger through an approach that promotes environmental, social and economic equity.
3. Today, these balances are threatened by the effects of COVID-19, supply chain disruptions that make transport and distribution more expensive, and regulatory schemes far removed from science, which limit marketing and create barriers through unnecessary tariffs. We are also facing the specter of war, which plunges us into uncertainty and makes it more difficult to navigate in this complex environment.
4. An integrated view of the food landscape is required that facilitates efficient, accessible, nutritious and safe food production, while seeking to achieve the best possible social, economic and environmental impacts. Hence the importance of promoting cooperation between governments, international organizations, civil society actors, academia and science, through joint actions such as those described below:

Promotion of all types of production

5. We urge governments to reduce the costs of formality and eliminate corruption, which is expressed through excessive regulation, inefficient requirements and procedures, or high fiscal and parafiscal burdens. Let us promote effective regulatory frameworks, based on a cost-effectiveness analysis, that seek to avoid corruption and encourage formality, according to the reality of each country. One example, among many, is a solution to the problems of legal certainty in the proper use of land and land tenure, which already exists in some countries.

Documents may be consulted at: www.fao.org.

- 6. Access to credit and reduction of tax burdens among other measures to encourage technology, research, innovation and digitalization.** The availability of financing services continues to be a major challenge. Instruments such as the Green Climate Fund, international cooperation and co-financing funds, together with incentives of various kinds, including tax incentives, can accelerate business models linked with objectives in terms of better nutrition and adaptation to climate change.
- 7. Promotion and management of partnership models, in order to increase the capacities of the various groups that share the territory.** The development of specialized production links associated with conservation objectives or nutritional, technological and productive innovation, as well as the strengthening of producer association models, such as cooperatives or others, are key strategies for the promotion of innovation, state-of-the-art technology, the formation of human capital and the generation of economies of scale.
- 8. Public-private alliances to accelerate investment in services and infrastructure,** including productive, water, educational, road and port infrastructure, as well as in irrigation systems, refrigeration networks, distribution and marketing channels, and innovation and technology transfer processes, while respecting local ecosystems, traditional knowledge and cultural spaces.
- 9. Improvement of marketing, commercialization and trade promotion capacities.** Enabling innovation, technology and creativity in all the components of primary production and value-added processing. This includes the use of modern technologies, such as artificial intelligence, big data, blockchain and other instruments (e.g., futures markets), as well as improving marketing skills, reducing intermediation and facilitating direct contact between producers and consumers.
- 10. Recognition and incentives for the promotion of good sustainable production practices.** The private sector has implemented highly effective environmental management systems related to the disposal of solid waste, the use and development of eco-friendly supplies and packaging materials, reduction of water, carbon and energy footprints, as well as regenerative and sustainable production systems. The creation of tax incentives of all kinds would encourage more actors to use this type of strategy.
- 11. Creation of circular economy models** as a new engine of development in order to design more sustainable production processes, generate new jobs and improve economic and social profitability through the creation of new businesses, while respecting sustainability in production.
- 12. We invite Members to develop regulatory frameworks and measurement standards for environmental management that are harmonized and mutually recognized among countries.** The harmonization of standards and protocols related to health, sustainable production, animal welfare, and good social and environmental practices, as well as the certification of key attributes helps to facilitate marketing at the local and international level.
- 13. Linking all production with good environmental management practices.** The sectors linked to global value chains follow high quality, safety and sustainability standards, such as "zero net" deforestation. These are strengths that can be transmitted to the rest of the actors in the value chain, who are currently excluded from markets, by supporting and promoting those sectors with these specific attributes.
14. Recognition of environmental services generated by ecosystems under conservation and sustainable management.
15. Water security that ensures improvements in productivity and adaptation to the effects of climate change.

Promote food security through innovative regulatory frameworks

16. Promote real access and security of the food supply. It is urgent to ensure an accessible, healthy and nutritious diet that meets the minimum requirements for cognitive and integral development at each stage of a person's development.

17. Transparency, inclusive participation and respect for institutions and science in regulatory development processes. The development of regulatory frameworks requires a sectoral, local, regional and international approach, based on principles such as: i) robust scientific evidence; ii) transparency and consultation with Members; iii) adherence to the good regulatory practices of each country; iv) alignment with the commitments acquired in bilateral and multilateral agreements; v) evaluation of effectiveness through objective, measurable and verifiable parameters, and vi) that regulations be developed by pertinent, qualified and representative institutions. These principles will enable more effective fora for dialogue, since, through the adequate intervention of science and expert institutions in transparent and inclusive environments, such as the CODEX ALIMENTARIUS or the OIE, we will strengthen regulatory development aimed at achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, implementing programmes such as One Health, and fulfilling the commitments of Members to combat climate change.

18. We urge Members to create innovative and educational regulatory approaches, based on a strong scientific foundation. Various countries have already established regulatory models such as those proposed by FAO. In this regard, it is recommended to evaluate their effectiveness, at the same time as we move toward scientific research approaches that allow a better understanding of eating behaviors and their cultural or sociological reasons, among other areas of knowledge. Together, we must identify the reasons that explain a large part of the malnutrition problems that persist due to both nutrient deficiencies and excesses. The recent debate between "good foods" and "bad foods" must evolve toward educational models based on a better understanding of the problem, explained from other branches of knowledge and scientific evidence.

19. The Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition of the Committee on World Food Security, finalized in 2021, provide a reference framework for the development of nutrition policy. This multilateral effort, which was carried out in relevant institutional fora, while incorporating different recommendations, should be taken as a starting point for the development of any regulatory proposal.

20. We urge Members to guarantee access to agri-food systems, through compliance with the norms that prevent unfair trade and monopolistic practices, which are contrary to the current legislation in many countries, throughout the entire value chain.

Stronger together

21. As representatives of the private sector, we wish to express our best intention to promote fora for dialogue. Let us move toward establishing a space for co-creation, coordination and on-going analysis, where we can discuss the opportunities and challenges we face, debate ideas, identify opportunities and provide better conditions to develop proposals and promote interaction between governments, civil society, academia and the private sector, with the aim of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). The structural problems we face are huge and diverse, which is why we require greater integration and structured dialogue to build bridges between actors at the local and international levels.