

RESOLUTION No. 361

**DRAFT RESOLUTIONS PENDING CONSIDERATION BY THE
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND BY THE SPECIAL ADVISORY
COMMISSION ON MANAGEMENT ISSUES**

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE, at its Eleventh Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN,

The following draft resolutions annexed hereto:

- a. Draft Resolution No. 11, IICA/FAO Relations;
- b. Draft Resolution No. 19, New Responsibility of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture ("IABA") in the Summit of the Americas Process;
- c. Draft Resolution No. 20, Implementation of and Follow-up to the Summit of the Americas Process in Matters related to Agriculture and Rural Life;
- d. Draft Resolution No. 21, Approval of a Special Budget for Construction of the IICA Offices in Brazil;
- e. Draft Resolution No. 24, Strengthening IICA's Technical Cooperation in the Area of Irrigation and Drainage for Agriculture and Rural Development;
- f. Draft Resolution No. 26, IICA's Participation in Projects with the Regional Center for Model Forests for Latin America and the Caribbean;
- g. Draft Resolution No. 27, Assessment of IICA's Agricultural Health and Food Safety Program;
- h. Draft Resolution No. 28, Fourth Ministerial Forum;

CONSIDERING:

That the draft resolutions were presented either by Member States or by the General Directorate during the course of the Eleventh Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture for its consideration;

That all the draft resolutions concern matters of importance to the hemisphere and to the Institute;

That a number of the delegations have expressed a desire to give the draft resolutions further study, analysis, and consideration, and to make additional consultations on their merits with their governments and with each other;

That pursuant to Article 90 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Directorate, the Executive Committee is authorized to approve budgetary expenditures from the Working Subfund;

That pursuant to Articles 93 and 94 of its Rules, the Executive Committee may approve matters by correspondence with an affirmative vote of two thirds of the Member States; and

That by Resolution IICA/JIA/Res.341, the Inter-American Board of Agriculture established the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues as a special committee subordinate to the Executive Committee, which is "primarily advisory in nature and has no authority to obligate the Institute,"

RESOLVES:

1. To request the Member States to continue their consideration of the draft resolutions and to transmit their comments and observations to the Director General by February 1, 2002.
2. To request that the Director General send those comments and observations to the members of the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues by February 15, 2002, and to request that the Commission submit any recommendations it might have on those draft resolutions by March 1, 2002, for transmission to the Executive Committee.

3. To request that no later than March 7, 2002, the Director General transmit the draft resolutions to the Executive Committee for its decision by correspondence under Articles 93 and 94 of its Rules of Procedure. The Director General shall include in that transmission, the comments and recommendations received from the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues.
4. To delegate to the Executive Committee any additional authority it may need to approve those Resolutions.

IICA/JIA/PR-11(IX-O/01)
28 November 2001
Original: Spanish

DRAFT RESOLUTION No. 11

IICA/FAO RELATIONS

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE, at its Eleventh Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/JIA/Doc.264(01), "IICA/FAO Relations,"

CONSIDERING:

That the Heads of State and Government of the Americas, in the Declaration of Quebec City, signed at their Third Summit, made a commitment to implement programs to improve agriculture and rural life and to promote agroindustry as an essential contribution to the reduction of poverty and the advancement of integral development;

That the Heads of State and Government of the Americas, in the Plan of Action formalized in the aforementioned Declaration, recognized the support of the hemispheric organizations and called upon other regional and international organizations to establish greater coordination for the implementation of, and follow-up to, the Plan of Action adopted at the Summit, which includes a specific section on agriculture and rural development;

That in recent years IICA and FAO have consolidated and improved their cooperation efforts; nevertheless, still pending is the study on the necessary steps to move forward in the coordination of activities with the FAO to achieve, if this is feasible, the integration of their operations in the region, as called for by the IABA in 1993 in Resolution IICA/JIA/Res.240(VII-O/93),

RESOLVES:

1. To congratulate both the Director General of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), through the good offices of FAO's Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Director General of IICA on the positive results obtained through their joint activities.
2. To request the Directors General of FAO and IICA to: (a) submit the study mentioned in Resolution 240 to the consideration of the next Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee; (b) include in that study proposals and mechanisms so that both organizations, working together, may provide effective cooperation to the Member States of IICA, in their efforts to implement both the mandate of the Third Summit, and the Ministerial Declaration of Bavaro, with respect to agriculture and rural life; and (c) continue with efforts to coordinate and expand the joint actions implemented by both organizations, tapping the synergy generated by the complementary nature of their technical and operational capabilities, in order to promote the improvement of agriculture and rural life in the Americas.
3. To urge the Member States of IICA in Latin America and the Caribbean to instruct their representatives to the FAO to address, within their sphere of responsibility, the matters referred to in this Resolution.

IICA/JIA/PR-19(XI-O/01)
28 November 2001
Original: Spanish

DRAFT RESOLUTION No. 19

**NEW RESPONSIBILITY OF THE INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF
AGRICULTURE (IABA) IN THE SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS PROCESS**

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE, at its Eleventh Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

The "Declaration of Bavaro for the Improvement of Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas,"

CONSIDERING:

That in Resolution AG/RES.1728(XXX-O/00), the Thirtieth General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS) recognized the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) as the primary ministerial forum of Agriculture and Rural Life of the Americas;

That the Heads of State and Government of the Americas, in the Declaration of Quebec City, issued at their Third Summit, established the mandate to guide the joint action of the countries of the hemisphere towards the improvement of agricultural and rural life;

That, pursuant to Resolution 349 of the Twenty-first Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee (IICA/CE/Res.349 (XXI-O/01), a meeting of Ministerial Delegates was held on October 30 and 31, 2001 in San Jose, Costa Rica, during which significant progress was achieved in developing a set of strategic guidelines for a shared agenda for action by the community of agriculture and rural life in the Americas,

RESOLVES:

1. Within the framework of Resolution AG/RES.1728(XXX-O/00), to strengthen, through dialogue and the joint action of the Ministerial Delegates, and the use of electronic means of communication, the new attributes of the IABA and its new responsibility as the main hemispheric ministerial forum for developing consensus on strategic policies and strategies for the improvement of agriculture and rural life.
2. To exhort regional integration organizations to foster and strengthen their links with the Inter-American Board of Agriculture through their bodies responsible for agriculture and rural life.
3. To continue the process to achieve the necessary consensus to adopt the Strategic Guidelines for a Shared Agenda as a basic guideline for the preparation of the Institute's 2002-2006 Medium Term Plan, as a framework for future national and regional plans of action, and of the international organizations that provide cooperation on agriculture and rural life in the Americas. To that end, to call on the Director General to obtain, through a process of "consultation by correspondence," the adoption by consensus of the final version of said Strategic Guidelines and a report thereon at the Twenty-second Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee and the OAS General Assembly.

**STRATEGIC GUIDELINES FOR A SHARED AGENDA
FOR THE COMMUNITY OF AGRICULTURE AND
RURAL LIFE OF THE AMERICAS**

We, the Ministers of Agriculture of the countries of the Hemisphere, for the purpose of making the statements and commitments contained in the Declaration of Bavaro more precise and providing the various national, regional and international entities that make up the Community of Agriculture and Rural Life of the Americas with strategic guidelines that will enable them to prepare their future national and regional plans of action,

consider it important to:

**A RENEWED INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR AGRICULTURE
AND RURAL LIFE**

**DEVELOPMENT OF AN ATMOSPHERE THAT FAVORS AGRIBUSINESS AND RURAL WELL-
BEING**

1. Join forces with other leaders of the community of agriculture and rural life for the purpose of bringing about institutional transformations in the area of agriculture and rural life, in order to develop and strengthen the capacities of individuals and organizations involved in agriculture to meet the new demands of the economic, social and environmental context; recognizing that the rural dimension is more than agriculture and can contribute to the consolidation of democracy, human and cultural development, food security and the conservation of the environment.
2. Promote within national governmental entities and international negotiation fora the formulation and implementation of policies, and the commitment to comply with agreements, that will contribute to establishing economic and social conditions that are favorable to the development of agribusiness, the generation of employment and greater profitability, and that facilitate the integration of national agro-food chains and their insertion into the world market.
3. Promote the formulation and execution of policies in the rural domain that are equitable with respect to gender, highlight the multiple roles of women, and attempt to bring salaries and social guarantees for male and female farmers into line with each other.

**STRENGTHENING DIALOGUE, CONSENSUS BUILDING AND COORDINATION AMONG ALL
THE ACTORS OF THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR**

4. Push legal reforms and transformations of public institutions and agencies, with a view to improving their mechanisms for coordination and strengthening the participation of producer and agribusiness organizations, of community and native organizations, and of rural communities in general, in the process of making decisions about the public policies that affect them, via dialogue, cooperation, and consensus building between the state and civil society.
5. Support the organizations of the rural milieu, helping them to improve their performance and strengthen their capabilities of self-management and their autonomy, and to become more actively involved in the dialogue with different sectors of government and civil society, with a view to reaching consensus on and securing their commitment vis-à-vis strategic issues related to the improvement of agriculture and rural life.
6. Strengthen the capabilities of institutions in the public agricultural sector to establish and seek additional opportunities for cooperation and collaboration with the other actors in agriculture and with organizations of civil society, in order to generate social agreements that will make it possible to work toward a shared vision and common commitments, in regards to the strategies and policies

required to ensure the reactivation and modernization of agriculture and the improvement of rural life in the long term.

7. Strengthen relations between the public agricultural sector and other public and private representatives of the sectors of finance, economics, international affairs, health, education, industry, handicrafts, tourism, environment and commerce, with a view to working together to improve agriculture and rural life. Likewise, promote institutional reforms that will favor the transformation of the public and private institutional framework, in order to bring the system of services that provide support for agricultural production and trade into line with the demands of the national and international context.

HARMONIZATION OF TRADE POLICIES AND NEGOTIATIONS

8. Support the objectives of real and meaningful reform in agriculture, as a key contributor to the growth and development of the countries, by strengthening the multilateral rules governing agricultural trade, with a view to eliminating trade-distorting subsidies, substantially reducing trade-distorting domestic support, and significantly improving market access opportunities. Likewise, recognize the critical role of support for capacity building and technical assistance in meeting these objectives, as well as the need for an open and transparent process that fosters a better public understanding of the benefits of trade and the importance of clear and equitable rules, taking into account the special needs and circumstances of small and resource-poor farmers.
9. Promote in international negotiations, primarily through the regional and multilateral fora of the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) and the World Trade Organization (WTO), better conditions for farm products. Moreover, improve national programs concerning incentives and internal assistance to agriculture and rural income, in accordance with the criteria specified in said multilateral trade agreements.

IMPROVED AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING

10. Join forces with other leaders of the community of agriculture and rural life, and particularly, with leaders in universities, educational centers, trade associations in the private sector, in order to strengthen education and training of individuals, mainly focusing on: (i) the modernization and diversification of production and technological innovation; (ii) the development of business skills in farmer organizations and rural communities; (iii) the sustainable management of natural resources; (iv) increased productivity of the rural workforce; and (v) institutional transformation in the public agricultural sector.
11. Promote the revision, revamping, strengthening and expansion of the coverage of mid- and upper-level agricultural and rural education and training programs so that they: (i) effectively respond to the needs of the various sectors of the agri-food chain and the rural population and their organizations; (ii) place emphasis on subjects aimed at improving knowledge and technical skills related to leadership, business management and the management of agricultural development; (iii) utilize electronic media and distance education; and (iv) favor the general and systematic understanding of the social, economic and environmental role and importance of agriculture and rural life.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

IMPROVEMENT AND DIVERSIFICATION OF RURAL INCOME AND INVESTMENT

12. Join forces with other leaders of the community of agriculture and rural life to promote greater equity in rural areas, through actions that will facilitate the access of the rural population to the wealth produced; broaden the individual and collective capabilities of the rural population; ensure their food security; and guarantee respect for their rights as citizens. In this effort, we will adopt an approach based on participation and transparency, which will make it possible to draw on the entrepreneurial skills and willingness of rural men and women, and safeguard the balances and dynamics of ecosystems, ensuring equilibrium among the economic, social, technological and environmental dimensions of development.
13. Promote national rural development programs focused on improving the living conditions of the rural family and combating poverty, which will: (i) make it possible to improve, over the long term, employment and income levels for small farmers, young and adult alike, in agricultural and non-agricultural activities, thus reducing migration to the cities; (ii) strengthen the action of local governments and facilitate the more effective strategic and committed participation of rural communities in decision making related to those programs; (iii) be conceived and carried out as a joint effort of the State, civil society organizations, international organizations and the donor community; (iv) facilitate the access of farmers and their families to productive resources, modern technologies, housing, health and other basic social services, as well as to technical education and credit; (v) contribute to increasing the value, productivity and profitability of the rural farmers' assets; (vi) make it possible to improve competitiveness and access to markets for alternative products, as well as the economic and social infrastructure in areas where crops for illicit use are grown; and (vii) respect the practices and customs of the communities.
14. Prepare and implement national programs that will: (i) contribute to diversification and encourage innovative non-traditional farming that takes into account land use planning, (ii) encourage the use of practices and products derived from ecological and organic farming, (iii) support the establishment of non-agricultural activities related to the sustainable use of the natural resources, such as agro-tourism, ecotourism and payment for environmental services, in ways that do not distort commerce; and, (iv) stimulate national and foreign private investment in the rural milieu, fostering the adoption of legal frameworks that provide investor with security.

SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

15. Contribute to carrying out international and national agreements relating to the issues of biodiversity, soils, water and forests, and encourage the active participation of agricultural leaders, in coordination with official representatives, in decision making related to international negotiations (global and regional) on the environment and sustainable development, and particularly those relating to biosafety, the sovereign right to use natural resources and remuneration for environmental services, while avoiding domestic production subsidies that lead to the distortion of international trade.
16. Promote policies and incentives conducive to strengthening environmental management in the agro-food chains, in the context of integrated and sustainable planning and management of watersheds and natural resources, favoring the recovery, promotion and improvement of the sustainable traditional forms of natural resource management, and the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in agriculture. Likewise, to stimulate environmentally friendly agricultural, forestry and fisheries practices, and to favor the establishment of mechanisms for protecting the cultural and intellectual property of biodiversity and assessing and paying for environmental services, in ways that do not distort commerce.

RURAL AGRIBUSINESSES AND ENTERPRISES

GENERATION OF OPPORTUNITIES AND IMPROVEMENT OF ENTERPRISES

17. Join with other leaders of the community of agriculture and rural life to promote and support micro- and small- and medium-scale rural enterprise, including cooperatives and community groups involved in economic activities such as production, processing and tourism in the rural milieu, by: (i) creating conditions that will stimulate the development of competitive businesses and increase investments in the rural milieu; (ii) promoting initiatives to improve the competitiveness of the agri-food chains, by strengthening coordination among their various links and forming clusters; (iii) expanding the infrastructure for the development of service and product marketing enterprises; (iv) developing an approach aimed at promoting agribusiness, which, starting in primary school, favors the development of the entrepreneurial skills of rural women and men; and (v) reaching agreement with universities and other educational institutions on technical assistance programs aimed at improving agribusiness management skills.

18. Promote programs designed to develop agroindustry, through: (i) developing new non-traditional products that make use of national raw materials, including native products for which there is a demand on the national and global markets; (ii) encouraging and supporting the production of products, and activities of greater added value; and (iii) promoting dialogue and consensus building within production chains.

19. Promote agricultural exports and the development of domestic markets for agricultural and fisheries products, through such actions as: (i) strengthening national information systems related products available for export, market intelligence and trade negotiations; (ii) fostering and offering services to improve export potential; and, (iii) developing marketing systems and operating markets for rural producers.

INCREASING COMPETITIVENESS

20. Promote the strengthening of agri-food chains by developing marketing systems that ensure equitable sharing of the benefits among all the participants. This involves: (i) strengthening coordination between the processes of primary production, agroindustrial processing, marketing and quality control; (ii) promoting agreements and contracts among the various actors in the chain; and (iii) implementing policies and programs to encourage the restructuring of production and the diversification of agriculture; and (iv) supporting local and national farmer associations.

PROMOTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT IN AGRIBUSINESS

21. Join forces with other leaders of the community of agriculture and rural life to promote the adoption of agricultural, forestry and fisheries production systems that will protect and conserve the environment and favor the sustainable management of natural resources and the fragile ecosystems of the rural milieu, by: (i) updating legislation and environmental regulations related to agriculture and the sustainable management of the natural resources (forests, water, soils, biodiversity, and coastal and marine resources); (ii) formulating and implementing policies and standards aimed at regulating the use and ownership of resources; (iii) promoting environmental management in agri-food chains, and the adoption of agro-ecological and organic alternatives in production; and (iv) strengthening mechanisms for public-private coordination, with an eye to the sound environmental management of agribusinesses.

SUPPORT SERVICES FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION AND MARKETING

IMPROVING CONDITIONS AND FACILITATING ACCESS TO AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL FINANCING

22. Encourage, at the national level, the creation or strengthening of a development banking system and rural financial institutions that: (i) facilitate access by farmers and rural entrepreneurs to sources of financing for production, trade and investment in agriculture, agroindustry, forestry and fishing; and, (ii) broaden savings and loan coverage, especially for small and micro businesses in the rural milieu.
23. Promote, with the support of international cooperation agencies, innovative types and mechanisms of financing and investment and risk management for the rural milieu, such as, agricultural commodity exchanges, guarantee funds, futures markets, farm insurance, venture capital, zoning for appropriate use of land, and payment for environmental services in ways that do not distort trade.

IMPROVING INFORMATION SERVICES AND CONNECTIVITY IN THE RURAL MILIEU

24. Encourage the development of more and better facilities and infrastructure for improving connectivity in the rural milieu, developing information centers and systems in rural areas to: (i) provide farmers and rural organizations with accessible, affordable information on production, pricing, technologies, market intelligence, trade negotiations and e-business, and, (ii) facilitate access by farmers and rural populations to the information needed for decision making on education, health, environment, support services and other key areas for development.
25. Promote the development of a hemispheric information system that will foster strategic alliances and interconnect countries, and cover key issues related to improving agriculture and rural life.

DEVELOPING LAND MARKETS

26. Update national legislation, in order to strengthen instruments related to land markets, such as the registration, cadastral, titling and financial systems, identifying external sources of financial resources that can be used for this purpose. Strengthening these instruments will improve legal guarantees in land-related conflicts and the level of safety related to land tenure, therefore, fostering rural investments and helping poor rural inhabitants gain access to land.

PROMOTING TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT IN AGRICULTURE

27. Support strategic alliances with public and private, national and international, organizations for the purpose of facilitating farmers' access to new technologies and enhancing their capacity to assimilate technological change. Likewise, encourage the production of crops that offer greater competitive advantages, promoting the use of top-quality materials derived from plants, irrigation and drainage technology, and technological packages suited for the different natural regions of the countries.
28. Make more technology available, and transfer more technology, to farmers, by: (i) strengthening and institutionalizing national technological innovation systems, with greater public investment, and greater participation and cooperation on the part of farmers, private enterprises, non-governmental organizations, universities and research centers; (ii) providing direct technological support, forming networks of technological cooperation among farmers and creating electronic information dissemination systems; (iii) increasing coordination and collaboration among farmers, research centers and technology transfer services, in the definition of priorities to meet market demands.
29. Develop national policies on biotechnology and its use in agriculture with a strategic vision, ensuring the use of scientific criteria in all risk assessment activities, as regards both authorizing the release of events (*living modified organisms*) into the environment and marketing foods that contain biotechnological raw materials. This effort must be complemented with a joint hemispheric effort

aimed at avoiding the establishment of unjustified measures, not based on scientific evidence, which are intended to restrict market access for products derived from modern biotechnology.

30. Promote appropriate financial and technical cooperation mechanisms, in order to strengthen national innovation systems and help overcome current limitations in technology generation and transfer in the agri-food sector. The Regional Fund for Agricultural Technology (FONTAGRO), supported by IDB and IICA, must take the lead in promoting the studies and analyses needed to develop the above-mentioned mechanisms.

STRENGTHENING AGRICULTURAL HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

31. Continue to strengthen the national, regional and hemispheric agricultural health and food safety systems, by promoting the use of healthy, environment-friendly agricultural and agroindustrial practices; also to continue working together in programs for the prevention, control and eradication of pests and diseases that affect crops and animals, particularly zoonotic and food borne diseases.
32. Strengthen pest and disease control programs, quarantine systems, actions to comply with international sanitary and phytosanitary measures (SPS), policies and legislation on quality control for agricultural and agroindustrial products; and adopt the Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP). Likewise, develop ecological and biological alternatives that will reduce the levels of contamination in agricultural products and in the environment through programs related to clean organic agriculture, training and certification in food quality and safety, and systems for monitoring, issuing warnings regarding and controlling their quality.

IMPROVING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION AND MARKETING INFRASTRUCTURE

33. Design private and public investment policies and programs to enable the use of rural areas for the development of agrifood production, providing rural areas with essential services, such as secondary roads, electric services, communications, major roads, ports, irrigation works, reservoirs and other facilities for the management, storage, refrigeration and land, sea and air transport of agricultural and fisheries products.

PREVENTION OF DISASTERS AND RISKS TO AGRICULTURE AND RURAL LIFE

34. Strengthen the capabilities of national agencies responsible for preventing disasters and mitigating their impact, support efforts to incorporate environment-friendly agricultural and forestry production systems, create an agro-meteorological monitoring network that can issue early warnings, through the integration of public and private institutions in the hemisphere.
35. Promote national food supply and safety strategies that (i) seek the generation of income, food supply through increased productivity and the production of quality, safe, nutritional foods at reasonable prices; (ii) promote the production and consumption of native products; and (iii) emphasize the need to protect the consumers' health, bearing in mind the interdependent relationship among education, health, food and nutrition.

HEMISPHERIC COOPERATION AND INTEGRATION

36. Support the Small Developing Economies and the Small Island Developing States of the hemisphere by: (i) channeling greater international cooperation for the implementation of the Barbados Plan of Action, adopted in 1994 at the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States; (ii) strengthening their capabilities to participate in international trade negotiations within the framework of the FTAA and the WTO; (iii) strengthening their production capacity and competitiveness; and (iv) enhancing their capability to prevent and mitigate the consequences of disasters and facilitating the recovery of rural communities affected by those phenomena.

37. Continue the dialogue in the regional and multilateral fora (WTO) with respect to the international trade of agrifood products, in order to achieve more trade liberalization and increased access of exports to markets.
38. Standardize hemispheric sanitary and phytosanitary rules and regulations, and harmonize food safety and quality systems so that they can guarantee that foods are produced, processed and marketed in accordance with international standards and agreements.
39. Strengthen the commitment to base the sanitary and phytosanitary measures on the standards, guidelines and recommendations approved by the competent international organizations recognized in the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures of the WTO and other entities (*Codex Alimentarius*, World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) and International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)). Promote the signing of equivalence agreements for sanitary and phytosanitary control measures systems on products or groups of products, as an instrument for facilitating international trade, and abide by the decisions of international dispute settlement bodies.
40. Promote and strengthen joint Inter-American action with agribusiness organizations, civil society and the relevant international organizations, in order to: (i) develop, through the coordination of public and private entities, a hemispheric network specialized in early warning and agrometeorological monitoring, for the prevention and mitigation of risks; (ii) reinforce the hemispheric rural agroindustry network so that it can contribute to the development of integrated agro-food chains; (iii) strengthen hemispheric actions directed at supporting subregional initiatives in the evaluation and accreditation of mid- and upper-level university degree programs in agriculture, as well as at standardizing their academic standards; (iv) strengthen the coordinating role of the Interagency Group on Rural Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, so that it focuses its principal lines of support, particularly financial support, on national rural development strategies; (v) enlist the help of the Regional Agricultural Technology Fund (FONTAGRO) in enabling the lesser developed countries to obtain greater horizontal cooperation from technologically more advanced countries, particularly in the fields biotechnology and biosafety; and (vi) increase technical and financial cooperation for the development of rural infrastructure in the countries.
41. Request that the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the World Bank and subregional financial institutions conduct, in conjunction with insurance companies, a feasibility study to the establishment of a trust fund to be used for reconstruction and to cover expenses incurred by the agrifood sectors in countries impacted by natural disasters.
42. Establish a hemispheric mechanism for the development of products based on biodiversity, and promote equal access for the lesser developed countries in the hemisphere to knowledge on biotechnology, and the distribution of benefits derived from the use of genetic resources.

DRAFT RESOLUTION N^o. 20

**IMPLEMENTATION OF AND FOLLOW-UP TO THE SUMMIT OF
THE AMERICAS PROCESS IN MATTERS RELATED TO
AGRICULTURE AND RURAL LIFE**

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE, at its Eleventh Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

The "Declaration of Bavaro for the Improvement of Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas,"

CONSIDERING:

That the Heads of State and Government of the Americas, in the Declaration of Quebec City, adopted during the Third Summit of the Americas and in the Plan of Action, included the improvement of agriculture and rural life as strategic issues within the framework of the Summit of the Americas process, and recognized IICA as a partner organization in all stages of the process;

That it is necessary to translate the aforementioned Declaration of Bavaro into national and regional plans of action;

That, in order to do so, it is essential to strengthen the Community of Agriculture and Rural Life of the Americas, as a genuine body for dialogue and consensus building;

That the work of consensus building that the Ministerial Delegates have been carrying out successfully should continue, and that they should also assume the responsibility of following up on the actions agreed to and reporting to the corresponding bodies;

That the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), as a partner institution in the Summit of the Americas process, has been collaborating actively with the work of the Ministerial Delegates;

That it is necessary to move forward with the task of following up on the implementation of the mandates of the Heads of State and Government, in relation to the issues that fall within the purview of the IABA, and to make provision for the report that must be presented at the next Summit of the Americas,

RESOLVES:

1. To give continuity to the work of the delegates of the ministers of agriculture of IICA's Member States to coordinate, by means of consultations with members of the community of agriculture and rural life in each country, the process of preparing the respective national and regional plans of action.
2. To entrust IICA, as a partner institution in the Summit of the Americas process, with: (a) continuing to support the work of the Ministerial Delegates; (b) maintaining close contacts with the Office of Summit Follow-up of the General Secretariat of the OAS, on all matters related to the Summit of the Americas process; (c) supporting the Member States, through its

Headquarters, Cooperation Agencies and Regional Directorates, in the preparation of regional and national plans; (d) supporting, by way of the Medium Term Plan, the fulfillment of the pertinent Summit of the Americas mandates and their follow-up; and (e) widely publicizing the Summit of the Americas process, especially as it pertains to agriculture and rural life.

3. To entrust the Director General with preparing reports and presenting them at the meetings of the Executive Committee and the Inter-American Board of Agriculture, describing the progress made by the Member States and the technical support provided by the Institute for the implementation of the Declaration of Quebec City, the Plan of Action of the Third Summit, and the Declaration of Bavaro for the Improvement of Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas; as well as the measures taken in relation to the next Summit of the Americas.

DRAFT RESOLUTION No. 21

**APPROVAL OF A SPECIAL BUDGET FOR CONSTRUCTION
OF THE IICA OFFICES IN BRAZIL**

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE, at its Eleventh Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

The document "Report of the Director General of IICA on the Situation of the Land Donated to the Institute by the Government of the Federal District of Brasilia,"

CONSIDERING:

That on August 31, 1999, the Institute received from the Government of the Federal District, in commodatum, a plot of land measuring 20,520 square meters, the current market value of which is US\$1,100,000.00 (one million one hundred thousand US dollars), and is located in Brasilia, in a privileged area of the city, near the offices of the Branches of Government of the Republic;

That this commodatum is subject to the condition that IICA construct its building on the aforementioned land no later than August 31, 2002;

That if this condition is not met, the land will automatically revert to the Government of the Federal District;

That with its own funds, the Institute: (i) has prepared the final construction plans for its offices in Brazil; (ii) drawn up the budget for the works, valued at US\$800,000.00 (eight hundred thousand US dollars); and (iii) is ready to initiate the administrative procedures before the corresponding authorities for authorizing construction of the building;

That in recent years, the Cooperation Agency in Brazil has generated more than US\$800,000.00 (eight hundred thousand US dollars) in revenues, the amount needed for these works, and that sum is in the Working Subfund of the General Fund;

That the IICA Cooperation Agency in Brazil currently spends approximately US\$80,000.00 (eighty thousand US dollars) per year in rent for the offices it occupies in Brasilia;

That subparagraph b. of Article 90 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Directorate establishes that the Working Subfund of the Regular Fund may only be used on a temporary basis to meet special authorized expenditures not provided for in the Program Budget. It also states that the amounts used must be restored to the Subfund in such manner as may be determined by the Executive Committee; and

That the Inter-American Board of Agriculture, as the governing body of IICA, is authorized to allocate regular resources of the organization and to make exceptions to the rules of the Institute that it has adopted,

RESOLVES:

1. To authorize the Director General to assign up to US\$800,000.00 (eight hundred thousand US dollars) of resources from the Working Subfund as a special budget, for the construction of the Institute's offices in Brasilia, works that will be awarded in accordance with competitive procedures and pursuant to the rules in effect.
2. To allocate US\$800,000.00 (eight hundred thousand US dollars) for the purpose described in point 1 above. These resources will be disbursed as the Institute's financial situation permits, and restored to the Working Subfund of the Regular Fund in 10 consecutive annual quotas of US\$80,000.00 (eighty thousand US dollars) each, beginning in 2003.
3. To direct that the premises that are constructed with the resources in question be included as part of the patrimony of the Institute.
4. To ask the Director General to report to the Executive Committee on the progress made in implementing this resolution.

DRAFT RESOLUTION N°. 24

**STRENGTHENING IICA'S TECHNICAL COOPERATION IN THE AREA OF IRRIGATION
AND DRAINAGE FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE, at its Eleventh Regular Meeting,

CONSIDERING:

That the efficient use of natural resources, and in particular water resources, represents an important factor for increasing competitiveness in agriculture in the Americas;

That, consequently, it is indispensable that countries adopt policies and implement strategies with the participation of the users to facilitate an integrated and efficient management of water for irrigation and drainage;

That the Third Water Meeting held between October 24 and 26, 2001, in addition to highlighting the importance of water for agriculture and rural development and the urgent need for governments to discuss this issue, established a Permanent Secretariat with the mission to coordinate the issue of water, organize hemispheric activities and stimulate technical and scientific exchange between the countries of the region;

That IICA has been participating in regional dialogue and exchange initiatives in this field and in the identification of opportunities for cooperation,

RESOLVES:

1. To entrust the Director General, subject to the availability of approved financial resources in the Program Budget, or with voluntary contributions received for this purpose:
 - a. To include the subject of irrigation and drainage in IICA's Medium Term Plan for the 2002-2006 period.
 - b. To establish permanent and advisory mechanisms with governments and other international agencies to stimulate the generation of shared policies and the implementation of joint actions among countries.
 - c. To support the Permanent Secretariat of the Water Meeting in the fulfillment of its functions.
2. To urge Member States to give priority to IICA in the implementation of technical cooperation services in projects with international funding that include irrigation and drainage components.

IICA/JIA/PR-26(XI-O/01)
28 November 2001
Original: Spanish

DRAFT RESOLUTION No. 26

**PARTICIPATION OF IICA IN PROJECTS WITH THE REGIONAL MODEL FOREST
CENTER FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE, at its Eleventh Regular Meeting,

CONSIDERING:

That the growing destruction of native forest, resulting from the action of extensive stock raising, shifting agriculture, population pressure and urban growth, affects, to a greater extent, people who depend on agroforestry activities for their living, most of whom belong to disadvantaged ethnic groups with limited access to education and the labor market;

That the instrument known as a "Model Forest", which originated in Canada and has been adopted by other countries, and currently covers 12 million hectares, is a profitable and appropriate option for protecting forests and improving the living standards of the population that depends on agroforestry activities for its living. This model has also proven to be a useful way of focusing actions and attracting international funding, and of creating greater awareness regarding sustainable development;

That four countries (Canada, Chile, Mexico and the United States of America) recently established, in Santiago, Chile, the Regional Model Forest Center for Latin America and the Caribbean, with assistance from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA),

RESOLVES:

To entrust IICA, in accordance with the availability of approved resources or voluntary contributions, to participate actively in implementing projects with the Regional Model Forest Center for Latin America and the Caribbean that they submit jointly to international financing institutions.

IICA/JIA/PR-27(XI-O/01)
28 November 2001
Original: English

DRAFT RESOLUTION No. 27

**ASSESSMENT OF IICA'S AGRICULTURAL HEALTH
AND FOOD SAFETY PROGRAM**

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE, at its Eleventh Regular Meeting,

CONSIDERING:

That agricultural health and food safety is a topic of increasing importance in the Americas, and around the world, as evidenced by the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures of the World Trade Organization and the Free Trade Area of the Americas Agreement;

That advancement and cooperation in the area of agricultural health and food safety is critical for making the agricultural products of IICA's Member States more competitive in international markets and improving their export earnings;

That agricultural health and food safety also play an increasingly important role in other related areas including food security, food quality, tourism and public health,

RESOLVES:

To request that the Director General undertake an overall assessment of IICA's agricultural health and food safety program, and report the results back to the Member States at the earliest possible date, and to present them to the Executive Committee at its Twenty-second Regular Meeting.

DRAFT RESOLUTION No. 28

FOURTH MINISTERIAL FORUM

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE, at its Eleventh Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

The report on the Fourth Ministerial Forum on “Challenges for the Improvement of Agriculture and Rural Life of the Americas,”

CONSIDERING:

That this event was the first activity organized by the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) under OAS Resolution 1728 of June 2000, which recognizes it 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”;

That the Director General submitted a document entitled “The current status and outlook for agricultural and rural development in 2001,” in compliance with Articles 3 and 23.d of the Rules of Procedure of the IABA, which provide that as a point of the agenda of the regular meetings of the IABA, the Director General submit a report on the status of the development of agriculture and the rural milieu and examine emerging topics of common interest, with a view to establishing consensus on policies and concrete actions;

That the Fourth Ministerial Forum was inaugurated with a keynote address by His Excellency, the President of the Dominican Republic, Hipolito Mejia, who also presided the First Session, which included statements by the Ministers and Secretaries of Agriculture;

That the Report summarizes the main proposals presented during this first session, as well as the two following sessions, which include specific technical and thematic aspects in line with the central theme of the Fourth Forum, as well as the opinions and views of leaders from the community of agriculture and rural life of the Americas present at the meeting,

RESOLVES:

1. To take note of the conclusions of the Fourth Ministerial Forum and bear these in mind when establishing a common agenda for the improvement of agriculture and rural life in the Americas.
2. To entrust IICA with taking these conclusions into consideration in the preparation of its new 2002-2006 Medium Term Plan.