

OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS SERIES No. 99

REPORT OF THE FIRST  
EXTRAORDINARY MEETING  
OF THE 2017 EXECUTIVE  
COMMITTEE

San Jose, Costa Rica

24 October 2017



# What is IICA?

More than 70 years ago, a group of visionaries recognized the need to create an agency specializing in agriculture for the American continent, with a purpose that still remains valid today: to promote agricultural development and rural well-being in this region.

As a result, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) was born. Throughout this time, the Institute has succeeded in identifying challenges and opportunities and, most importantly, evolving into an international technical cooperation organization that permanently responds to the new demands of the agricultural sector.

Our **mission** is to *encourage, promote and support our Member States in their efforts to achieve agricultural development and rural well-being through international technical cooperation of excellence.*

In partnership with our Member States, our **vision** is to *create a competitive, inclusive and sustainable inter-American agriculture that feeds the hemisphere and the world, while at the same time generating opportunities to reduce hunger and poverty among farmers and rural dwellers.*

We provide cooperation by working closely and continuously with our 34 Member States, addressing their needs in a timely manner. Our most valuable asset is undoubtedly the close relationship we nurture with the beneficiaries of our work.

We have a wealth of experience in areas such as technology and innovation for agriculture, agricultural health and food safety, agribusiness, agricultural trade, rural development, natural resource management and training.

We are also committed to achieving results. Our 2014-2018 Medium Term Plan contributes to the evolution of our technical cooperation model with the aim of consolidating IICA as an organization geared toward accomplishing concrete and visible results. We work to facilitate the positive changes that our Member States wish to achieve in their agricultural and rural sectors.



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Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) 2017



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Editorial coordination: Patricia Ross and Katia Núñez

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# **MINUTES OF THE MEETING**



**MINUTES OF THE FIRST EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE 2017  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE  
FOR COOPERATION ON AGRICULTURE (IICA)**

The First Extraordinary Meeting of the 2017 Executive Committee of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) was held in accordance with the provisions of Article 22 of the Rules of Procedure of said Committee.

The 2017 Executive Committee comprised the following Member States: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominica, Ecuador, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Saint Lucia and the United States of America.

1.1 *Opening of the meeting*

- 1.1.1 The First Extraordinary Meeting of the 2017 Executive Committee of IICA was called to order at 10:08 hours on October 24, 2017, in the Argentina Room at the Institute's Headquarters. It was chaired by Mr. Bryce Quick, Associate Administrator and Chief Operating Officer of the Foreign Agricultural Service of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).
- 1.1.2 The Director General of IICA, Dr. Víctor M. Villalobos, and the Chair of the 2017 Executive Committee gave a warm welcome to all the participants.
- 1.1.3 The Technical Secretary indicated that the main purpose of the meeting was to discuss the report on the adaptation of the cooperation model employed by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) to IICA's relationship with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and the draft resolution on the subject. He noted that all the Member States that were members of the 2017 Executive Committee were present, except for Dominica, which was not taking part due to the natural disasters that had recently affected the country. He mentioned that Canada, Chile, Haiti and the Dominican Republic were participating in an observer

the Representative of Costa Rica, Ms. Ana Isabel Gómez, Director of the Executive Secretariat for Agriculture Sector Planning (SEPSA), as the Rapporteur.

1.1.4 Pursuant to articles 32, 34, 35 and 36 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee, and as there were no comments from the floor, the provisional work agenda was adopted without changes.

2.1 Remarks by the Director General

2.1.1 The Director General began by observing that 75 years previously several countries had created IICA as an agency designed to help boost their efforts to achieve agricultural development and rural well-being. FAO was established three years later. He noted that the two institutions had existed side by side and, in general, their relationship had been one of collaboration and mutual understanding, although not without some competition and duplication. They were currently facing similar problems, especially the difficulty of obtaining more funding from the countries. The Institute had responded by making internal adjustments and seeking external resources to complement the quotas of its Member States.

2.1.2 The Director General recalled that, to that end, the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), at its Eighteenth Regular Meeting, held in 2015, had adopted Resolution No. 501. Furthermore, the Executive Committee, at its Thirty-sixth Regular Meeting, held in 2016, had adopted Resolution No. 615, in which it instructed the Director General to undertake “a study which may include the necessary consultations, to analyze the legal framework of the WHO-PAHO model that could serve as the basis for a strengthened alliance between IICA and FAO in order to eliminate duplication, promote savings in the implementation of activities, and make better use of the resources allocated by the Member States to both organizations.”

2.1.3 Dr. Villalobos then explained that the study, and a draft resolution based on its conclusions, had been submitted to the Thirty-seventh Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee, held in 2017. As it had not been possible to reach a consensus on the draft resolution at that meeting, a special meeting had been convened. He added that on August 3 the study and the draft resolution had

been circulated again among the representatives of the members of this year's Executive Committee, who had been given 30 days to submit any comments, corrections or suggested changes, but that only the United States of America and Mexico had informed the Institute officially of their position in relation to the draft resolution.

2.1.4 He remarked that FAO's Deputy Director General and Regional Representative for Latin America and the Caribbean, Mr. Julio A. Berdegué, had expressed his organization's interest in strengthening its collaboration with the Institute, but also his concern with respect to the time that would be required to develop a partnership between the two institutions based on the WHO/PAHO model. Accordingly, he had proposed deepening the relationship between FAO and IICA by means of a new memorandum of understanding.

2.1.5 The Director General said he thought the FAO Deputy Director General's proposal was a good idea. He explained that the final version of the memorandum of understanding was ready and that the two organizations would be signing it on October 26, in the presence of the representatives of the Member States during the Nineteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA. The legal instrument called for collaboration in three main areas: a) improvement of interinstitutional effectiveness, b) implementation of joint projects designed to achieve a bigger impact, and c) research and analysis.

3.1 *Report on the joint activities carried out by IICA and FAO between April 2015 and July 2017*

3.1.1 IICA's Director of Management and Regional Integration, Mr. Diego Montenegro, presented a report on joint activities carried out by the Institute and FAO between April 2015 and July 2017.

3.1.2 He pointed out that in the 2013-2015 biennium the two organizations had implemented 52 joint activities, which rose to 71 in the 2015-2017 biennium. He mentioned that the resources allocated for those actions had also been increased, from USD 2.1 million in 2013-2015 to USD 3.7 million in 2015-2017. He noted that in the Andean countries 12 joint activities had been carried out, related in particular to the areas of family farming and rural area-based development, to which almost 70% of the resources had been assigned; in the Caribbean Region, there had been 33 joint activities, which cost more than USD 600,000; and in the Central Northern and Southern regions 10, 5 and 11

actions had been implemented, respectively, that required an investment of more than USD 530,000.

- 3.1.3 He then explained that the Institute's contributions to its member countries had focused on a range of subjects: 22 actions were related to policies and institutional frameworks, 11 to climate change and risk management, 9 to business skills development, 7 to capacity building for area-based management, 5 to innovation, 5 to agricultural health and food safety, and 5 to knowledge-sharing forums.
- 3.1.4 He concluded his remarks by saying he was sure that the signing of the new memorandum of understanding between IICA and FAO would produce a growing number of concrete results with a bigger impact in the member countries. They would also contribute to the attainment of the 17 goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- 3.1.5 The Chair thanked Mr. Montenegro for his report and expressed satisfaction with what had been achieved through the joint activities of FAO and the Institute, despite the budget constraints faced by the two organizations. He pointed out that the new framework for joint action would create opportunities for the Institute and prevent the duplication of responsibilities. He felt that the USD 3.7 million assigned to the joint activities was a modest sum, and urged both organizations to allocate more resources in order to have a bigger impact on the countries as they endeavored to boost their agricultural production and trade.

#### 4.1 Comments

- 4.1.1 The Representative of Costa Rica was in favor of further collaboration and coordination between IICA and FAO on the issues of interest to the countries. He added that the fact that Costa Rica was not among the countries that had benefited from the joint activities carried out by the two organizations highlighted the need to plan future joint work better.
- 4.1.2 The Representative of Nicaragua was of the opinion that the future model of collaboration between IICA and FAO posed certain problems. He suggested that the Institute's vision of how the partnership could be implemented was clear, but little was known about FAO's position, which meant that insufficient information was available to make decisions. However, he believed the two

organizations should collaborate more closely without seeking to create a partnership based on the WHO/PAHO model.

- 4.1.3 The Director General explained to the Representative of Nicaragua that the new memorandum of understanding was designed to increase collaboration between the two organizations. He also pointed out that it was FAO that had proposed the arrangement, with concrete, tangible and measurable objectives subject to review and accountability. He added that, despite the initial focus on the three areas of collaboration specified, new issues could be included in the memorandum. Furthermore, he believed it would make it possible to increase the complementarity of the two institutions' activities.
- 4.1.4 The Representative of Argentina supported the signing of the memorandum in the terms explained by the Director General, given its potential to boost collaboration, the complementarity of actions and the creation of synergies. She was in favor of both organizations, and IICA in particular, improving their functional and operational efficiency in a way that would enable them to strengthen rural development and agricultural sustainability and development. That could be achieved by signing a memorandum that adopted a bottom-up approach.
- 4.1.5 The Observer Representative of Canada believed that a memorandum of understanding was a good option to enable IICA and FAO to provide cooperation to the countries through practical initiatives implemented together. The bottom-up approach proposed by the Representative of Argentina was a very good idea. He asked the Director General of the Institute whether in the talks held with FAO officials the latter had expressed interest in the relationship that had been proposed.
- 4.1.6 The Director General referred to the spirit in which the memorandum of understanding between IICA and FAO had been negotiated and the background to the process. He explained that, unlike other, similar instruments that were not specific, this one was aimed at concrete actions. He pointed out that in March he had met with the Director General of FAO, Mr. José Graziano da Silva, and expressed the Institute's interest in strengthening relations with that organization. He added that Mr. da Silva had stated his desire to strengthen ties with the Institute through practical actions in the field. He then informed the meeting that in April he had met with FAO's new Deputy Director General and Representative for Latin America and the Caribbean, Mr. Julio A.

Berdegú, who was concerned about the possible adaptation of the WHO/PAHO model to the relationship between IICA and FAO, since the two institutions belonged to the Inter-American System and the United Nations System, respectively. He also mentioned that Mr. Berdegú had proposed signing a memorandum of understanding prioritizing three topics: a) the exploration of possible joint initiatives in the Central American Dry Corridor, b) agricultural and rural development in the Caribbean, and c) support for the implementation of the Peace Agreement in Colombia. He concluded by reiterating that the memorandum would be signed on October 26, 2017, during the Nineteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA, and would reduce costs and red tape and yield beneficial results for the Institute's member countries.

- 4.1.7 The Representative of Antigua and Barbuda referred to the Director General's statement that only Mexico and the United States of America had sent in comments on the proposed resolution. He requested more information about the comments in question.
- 4.1.8 The Director General informed the meeting that the United States of America had stated that the WHO/PAHO cooperation model was a mechanism that it was not viable to adopt for the relationship between IICA and FAO under the current conditions. He also explained that Mexico had proposed a series of amendments to the original text of the draft resolution and suggested that they be taken into account in drafting a resolution to underpin the new memorandum of understanding.
- 4.1.9 The Observer Representative of Chile expressed support for the Institute's intention to sign a new, more pragmatic memorandum of understanding with FAO under the terms indicated by the Director General.
- 4.1.10 The Representative of the United States of America felt that signing a memorandum of understanding was the right way to approach strengthening of relationships between IICA and FAO, and agreed with the bottom-up approach proposed by the Representative of Argentina. He looked forward to receiving a copy of the proposed memorandum and hearing the opinion of FAO's representatives on the matter. Finally, he asked for clarification of the amounts mentioned by the Director of Management and Regional Integration. He wished to know whether they referred to IICA's contributions alone, or included FAO's contributions as well.



- 4.1.11 The Director of Management and Regional Integration clarified that the resources mentioned in his presentation included the contributions of both IICA and FAO.
- 4.1.12 The Representative of Ecuador supported the signing of the memorandum of understanding and acknowledged the Institute's interest in implementing joint projects that had a bigger impact in the countries. She pointed out that the instrument involved obligations that the new Director General of IICA would have to fulfill, which the Member States would have to monitor. She urged the ministries, nongovernmental organizations and other stakeholders to take part in joint efforts that boosted the results of cooperation.
- 4.1.13 The Observer Representative of the Dominican Republic regarded the signing of a memorandum of understanding as an important step for both institutions, since the two organizations provided cooperation for agriculture and thus helped tackle food insecurity. He therefore supported the initiative. He asked that it focus on urgent issues such as plant and animal health, genetic improvement, family farming and the strengthening of associative undertakings. He believed it was necessary to help create conditions that would encourage young people to remain in the countryside, and promote cooperation between developed and developing nations. Collaboration was also needed to enable the countries to produce enough domestically to supply the items in their basic food baskets.
- 4.1.14 The Representative of Saint Lucia referred to the impact of climate change on the Caribbean Region, especially some of the countries represented on the Executive Committee, such as Antigua and Barbuda and Dominica. He underscored the fact that the Institute had used its resources efficiently and avoided duplicating actions that other agencies carried out. He urged IICA and FAO to reach agreement as soon as possible on joint projects that would benefit producers. He felt it advisable to consider how to proceed with implementation of the memorandum of understanding, and to draw up a schedule to facilitate the attainment of objectives.
- 4.1.15 The Representative of Mexico supported the signing of the memorandum of understanding between IICA and FAO, since it would strengthen the agriculture sector, foster agricultural research and combat hunger and poverty. He expressed his interest in studying its contents.

- 4.1.16 The Representative of Paraguay observed that signing the memorandum of understanding would lead to resources being used more efficiently and to technical cooperation with a bigger impact on aspects of the agriculture sector such as food security, family farming, resilience, risk management and food safety.
- 4.1.17 The Representative of Panama believed the memorandum would be useful for strengthening relations between the two institutions and achieving much broader levels of joint work. He suggested strengthening the delivery of technical cooperation to countries that were not self-sufficient in food production, to reduce losses and improve food security and nutrition, especially among the most vulnerable segment of the population.
- 4.1.18 The Observer Representative of Haiti informed the meeting that, in conversations with the Director of FAO and the organization's representative in Haiti, he had raised the subject of membership of FAO and IICA, as there were countries that were not members of both organizations. In his opinion, this point needed to be analyzed carefully.
- 4.1.19 The Representative of Costa Rica mentioned some points with regard to the draft resolution that the Institute had sent to the countries for comments that could help pave the way for the adoption of the proposed new draft resolution related to the memorandum of understanding: a) the agreement between IICA and FAO should take effect gradually, and each Director General should prepare plans for strengthening the activities, based on which a common agenda should be agreed; b) a joint working group approved by the member countries of both organizations should be set up and proceed to draw up a road map; c) efforts were needed not only to make savings but also to implement technical cooperation activities with a bigger impact; and d) the Institute should continue to be headquartered in Costa Rica.
- 4.1.20 The Director General thanked the delegates for their comments and announced that the memorandum of understanding would be circulated among the members of the Executive Committee so they could study its contents. He emphasized that, in accordance with the powers granted to him by the IABA, the memorandum with FAO would be signed on Thursday, October 26 in the presence of the members of the Board and help strengthen the relationship between the two institutions. He added that the initial draft resolution proposing an IICA/FAO strategic partnership based on the WHO/PAHO

model would be withdrawn, and a new one, dealing with the signing of the memorandum of understanding designed to strengthen the joint activities of the two institutions at the inter-American level, would be submitted to the IABA for its consideration.

- 4.1.21 The Technical Secretary described the procedure to be followed in drafting the new resolution: a) the Chair would withdraw the original draft resolution No. 15; b) a new resolution would be drafted and circulated among the members of the Executive Committee; and c) if there were no objections, the draft resolution would be submitted to the IABA on Thursday, October 26.
- 4.1.22 The Representative of Nicaragua wished to study the new draft resolution, which, according to what had been discussed in the meeting, would not make reference to the WHO/PAHO model but to the strengthening of the relationship between IICA and FAO by means of the memorandum of understanding.
- 4.1.23 The Director General clarified that the new draft resolution would make no mention of the WHO/PAHO model, and the text would refer to the memorandum of understanding.
- 4.1.24 The Observer Representative of Chile asked exactly when she would be receiving a copy of the new draft resolution.
- 4.1.25 The Technical Secretary explained that as copies of the draft resolution had to be made available in the Institute's four official languages (Spanish, English, French and Portuguese), it would not be possible to circulate the document that same day. He added that the draft resolution would be submitted to the IABA for approval, so the Member States would have ample opportunity to request any amendments they deemed necessary.
- 4.1.26 The Representative of the United States of America asked whether there was any written procedure requiring that the Executive Committee approve the new draft resolution, because, if there were, the Committee would have to meet again.
- 4.1.27 The Chair clarified that draft resolution No. 15 had been withdrawn, which meant that another meeting of the Executive Committee would not be necessary. The new draft resolution would be submitted to the IABA for approval.

18 First Extraordinary Meeting of the 2017 Executive Committee

5.1 *Close of the meeting*

5.1.1 The First Extraordinary Meeting of the 2017 Executive Committee was adjourned at 11:55 hours on October 24, 2017.

## **SIGNING OF THE REPORT**



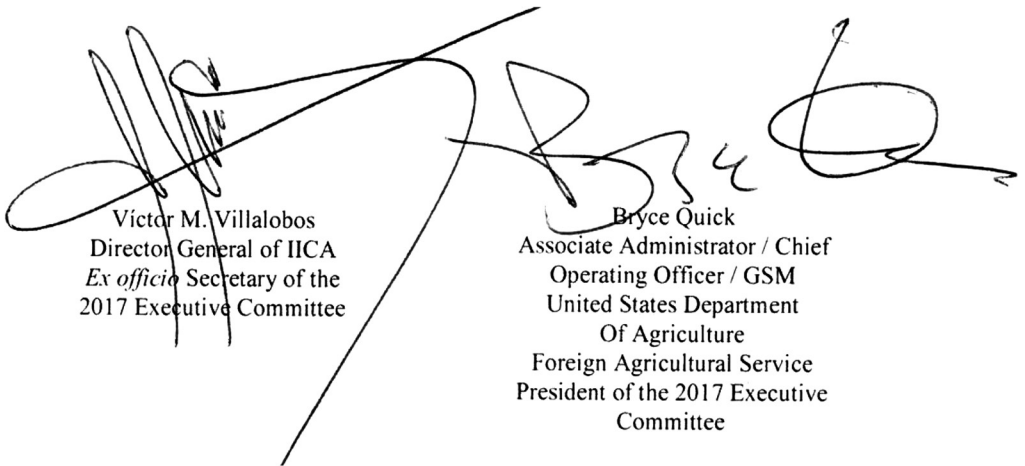
**SIGNING OF THE REPORT OF THE FIRST EXTRAORDINARY  
MEETING OF THE 2017 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Pursuant to the provisions of Article 97 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee, the Report of the First Extraordinary Meeting of the Executive Committee is hereby signed at 12:00 hours on the 24 day of October of the year two thousand and seventeen, in San Jose, Costa Rica.

This report will be edited by the Secretariat and the changes approved during the Closing Session will be included before it is published in the four official languages of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), in the Official Documents Series, all versions being equally authentic and valid.

The Secretariat shall file the original texts in the archives of the Institute, post the electronic files on the Institute's Web page and send the final version of this report to the governments of the Member States, the Associate States, the Permanent Observers of the Institute and other participants in the meeting.

San Jose, Costa Rica.



Victor M. Villalobos  
Director General of IICA  
*Ex officio* Secretary of the  
2017 Executive Committee

Bryce Quick  
Associate Administrator / Chief  
Operating Officer / GSM  
United States Department  
Of Agriculture  
Foreign Agricultural Service  
President of the 2017 Executive  
Committee





# **ANNEXES**



## **ANNEX 1: PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

- 1. Provisional Schedule** IICA/CE/Doc. 676 (17)
  
- 2. Adapting the WHO/PAHO cooperation model to the relationship between IICA/FAO**
  - 2.1. Report on Resolution No. 615 of the Executive Committee, “Adapting the WHO/PAHO cooperation model to the relationship between IICA/FAO” IICA/CE/Doc. 667 (17)
  
  - 2.2. Draft Resolution No. 15, “IICA/FAO Strategic Partnership Based on the WHO/PAHO Model, for the Structural and Financial Strengthening of the Multinational Cooperation Provided by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)” Unnumbered



## ANNEX 2: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

### MEMBER STATES ON THE 2017 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Tel.: (549 11) 4349 2536  
npascuzzi@magyp.gob.ar

#### **Antigua and Barbuda**

Arthur M. Nibbs (*Regular*)  
Minister of Agriculture, Lands,  
Fisheries and Barbuda Affairs  
Ministry of Agriculture, Lands,  
Fisheries and Barbuda Affairs  
Tel.: (268) 562 4679  
arthur.nibbs@ab.gov.ag  
nibbs.arthur@gmail.com

Manuel Otero (*Alternate*)  
Consultor  
Ministerio de Agroindustria  
Tel.: (549 11) 2312 7330  
moteroj@hotmail.com

Jorge Werthein (*Advisor*)  
Consultor  
Tel.: (5521) 9 9635 1100  
jorge.werthein@gmail.com

Colin O'Keiffe (*Alternate*)  
Permanent Secretary  
Ministry of Agriculture, Lands,  
Fisheries and Barbuda Affairs  
Tel.: (268) 461 1213  
colin.okeiffe@ab.gov.ag

Mariano Caucino (*Advisor*)  
Embajador  
Embajada de la República Argentina  
en Costa Rica  
Tel.: (506) 2234 6520  
erica@mrecic.gov.ar

Julius A. Ross (*Advisor*)  
Technical Consultant  
Ministry of Agriculture, Lands,  
Fisheries and Barbuda Affairs  
Tel.: (268) 764 9696  
ross1750@yahoo.com

#### **Colombia**

Jesús Ignacio García Valencia (*Regular*)  
Embajador  
Embajada de Colombia en Costa Rica  
Tel.: (506) 2283 6818  
ecostarica@cancilleria.gov.co

#### **Argentina**

María Nieves Pascuzzi (*Regular*)  
Coordinadora General  
Ministerio de Agroindustria

Alberto Bula Bohórquez (*Alternate*)  
Consejero  
Embajada de Colombia en Costa Rica  
Tel.: (506) 2283 6818  
alberto.bula@cancilleria.gov.co

**Costa Rica**

Ana Isabel Gómez De Miguel (*Regular*)  
 Directora  
 Secretaría Ejecutiva de Planificación  
 Sectorial Agropecuaria (SEPSA)  
 Tel.: (506) 2220 4346  
 agomez@mag.go.cr

Ingrid Badilla Fallas (*Alternate*)  
 Profesional de Cooperación Técnica  
 Secretaría Ejecutiva de Planificación  
 Sectorial Agropecuaria (SEPSA)  
 Tel.: (506) 2231 2344  
 ibadilla@mag.go.cr

**Ecuador**

Denisse Sánchez (*Regular*)  
 Analista de Cooperación Internacional  
 Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería,  
 Acuacultura y Pesca  
 Tel.: (593 9) 8245 7377  
 dsanchezt@mag.gob.ec

**United States of America**

Bryce Quick (*Regular*)  
 Associate Administrator and  
 Chief Operating Officer / GSM  
 Foreign Agricultural Service  
 Department of Agriculture  
 Tel.: (202) 720 2706  
 Bryce.quick@fas.usda.gov

Wendell Dennis (*Alternate*)  
 Deputy Director  
 Multilateral Affairs Division  
 Foreign Agricultural Service  
 Department of Agriculture  
 Tel.: (202) 720 1319  
 wendell.dennis@fas.usda.gov

Meghan Tremarche (*Advisor*)  
 International Trade Specialist  
 Multilateral Affairs Division  
 Foreign Agricultural Service  
 United States Department of Agriculture  
 Tel.: (202) 690 5715  
 meghan.tremarche@fas.usda.gov

Anita Katial (*Advisor*)  
 Counselor  
 Foreign Agricultural Service  
 United States Embassy in Costa Rica  
 Tel.: (506) 2519 2333 / 7010 4541  
 Anita.Katial@fas.usda.gov

Julie Morin (*Advisor*)  
 Attaché  
 Foreign Agricultural Service  
 United States Embassy in San Jose  
 Tel.: (506) 2519 2000  
 Julie.Morin@fas.usda.gov

**Mexico**

Melquiades Morales Flores (*Regular*)  
 Embajador  
 Embajada de México en Costa Rica  
 Tel.: (506) 2257 0633

mision@embamexico.or.cr  
embcrlica@sre.gob.mx

Víctor Manuel Sánchez Colín (*Alternate*)  
Jefe de Cancillería  
Embajada de México en Costa Rica  
Tel.: (506) 2257 0633  
mision@embamexico.or.cr  
embcrlica@sre.gob.mx

María de Lourdes Cruz Trinidad (*Advisor*)  
Directora de Relaciones Internacionales  
Secretaría de Agricultura, Ganadería,  
Desarrollo Rural, Pesca y  
Alimentación (SAGARPA)  
Tel.: (52 555) 3871 1058  
mcruz.dgai@sagarpa.gob.mx

### **Nicaragua**

Iván Lara Palacios (*Regular*)  
Viceministro de Relaciones Exteriores  
para Asuntos Jurídicos y Asesor del  
Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores  
Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores  
Tel.: (505) 2244 8000  
ilarap@gmail.com

Harold Fernando Rivas Reyes (*Alternate*)  
Embajador  
Embajada de Nicaragua en Costa Rica  
Tel.: (506) 2222 7896  
embajada.costarica@cancilleria.gob.ni

Duilio José Hernández Avilés (*Alternate*)  
Ministro Consejero  
Embajada de Nicaragua en Costa Rica

Tel.: (506) 2233 8001  
embajada.costarica@cancilleria.gob.ni

Rosalina Matus (*Alternate*)  
Encargada de Prensa  
Embajada de Nicaragua en Costa Rica  
Tel.: (506) 2233 8001  
embajada.costarica@cancilleria.gob.ni

### **Panama**

Esteban Girón (*Regular*)  
Viceministro  
Ministerio de Desarrollo Agropecuario  
Tel.: (507) 507 0612 / 507 0611  
egiron@mida.gob.pa  
emartinez@mida.gob.pa

### **Paraguay**

Liliana Miranda (*Regular*)  
Directora General de Planificación  
Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería  
Tel.: (595) 2149 3927  
liliana.miranda@mag.gov.py

### **Saint Lucia**

Ezechiel Joseph (*Regular*)  
Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries,  
Physical Planning, Natural Resources  
and Co-operatives  
Ministry for Agriculture, Fisheries,  
Physical Planning, Natural Resources  
and Co-operatives  
Tel.: (758) 453 1262 / 730 9775  
minister.agriculture@govt.lc

**MEMBER STATES NOT SITTING  
ON THE 2017 EXECUTIVE  
COMMITTEE**

**Brazil**

Rogério Pereira da Silva (*Regular*)  
Departamento de Negociações  
Não tarifárias (DNNT)  
Secretaria de Relações Internacionais  
do Agronegócio  
Ministério da Agricultura, Pecuária  
e Abastecimento  
Tel.: (55 61) 3218 3475  
rogerio.silva@agricultura.gov.br

**Canada**

Daryl Nearing (*Regular*)  
Deputy Director  
Multilateral Relations  
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada  
Tel.: (613) 773 1523  
daryl.nearing@agr.gc.ca

**Chile**

Claudia Carbonell Piccardo (*Regular*)  
Directora Nacional  
Oficina de Estudios y Políticas  
Agrarias (ODEPA)  
Tel.: (562) 2 2397 3007  
ccarbonell@odepa.gob.cl

Alex Barril García (*Alternate*)  
Asesor del Ministro de Agricultura  
en Asuntos Internacionales  
Ministerio de Agricultura  
Tel.: (562) 2397 3090 / (569) 7783 0200  
abarril@odepa.gob.cl  
adbarril@gmail.com

**Haiti**

Carmel André Beliard (*Regular*)  
Ministre de l'Agriculture, des Ressources  
Naturelles et du Développement Rural  
Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Ressources  
Naturelles et du Développement Rural  
Tel.: (509) 4911 7077  
carmelandre88@gmail.com

**Dominican Republic**

Ángel Estévez Bourdierd (*Regular*)  
Ministro de Agricultura  
Ministerio de Agricultura  
Tel.: (809) 547 3888 ext. 3032  
cooperacion.agricultura@gmail.com  
despacho.agricultura@gmail.com

Laura Virginia Naut Quiñones (*Alternate*)  
Directora  
Departamento de Cooperación Internacional  
Ministerio de Agricultura  
Tel.: (809) 547 3888  
cooperacion.agricultura@gmail.com



**SENIOR IICA PERSONNEL**

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| Víctor M. Villalobos | Director General  |
| Lloyd Day            | Deputy Director General   |
| José Alfredo Alpízar | Head of the Social Communication Unit                             |
| Evangelina Beltrán   | Coordinator of the Office of the Director General                 |
| Salvador Fernández   | Director of Technical Cooperation                                 |
| Héctor Iturbe        | Technical Secretary of Governing Bodies                           |
| Karen Kleinheinz     | Director of the Financial Management Division                     |
| Teresa Maldonado     | Director of the Division of Programming,<br>Budgeting and Control |
| Diego Montenegro     | Director of Management and Regional Integration                   |
| Carlos O'Farrill     | Secretary of Corporate Services                                   |
| Doreen Preston       | Coordinator of the Language Unit                                  |
| Patricia Ross        | Coordinator of the Official Events Unit and<br>Governing Bodies   |



## ANNEX 3: MEETING STAFF

### Secretariat of the meeting

*Ex officio* Secretary and Director General  
of IICA Victor M. Villalobos

Technical Secretariat Evangelina Beltrán  
Héctor Iturbe  
Katia Núñez

Logistics Patricia Ross

Legal advisor William Berenson

### Communications

José Alfredo Alpízar  
Rafael Cartín  
Andrea Morales  
Isaac Zúñiga

### Diplomatic and protocol services

Michel Chartier

### Services for delegates

Registration and secretariat Fanny Carreño

Assistance at hotel Sonia González  
Kembly Phillips

Assistance at the airport Ronald Hidalgo  
Randy Alexander  
Gerardo Chaves  
María Hernández  
Eva López  
Marlon Rodríguez

|   |         |  |
|---|---------|--|
| Conference room                                       |         | Marlen Montoya<br>Eduardo Lovell<br>Lorena Mata  |
| <b>Documents and report</b>                           |         |  |
| Classification and distribution                       |         | Laura Gutiérrez<br>Silvia Gutiérrez  |
| Précis writers  |         | Manuel Jiménez<br>Ronald Aragón<br>Nathalia Coto<br>Patricia Matamoros<br>Julio Mora<br>Ana Lucía Obregón<br>Viviana Palmieri<br>Ericka Soto |
| Editing   |         | Máximo Araya   |
| <b>Coordination of interpretation and translation</b> |         |  |
| Simultaneous interpretation                           |         | Doreen Preston   |
|   | Spanish | Luis Delgadillo<br>Thais Pardo   |
|   | English | Elizabeth Lewis<br>Sharona Wolkowicz   |
| Translation   |         |  |
|   | Spanish | Olga Vargas  |
|   | English | Laura Moya   |
| <b>Control and follow-up of translations</b>          |         |  |
|   |         | Leticia Quirós   |

|                                    |         |  |
|------------------------------------|---------|--|
| Word processing                    | Spanish | Máximo Araya<br>Olga Vargas                                      |
|                                    | English | Doreen Preston<br>Laura Moya<br>Andrés Vargas                    |
| <b>Audio and video recording</b>   |         | David Álvarez<br>Minor Carvajal<br>Dennis Martínez               |
| <b>IT Services</b>                 |         | Andrés Chaves<br>Ricardo Montero<br>Luis Diego Wattson           |
| <b>Support services</b>            |         |  |
| Coordination                       |         | Laura Mora<br>Rebeca Martínez<br>Ronald Meneses<br>Alice Montero |
| Cleaning                           |         | Lidieth Quesada  |
| Local transportation               |         | Javier Barboza<br>Carlos Umaña<br>Harold Zumbado                 |
| Maintenance and meeting room setup |         | Minor Carvajal<br>Eduardo Castillo<br>Rafael Flores              |
| Medical services                   |         | Annia Madelin Wong<br>Yeimy Rodríguez                            |
| Procurement                        |         | German Arroyo<br>Francisco Brenes<br>Eva López                   |



**INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR COOPERATION ON AGRICULTURE**

Headquarters / P.O. Box: 55-2200 San Jose,  
Vazquez de Coronado, San Isidro 11101, Costa Rica  
Phone: (+506) 2216-0222 / Fax: (+506) 2216-0233  
E-mail: [iicahq@iica.int](mailto:iicahq@iica.int) / Web site: [www.iica.int](http://www.iica.int)