

RESOLUTION No. 687

**THE STRATEGIC ROLE OF THE AGRIFOOD SYSTEMS OF THE AMERICAS WITH
RESPECT TO PROCESSES UNDER THE UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK
CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE**

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Forty-second Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

The presentation on “The Strategic Role of Agrifood Systems of the Americas at COP27”,

CONSIDERING:

That the 27th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP27) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) will take place on 6 to 18 November 2022 in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt;

That the ultimate objective of the UNFCCC is to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations “at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system” within “a time frame sufficient to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change, **to ensure that food production is not threatened** and to enable economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner”;

That, given the extreme vulnerability of production systems, urgent actions are needed to boost their resilience, increase sustainable production and provide other co-benefits, with a view to safeguarding food security within the Americas and across the globe;

That the agrifood systems of the countries of the Americas play an essential role, as a source of food and agricultural products for the world;

That, via Resolution IICA/JIA/Res. 531 (XXI-O/21), the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) wholeheartedly endorsed the sixteen general messages on agriculture in the hemisphere, which were presented at the Food Systems Summit 2021, in particular Message No. 10, which states:

“Food production systems are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change. The challenges posed by climate change make it essential

to focus efforts on adaptation in order to ensure the resilience of the system and maintain the production necessary for food security. Agricultural production should move in the direction of sustainable systems that provide a balance between carbon emission and carbon capture, while considering positive external factors resulting from ecosystem services, all of which will require systems that quantify and promote their usage. The new technologies contribute to reconciling agricultural production with environmental and ecosystem health, which is an indispensable factor for agriculture's resilience”;

That the Virtual Meeting of Ministers on Climate Change and Agriculture, “On the Road to the 2022 Summit of the Americas and Beyond”, held on 31 May 2022, approved a message emphasizing the need to “undertake individual and collective actions to strengthen the role and participation of the agriculture sector in international and national climate processes”; and

That, the region’s Heads of State and Government at the IX Summit of the Americas adopted a commitment to achieve a “Sustainable and Green Future”, including by “strengthen[ing] the role of all stakeholders in the agriculture sector in international and national climate efforts, and invit[ing] them to present their recommendations at a meeting of ministers of agriculture of the Americas before the Conference of the Parties (COP27), to be organized by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)”;

RESOLVES:

1. To express full support for national and multilateral efforts that contribute to raising the profile of the agriculture sector at COP27 and the UNFCCC.
2. To instruct the Director General of the Institute to develop key messages to be presented by the ministers of agriculture of the Americas at UNFCCC COP27, and to submit them for the consideration of the Ministerial Meeting on Climate Change and Agriculture, which will take place in San Jose, Costa Rica, on 23 September 2022, and which will discuss strategies for the public and private sectors to progress jointly towards achieving the required transformation in the agrifood sector in response to climate change.
3. To entrust the Director General with organizing a pavilion at the COP27 to showcase the progress, challenges, priorities and proposals of the agriculture sector in its effort to tackle climate change, as well as the multiple benefits that would be gained from increasing the resilience of the sector in the countries of the Americas, as it relates to food and nutritional security, environmental sustainability, water conservation and management, livelihoods, peace and stability, poverty reduction and reduced land and soil degradation.
4. To instruct IICA to send a letter to the Presidency-elect of UNFCCC COP27, Egypt, to express the support of the ministers of agriculture of the Americas to make agriculture a central theme of COP27, thereby fostering greater climate support, action and ambition.

5. To request that IICA continue to assist its Member States in building capacities to facilitate the increased participation and influence of the agriculture sector in national and international climate processes, in the development and implementation of nationally determined contributions (NDCs) and national adaptation plans (NAPs) in the sector, as well as in mobilizing the financing required to achieve these objectives.
6. To recognize the work undertaken by IICA to support its Member States in their preparations for COP27 and in the ensuing processes.