

Hemispheric Ministerial Agreements

AGRO 2003-2015 Plan for Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas

Bavaro 2001 - Panama 2003 - Guayaquil 2005



**Ministerial Meetings "Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas"
held within the context of the Summits of the Americas Process**



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Rural Life in the Americas

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IV SUMMITS
OF THE AMERICAS
MAR DEL PLATA - ARGENTINA - 2005

*“Creating Jobs to Fight Poverty and Strengthen
Democratic Governance”*

**The Heads of State and Government of the Americas
advocated growth through job creation, proposed a
renewed institutional framework and supported
implementation of the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan**

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*We are committed to building a more solid and inclusive
institutional framework, based on the coordination of
economic, labor, and social public policies to contribute to the
generation of decent work, which must comprise:*

*A comprehensive framework for rural and agricultural
development, to promote investment, job creation, and rural
prosperity”*

**Fourth Summit of the Americas, 2005
Paragraph 55 g), Declaration of Mar del Plata**

To carry out the above, the Heads of the State and Government defined
as a national commitment:

*To support the implementation of the Ministerial Agreement of
Guayaquil in 2005, Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas
(AGRO 2003-2015 Plan).*

**Fourth Summit of the Americas, 2005
Paragraph 35, Plan of Action**

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Ministerial meetings are producing significant results in support of Summit mandates. We will continue to develop this cooperation.

**Third Summit of the Americas, 2001
Paragraph 29, Declaration of Quebec City**

Foreword

The Third Ministerial Meeting “Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas”, which took place 30-31 August 2005 in Guayaquil, marked another milestone in the renewal of agriculture and rural life, edging the region closer to the Shared Vision for 2015 approved in the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan. At the third meeting of their hemispheric forum, the ministers of agriculture renewed their commitment to the mandates issued by the Heads of State and Government at the last two Summits of the Americas (Quebec 2001 and Monterrey 2004) and provided input for the Fourth Summit of the Americas (Mar del Plata 2005).

In the ***Ministerial Agreement of Guayaquil for Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas***, the ministers reaffirmed and renewed their commitment to the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan and its components: the Shared Vision 2015 and the Strategic Objectives. Signed during the Third Ministerial Meeting “Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas”, the Ministerial Agreement of Guayaquil updates the AGRO Plan, incorporating complementary strategic actions for the 2006-2007 biennium along with measures for implementing them and providing follow-up.

This important accomplishment on the part of the ministers has a positive impact on the highest level political forum in the hemisphere. The Heads of State and Government of the Americas, gathered at the Fourth Summit of the Americas, the theme of which was “Creating jobs to fight poverty and strengthening democratic governance,” committed their countries to supporting implementation of the Ministerial Agreement of Guayaquil as a concrete step toward growth with job creation.

The Hemispheric Ministerial Agreements (HMAs) presented in this publication are a sovereign expression of the political will of the

countries. They were arrived at through a broad, transparent process of hemispheric dialogue in which the Ministerial Delegates and their hemispheric forum played a leading role (Group for the Implementation and Coordination of the Agreements on Agriculture and Rural Life - GRICA).

Under the chairmanship of Ecuador, the GRICA held several sessions in 2005, in San Jose, Costa Rica (7-8 July) and Guayaquil (29 August). The Ministerial Delegates reached consensus on important issues and strategic actions that were subsequently included in the agreements of the Third Ministerial Meeting, which complement and give continuity to the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan.

The ministerial process “Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas” got under way in May 2001, immediately after the Third Summit of the Americas. Two important milestones followed: the First Ministerial Meeting (Bavaro 2001), where the ministers adopted the Ministerial Declaration of Bavaro, and the Second Ministerial Meeting (Panama 2003), where they signed the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan.

The purpose of this publication is to make available all the hemispheric ministerial agreements on agriculture and rural life adopted within the framework of the Summit of the Americas process. Therefore, in addition to the agreements adopted in Guayaquil 2005, it contains those approved in Panama 2003 and Bavaro 2001.

We expect this set of agreements to pave the way for a renewed institutional framework and strengthen joint action and inter-American cooperation. The mandates issued at the Summits and in the Hemispheric Ministerial Agreements are necessary but insufficient to realize the Shared Vision of 2015. With a decade to go until 2015, let us make these mandates and agreements a political and technical resource for the design of National policies, the promotion of investments and the creation of an enabling environment for the sustainable development of agriculture and the rural milieu, food security and rural prosperity in the countries of the Americas by 2015.

As an institutional partner in the Summit of the Americas process and the Secretariat of the Ministerial Meetings, IICA will continue to support the ministerial process for the improvement of agriculture and rural communities and help coordinate it even more closely with the overarching objectives of the mandates of the Summits of the Americas, and with the actions and mechanisms used to implement and monitor them.



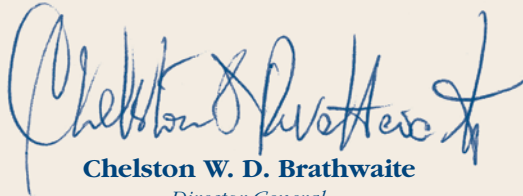
Pablo Rizzo Pastor

*Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of Ecuador
Chairman of the Third Ministerial Meeting
“Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas”*



Jorge Hernan Chiriboga

*Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of Ecuador
Chairman of the 2005 GRICA*



Chelston W. D. Brathwaite

*Director General
Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture
Secretariat of the Ministerial Meeting*

Introduction

The hemispheric ministerial process got under way in 2001, following the Third Summit of the Americas, during which the hemisphere's leaders issued mandates on agriculture and rural life. During this short and fruitful process, the ministers have taken far-reaching decisions to chart the future course of agriculture and rural life. Various aspects of these decisions, set out in the "Hemispheric Ministerial Agreements," are explained below.

What are the Hemispheric Ministerial Agreements (HMAs)?

The Hemispheric Ministerial Agreements on Agriculture and Rural Life are decisions on strategic aspects of agriculture and rural life in the Americas that the ministers take by consensus.

As international instruments in support of the Summit of the Americas Process, the HMAs document the ministers' determination and commitment to promote **strategic actions** for the sustainable improvement of agriculture and the rural milieu, working with the actors responsible for the development of agriculture and rural life.

The HMAs have substantial political strength because they address the actual problems described in the country reports and are agreed upon by the Ministerial Delegates of the 34 countries by means of dialogue and negotiation. The political influence of the agreements is heightened by the governments' pledge to implement and update them, thus ensuring the continuity required to move toward the Shared Vision for 2015.

The political strength of the HMAs was reaffirmed when they were adopted as official documents of the Summit of the Americas process. The Heads of State and Government take them into consideration when drawing up their declarations and action plans. A case in point is paragraph 43 of the Declaration of Nuevo Leon (Special Summit,

Monterrey 2004), in which the leaders of the Americas endorsed the implementation of the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan, the HMA of the Second Meeting Ministerial on Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas. The Heads of State and Government expressed their political will in paragraph 35 of the Plan of Action of the Fourth Summit of the Americas (Mar del Plata 2005), in which they committed their countries to supporting implementation of the Ministerial Agreement of Guayaquil.

What is the political framework of the HMAs?

The mandates regarding agriculture and rural life of the Summits of the Americas (Quebec 2001, Monterrey 2004 and Mar del Plata 2005) provide the hemispheric political context for the Hemispheric Ministerial Agreements.

The Third Summit of the Americas (Quebec 2001) marked a turning point in agricultural affairs. The Heads of State and Government recognized the important contribution that agriculture and rural life make to their countries' efforts to alleviate poverty and achieve sustainable development.

They acknowledged this potential in defining agriculture's dual role as a way of life for millions of rural inhabitants and as a strategic sector of the socioeconomic system for generating prosperity. Accordingly, the leaders issued two mandates in the Plan of Action adopted at the Third Summit, which were designed to: (i) promote joint hemispheric action by the stakeholders in the agricultural sector with a view to achieving the sustainable improvement of agriculture and rural life; and, (ii) promote long-term national strategies with the same purpose based on dialogue and the involvement of key actors.

At the Special Summit (Monterrey 2004), the leaders pledged to make a sustained effort to improve the living conditions of rural dwellers by promoting investments and creating an enabling environment for the improvement of agriculture, to contribute to social development, rural prosperity and food security. To that end, they endorsed the implementation of the second hemispheric ministerial agreement: the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan. Also, in the Declaration of Mar del Plata, focused

on the creation of jobs, the Heads of State and Government commit themselves to the development of an institutional framework based on the coordination of public policies that includes an overall framework for the development of the rural and agricultural sector that will promote investment, job creation and rural prosperity.

The mandates and commitments issued at the three summits established a political framework that attaches new value to agriculture and rural life in the Americas and generated a new ministerial process, whose agreements are helping to implement and update the mandates themselves.

What are the Ministerial Meetings “Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas”?

These Ministerial Meetings are an outcome of the Summit of the Americas process. They are the hemispheric political mechanism for tackling the strategic issues and specific mandates highlighted in the hemispheric declarations and action plans. They are a hemispheric instrument for multilateral political dialogue, coordination and cooperation among the 34 member countries of the Inter-American System.

“Ministerial meetings for many issues are the most important operational mechanism for the collective design of sectoral action plans on public policy in the region. This is the most important added value that the Summits of the Americas Process has brought to the OAS and to our countries.”¹

The Ministerial Meetings provide an opportunity for the participants to brief each other about the progress made in implementing the Summit mandates and the HMAs. Hence, they form part of two processes: the Summit of the Americas and “Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas.” The HMAs adopted at these meetings give continuity to the process of

1. Official Documents from the Summits of the Americas Process from Miami to Quebec City, Volume III. OAS. Quote taken from the Preface presented by Jaime Aparicio Otero, Director of the OAS Summits Office.

building the shared vision of agriculture and rural life for 2015 and, at the same time, contribute to the preparation of the new decisions that the Heads of State and Government are required to take.

Thus, the Ministerial Meeting “Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas” is the political space of the ministers of agriculture. It is the highest-level hemispheric forum that establishes, by consensus, the **strategic priorities and actions** for improving agriculture and rural life.

The identity of the Ministerial Meeting, underpinned by a continuous ministerial process, is expressed and consolidated with the HMAs. Thanks to this identity as a hemispheric body, the Ministerial Meeting has positioned itself as a key political player that is having a real impact on the Summit of the Americas process.

How are the HMAs developed?

The Hemispheric Ministerial Agreements begin in the countries. The text is prepared by means of a ministerial process that includes national consultations, which generate the proposals that the countries share. Based on these national proposals, the countries enter into dialogue, negotiate and reach a hemispheric consensus on the text of each agreement.

In these terms, and given the diversity of the countries’ views and concerns, the ministerial process has made it possible to reach a broad consensus on the HMAs. As a result, the HMAs reflect common concerns and issues on which the countries agree, which are of great value for improving agriculture and rural life.

With a view to facilitating hemispheric dialogue and building consensus, since 2001 the ministerial process has included two groups of key players who have spearheaded the effort and been the driving force behind their respective hemispheric forums and agreements. These groups are: (i) the Ministerial Delegates of Agriculture and Rural Life and their Hemispheric Forum of Ministerial Delegates, the Group for the Implementation and Coordination of the Agreements on Agriculture and Rural Life (GRICA); and, (ii) the Ministers of Agriculture and their Ministerial Meeting “Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas”.

In their respective countries, the delegates coordinate the preparation of the national proposals for the Hemispheric Ministerial Agreements and interact with the other delegates in building a hemispheric consensus. They also coordinate the preparation of the national progress reports on the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan and identify any challenges encountered in implementing it. At the meetings of the Hemispheric Forum of Ministerial Delegates, the GRICA builds consensus for the agreements signed by the ministers at the Ministerial Meetings.

The work of the delegates and ministers is supported by the Secretariat of the Ministerial Meeting, provided by IICA, whose work facilitates the continuity of the ministerial process as a whole. Its core task is to support the national, regional and hemispheric dialogue on which the ministerial agreements are based. The Secretariat also favors the continuation of the work of the Delegates, the GRICA and the Ministerial Meeting, and the coordination of same with the Summit of the Americas process.

What agreements have already been adopted and what do they contain?

The continuous ministerial process between 2001 and 2005 has included the three Ministerial Meetings on Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas, at which the following Hemispheric Ministerial Agreements were adopted:

Bavaro 2001. First Ministerial Meeting

■ *Ministerial Declaration of Bavaro for the Improvement of Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas*

In the Declaration, the ministers pledged to promote joint action aimed at improving agriculture and rural life, as called for in the Plan of Action adopted at the Third Summit of the Americas. They stressed the importance of making progress with the efforts related to food security, rural poverty alleviation and the sustainable development of agriculture and the rural milieu, addressing together the issues of competitiveness, equity, environmental sustainability and democratic governance.

Panama 2003. Second Ministerial Meeting

- *AGRO 2003-2015 Plan of Action for Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas*

The ministers' decision to reach consensus on a shared hemispheric agenda, taken at the First Ministerial Meeting, prompted further dialogue and the development of the second ministerial agreement.

The ministers' determination was reflected in the Plan, in the following four complementary components: the Shared Vision 2015 of Agriculture and Rural Life; the Strategic Objectives, to focus the efforts; the strategic actions needed to achieve the objectives, the Hemispheric Agenda for 2003-2005; and, the measures for implementing and providing follow-up to the Plan.

- *Ministerial Agreement on Implementation of and Follow-up to the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan*

Guayaquil 2005. Third Ministerial Meeting

- *AGRO 2003-2015 Plan. Ministerial Agreement of Guayaquil on Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas*

Having decided to implement the Plan by means of biennial ministerial agendas, the ministers need to keep abreast of the progress being made in implementing the strategic actions and, based on the information garnered, to update the Plan. The Agreement reaffirms the commitment to the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan and updates it with complementary strategic actions for the 2006-2007 biennium, as well as implementation and follow-up measures.

- *Ministerial Agreement on the Implementation and Follow-up of the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan in preparation for the Fourth Ministerial Meeting*

Basically, this covers the preparation of the national reports on the progress being made in implementing the Plan and the challenges

facing the countries. Based on this information, the Plan will be updated for the 2008-2009 biennium.

- Ministerial Agreement on the Information System for Following-up the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan

It recognizes the effort initiated by IICA and ECLAC that is supported by FAO, PAHO, UNESCO and the ILO. It calls for further efforts to develop an information system for monitoring and evaluating the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan in the run up to the Fourth Ministerial Meeting in 2007.

- Ministerial Agreement on Agriculture and Rural Life for the Fourth Summit of the Americas

The ministers instructed the Chairperson and the Secretariat of the Ministerial Meeting, based on the ministerial proposal, to help consolidate the positioning of agriculture and rural life as part of the Summit of the Americas process.

The opportunity and the challenge

Essentially, the Summit mandates and the HMAs are necessary but not sufficient by themselves to make the shared vision for 2015 a reality. They are necessary inasmuch as they provide a political and technical framework for devising strategies, aligning institutions and focusing national efforts and international cooperation. However, to bring about the change that the HMAs promote with the shared vision for 2015, special emphasis must be placed on three crucial political and institutional issues that the HMAs address: the need for a renewed institutional framework, joint action and cooperation among the set of actors responsible for the sustainable improvement of agriculture and rural life.

This is the great challenge we must rise to if we are to seize the opportunity offered by the Summit mandates and the HMAs: to move more quickly together toward 2015.

GUAYAQUIL 2005: THIRD MINISTERIAL MEETING

- **The 2005 ministerial process**
- **Inaugural ceremony:** reflections on agriculture and rural life in the Americas
- **Strategic issues**
- **The 2005 Hemispheric Ministerial Agreements**



“Creating Jobs to Fight Poverty and Strengthen Democratic Governance”

The Heads of State and Government asked international organizations to continue their support of the implementation and monitoring of the mandates and commitments of the Summits

We instruct the members of the Joint Summit Working Group, comprised of the OAS, IDB, Economic Commission for Latin América and the Caribbean (ECLAC), PAHO, Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI), the World Bank, ILO, International Organization for Migration (OIM), Institute for Connectivity in the Americas (ICA), Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), and the Andean Development Corporation (CAF), under the coordination of the OAS, to continue, through their respective activities and programs, to support the follow-up and implementation of the Declarations and Plans of Action of the Summits of the Americas, and of the Declaration and Plan of Action of Mar del Plata, as well as to assist in the preparations for future summits.

**Fourth Summit of the Americas, 2005
Paragraph 75, Declaration of Mar del Plata**

To request Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and ECLAC to continue with their efforts to develop an information system for the follow-up and evaluation of the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan, and the other members of the Joint Summit Working Group to join in those efforts as a contribution to defining goals and indicators for the mandates of the Summit of the Americas.

**Fourth Summit of the Americas, 2005
Paragraph 43, Plan of Action**

Third Ministerial Meeting - 2005



At the Third Ministerial Meeting “Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas” in the context of the Summit of the Americas process, the Ministers updated the **AGRO 2003-2015 Plan of Action** by approving the ***Ministerial Agreement of Guayaquil for Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas***. They also approved other hemispheric agreements related to the implementation and monitoring of the Plan and to the ministerial proposal to be presented to the Fourth Summit of the Americas.

THE 2005 MINISTERIAL PROCESS:

Progress with the implementation and updating of the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan for Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas

At their Second Ministerial Meeting, in 2003, the ministers decided to implement and provide follow-up to the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan by means of six biennial agendas. They also agreed to review the countries' progress in implementing the Plan's strategic actions for 2003-2005 and to use the information obtained to update the agenda for 2006-2007. Therefore, during the 2005 ministerial process the countries focused on preparing the corresponding progress reports and updating the Plan. The 2005 ministerial process involved the preparation of information by the countries, the hemispheric dialogue and consensus building during the 2005 GRICA meeting and the Ministerial Meeting. The results achieved were due to the successful outcome of these activities.

The progress reports showed that the countries are implementing a variety of efforts to improve agriculture and rural communities as part of the strategic actions of the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan. Their efforts include national studies, proposals, plans, programs and sectoral and State policies², as well as regional programs, agreements and policies. The countries also face new challenges in their efforts to improve agriculture and rural life and implement the Plan. Considering the above, the Secretariat of the Ministerial Meeting, facilitated by IICA, assisted the Ministerial Delegates in preparing the

2. Policies adopted by mutual agreement among members of the executive and legislative branches of government and representatives of civil society, and which extend beyond the term of any one administration.

national progress reports, implementing the Plan and identifying the challenges facing the countries.

The process of information gathering and consultation got under way at the end of 2004. The countries responded very positively. A total of 29 countries shared the following 66 reports with each other via an electronic system facilitated by the Secretariat: 28 national progress reports, 14 executive summaries on the implementation of the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan, pursuant to mandate 43 of the Declaration of Nuevo Leon (Special Summit of Americas - Monterrey 2004) and 24 reports on the challenges that lie ahead. In this way, the Ministerial Delegates learned more about the actions each country is carrying out to improve agriculture and rural life.

To begin the hemispheric dialogue aimed at building consensus among the Ministerial Delegates regarding the updating of the Plan, the Secretariat prepared an input entitled *Base Document for the 2005 Hemispheric Dialogue*. The delegates used it to focus the virtual dialogue and orient the sessions of the 2005 GRICA with a view to building consensus on the updating of the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan.³

Following a wide-ranging, sincere and constructive dialogue, the Ministerial Delegates reached consensus on the **complementary strategic actions** needed to update the AGRO Plan for the 2006-2007 biennium and on how they would set about implementing them and providing follow-up. The ongoing national actions, the continued existence of the challenges identified in the 2003 Ministerial Process and the new challenges pinpointed, all set out in the national reports, showed the relevance of the strategic actions of the AGRO Plan adopted in 2003 and the need to update the Plan with complementary strategic actions.

3. The Secretariat of the Ministerial Meeting set up a forum for virtual dialogue at <http://www.lica.int/cumbres>, based on two documents for the GRICA's work: Background information for the 2005 Hemispheric Dialogue and Base Document for the 2005 Hemispheric Dialogue.



Ministerial Delegates of Agriculture and Rural Life at work in San Jose, Costa Rica (July 2005)

Specifically, in the sessions held 7-8 July in San Jose and 29 August in Guayaquil, the Ministerial Delegates involved in the 2005 GRICA approved, by consensus, four proposed ministerial agreements, including the updated version of the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan for the 2006-2007 biennium and the ministerial proposal for the Fourth Summit of the Americas (Mar del Plata 2005). As Ecuador was to host the Ministerial Meeting, its Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Livestock, Eng. Jorge Hernan Chiriboga, chaired the 2005 GRICA.

As a result of the consensus reached by the 2005 GRICA, at the Third Ministerial Meeting the ministers and secretaries of agriculture renewed their commitment to the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan in the Ministerial Agreement of Guayaquil and adopted provisions related to its implementation and follow-up.

INAUGURAL CEREMONY:

Reflections on Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas

The Vice President of Ecuador, Alejandro Serrano A., inaugurated the Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas on 29 August 2005, in Guayaquil, Ecuador. The Assistant Secretary General of the OAS, the Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of Ecuador, the Minister of Foreign Trade, Fisheries and Competitiveness of Ecuador, the Director General of IICA, the FAO Deputy Director General and Regional Representative for Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Governor of Guayas Province accompanied him at the head table.



Inaugural Ceremony, His Excellency Dr. Alejandro Serrano Aguilar, Constitutional Vice President of the Republic of Ecuador, presiding.

The inaugural ceremony was attended by more than 800 people, including delegations from the 33 member states of the Summit of the Americas Process, representatives from Germany, Spain, France and Israel, lawmakers, members of the diplomatic corps, former ministers of agriculture and livestock of Ecuador, Directors Emeritus of IICA, representatives of and officials from international organizations and representatives of national and international media organizations.

After Ecuador's national anthem and the anthem of Guayaquil had been played, the following officials addressed the Ministerial Meeting:

**The Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of Ecuador,
Chairman of the Ministerial Meeting**

"...so that the future will be a new dawn for agriculture in the Americas"

Pablo Rizzo P. welcomed the participants. He realized, he said, that the 34 ministers of agriculture of the Americas had a great responsibility to the peoples of their respective countries. They were meeting shortly before the 2005 World Summit on the status of the millennium development goals and the Fourth Summit of the Americas, whose motto was *Creating jobs to fight poverty and strengthen democratic governance*.

It was at the Third Summit of the Americas that the Heads of State and Government of the Americas had pledged to promote programs to improve agriculture and rural life and to foster integral development. Then, at the Special Summit, the leaders endorsed the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan approved at our Second Ministerial Meeting.

"That new political support further strengthens our resolve. We share today the great responsibility of working to ensure a different future for all those people who have placed their trust in us, so they can understand that there is a hope for a better life for the rural people in the Americas with the signing of the Ministerial Agreement of Guayaquil for Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas."

The Director General of IICA

“We came here to continue building a bridge to the future, so that many of our peoples can cross from a life of despair to a life of rural prosperity”

Chelston W. D. Brathwaite expressed his sincere appreciation to the Government of Ecuador and its personnel for the warm, hospitable welcome and the preparations for the meeting in Guayaquil.

Brathwaite commented on the current and future responsibilities related to agriculture in the 21st century. Given the Shared Vision 2015 of the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan and the need to attain the Millennium Goals, all those concerned were committed to assuming new responsibilities and playing a more dynamic and strategic role in helping to bring about greater prosperity in the rural communities of our countries.

“We are convinced,” he said, “that modernizing the agricultural sector and making rural areas a priority are the key to reducing poverty and guaranteeing food security and sustainable development.” He urged the countries and organizations represented to join forces for new strategies, policies, actions and investments designed to preserve the growth of agriculture and the rural milieu and its noble, sustained contribution to the economies of our nations.

Finally, he thanked the Mayor of Guayaquil for his receptiveness and backing and the Vice President of Ecuador for attending and supporting the meeting.

The Assistant Secretary General of the OAS

“We must do everything possible to ensure that the new global dynamic and the dynamic of our region do not lead to the social and economic marginalization of countries and groups”

Ambassador Albert R. Ramdin began his address by noting that the issues that would be addressed at the Ministerial Meeting were, undoubtedly, far-reaching and of strategic importance for the countries of the Americas. Agriculture, he said, would continue to be one of the strategic cornerstones of the efforts to combat poverty, create employment, safeguard social stability and enable citizens to play a tangible role in the development of their local communities and countries.

He said that the Organization of American States believed in the importance of continuing to promote national medium- and long-term strategies aimed at the sustainable improvement of agriculture and rural life. As the Presidents and Heads of Government had agreed at the Third Summit of the Americas, in the city of Quebec, all the stakeholders - lawmakers, civil society organizations and the scientific and university sectors - needed to work with the governments to attain that objective.

“We applaud the spread of democracy in the hemisphere but we are all painfully aware that the countries have not always managed to deliver the promised fruits of democracy and economic reform. This failure is undermining the social and political fabric and creating instability that poses a threat to governability.”

The Vice President of Ecuador

“The challenges posed by the new context oblige us to look at agriculture from another perspective, so we can position it suitably in the scenario of major political decisions”

Alejandro Serrano A. said that the President had asked him to convey to the participants, on behalf of the people and Government of Ecuador, a cordial welcome and his best wishes for a pleasant and fruitful stay in the country. He added that, like others represented in the meeting, the Ecuadorian Government was committed to meeting the millennium objectives and goals for the year 2015. “Therefore,” he said, “the Ministerial Meeting is of

particular importance for the future of our peoples, especially for those who work daily in the countryside, struggling with the uncertainties of nature and the risks and whims of markets that often bury the hopes of small farmers and agricultural entrepreneurs for a better life.”

In formally and solemnly inaugurating the Ministerial Meeting “Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas”, he said he was convinced that “the ministerial dialogue and the Agreement of Guayaquil signed here will address the needs, concerns and demands of all those who work in the countryside, and be instrumental in promoting the fair and balanced development we so desire for our rural society, a society formed by bold and enterprising entrepreneurs and a large community of small farmers who have been awaiting better living conditions for decades.”

STRATEGIC ISSUES

Pablo Rizzo P., Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of Ecuador, chaired the meeting. Mariano Ernesto Salaverría, the Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of El Salvador, served as the Deputy Chair.

The hemispheric context of the Ministerial Meeting

The following presentation was made on this subject:

- *The role of the ministerial meetings in the Summit of the Americas Process.* Luis Alberto Rodriguez, Director of the Summit of the Americas Secretariat of the Organization of American States.

The presentation underscored the contribution made by the ministerial meetings held under the umbrella of the Summit of the Americas Process to the decisions adopted by the Heads of State and Government in the Summit declarations and plans of action, and to the implementation of those decisions. He commented on the timeliness of the Ministerial Meeting “Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas”, as the ministers would be able to submit their Ministerial Proposal to the Chair of the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG), the unit preparing the documents for the Fourth Summit of the Americas.

Reports of the Secretariat

The Secretariat of the Ministerial Meeting, facilitated by IICA, submitted two reports:

- *Building today the Agriculture and Rural Life of 2015. Opportunity for a renewed institutional framework, joint action and cooperation.* P. Lizardo de las Casas, Director of Follow-up to the Summit of the Americas Process of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture.⁴

Based on the national reports, the report describes the progress of the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan; reaffirms the need to intensify and speed up the improvement of agriculture and rural communities; give details of the new hemispheric dynamic that has developed as a result of the mandates on agriculture and rural life of the Summits of the Americas; and highlights the opportunity that the development of agriculture and rural life for 2015 offers to the Community of Agriculture and Rural Life of the Americas, today and in the near future, for a renewed institutional framework, joint action and cooperation.

4. The report of the Secretariat of the Ministerial Meeting is available at <http://www.iica.int/cumbres>.

Building today the future of 2015. Contribution of an information system for AGRO 2003-2015 Plan follow-up and evaluation. P. Lizardo de las Casas, of IICA, and Martine Dirven, Head of the Agricultural Development Unit of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).⁵

The presentation begins with an overview of the information system for providing follow-up and evaluating the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan, comprising the following three components: the national actions carried in the fulfillment of commitments; the impact of those actions on the performance of agriculture and rural life; and the expectations and perceptions of the leaders. Isolated, ongoing activities are described for each of the three components. The second part of the presentation contains a summary of the status of the system's second component, based on a joint initiative undertaken by international organizations, coordinated by IICA and ECLAC, which enjoys the support of FAO, PAHO, UNESCO and the ILO, aimed at identifying indicators for agriculture and rural life.

Ministerial dialogue on strategic issues

In line with the motto of the meeting and the strategic issues taken into consideration in updating the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan with new complementary strategic actions, the discussions at the meeting focused on the following topics:

The potential of agrobiotechnologies (ABT) in agriculture in the Americas. Albert Sasson, international consultant.

The outlook for the agro-energy industry in the Americas

- *The outlook for the agro-energy industry.* Luiz Carlos Correa C., President of the Chamber of Sugar and Alcohol Producers of Brazil

5. The report was accompanied by a CD entitled: *Developing an information system for following up on the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan. Joint initiative among international organizations in support of the Ministerial Delegates of Agriculture and Rural Life.*

Comments: Argentina, Chile, Paraguay, Uruguay, Brazil and Canada.

Reducing poverty, generating employment and promoting rural prosperity

- *Policies for rural prosperity.* Sergio Sepulveda, IICA Director of Sustainable Rural Development.

State policies for implementing the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan

- *Development and implementation of State policies for agriculture and rural life. Chile's experience.* Arturo Barrera, Under Secretary of Agriculture of Chile.
- *A partnership for the development of the countryside.* Roberto Villeda, Ministerial Delegate for Agriculture and Rural Life of Honduras.

Comments: Costa Rica, Guatemala, Paraguay, Guyana, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Mexico, Jamaica, Bahamas, Dominican Republic and Venezuela.

Presentation of the Report of the 2005 GRICA

The Chair of the 2005 GRICA, Jorge Hernan Chiriboga, presented a report on the results of the sessions of the 2005 GRICA held in San Jose and Guayaquil, containing the proposals agreed on by the Ministerial Delegates for Agriculture and Rural Life for the 2005 Hemispheric Ministerial Agreements on Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas.

These agreements, which complement the agreement on the updating of the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan set out in the Ministerial Agreement of Guayaquil, include actions related to: (i) the implementation of, and follow-up to, the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan, in

preparation for the Fourth Ministerial Meeting; (ii) the development of an information system to provide follow-up to the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan; and (iii) the presentation to the SIRG of the Ministerial Proposal on Agriculture and Rural Life, for inclusion in the Draft Declaration of Mar del Plata and the Plan of Action of the Fourth Summit of the Americas (Argentina, 2005).

Ceremony for the signing of the Ministerial Agreement of Guayaquil

The Chair of the Ministerial Meeting, Pablo Rizzo P., asked the meeting to approve the *Ministerial Agreement of Guayaquil for Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas*, prepared by the 2005 GRICA and invited the ministers and heads of delegation to sign the document. The President of Ecuador, Alfredo Palacio G., and IICA Director General Chelston W. D. Brathwaite served as witnesses of honor.⁶ By signing the Ministerial Agreement of Guayaquil, the ministers renewed their commitment to the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan.



Signing ceremony for Ministerial Agreement of Guayaquil.

6. The Ministerial Agreement of Guayaquil for Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas is available at <http://www.iica.int/cumbres>.

THE 2005 HEMISPHERIC MINISTERIAL AGREEMENTS

The Ministerial Meeting, based on the consensus reached by the 2005 GRICA, adopted the following four Hemispheric Ministerial Agreements. They complement those approved in 2001 and 2003, in particular the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan. The following are the principal definitions from the four 2005 HMAs.

AGRO 2003-2015 Plan. Ministerial Agreement of Guayaquil for Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas

In the Ministerial Agreement of Guayaquil, the Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan and its components: the Shared Vision 2015, the Strategic Objectives, the Hemispheric Agenda and the implementation and follow-up measures.

Thus, the 2006-2007 Hemispheric Agenda, whose motto is “*Promoting state policies for agriculture and rural life,*” establishes complementary strategic actions for the following 11 strategic issues:

- Areas of local economic development
- Quality management and certification
- Development of products based on the biotechnologies
- Generation of energy from alternative sources
- Policies for agroindustry
- Environmental services and environmentally sound practices
- Market opportunities for goods and services produced in an environmentally sustainable manner
- Social responsibility in rural enterprises
- Integral development of rural territories
- National policies
- Interinstitutional and multisectoral work

The ministers approved a series of measures related to the implementation of, and follow-up to, the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan. As well as updating the Plan, they called for the regional mechanisms and

strategies for the improvement of agriculture and rural life to be strengthened, for international organizations to support the ministerial process for the implementation of the Plan and joint, coordinated action, and for the development of an information system on agriculture and rural life to provide follow-up to, and evaluate, the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan.

Ministerial Agreement on the Implementation of and Follow-up to the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan in Preparation of the Fourth Ministerial Meeting

In this agreement, the ministers: (i) entrusted the Ministerial Delegates and the Secretariat of the Ministerial Meeting with the task of disseminating the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan, updated with the Ministerial Agreement of Guayaquil; (ii) instructed the Ministerial Delegates to prepare, with the Secretariat's help, the national progress reports on the Plan and the challenges that lie ahead, and the GRICA to update the Plan for the 2008-2009 biennium; and, (iii) asked the Secretariat to prepare a report on the status of the AGRO Plan and the actions carried out to coordinate the ministerial process with the Summit of the Americas Process.

Ministerial Agreement on the Information System for Following up on the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan

The Ministers asked the international organizations that supported the initial effort to develop an information system for providing follow-up and evaluating the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan to continue with this effort, with a view to completing it before the Fourth Ministerial Meeting, in 2007. They also urged other international organizations to take part in this initiative and asked the Secretariat to present this experience to the Joint Summit Working Group.

Ministerial Agreement on the Ministerial Proposal on Agriculture and Rural Life for the Fourth Summit of the Americas

The Ministers asked the Chair and the Secretariat of the Ministerial Meeting to submit the two paragraphs of the proposal to the Summit Implementation and Review Group (SIRG), comprising the National Summit Coordinators of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, for possible inclusion in the Draft Declaration and Plan of Action of the Fourth Summit of the Americas, Mar del Plata 2005.

MM3/HMA4-2005
August 31, 2005

**AGRO 2003-2015 PLAN
MINISTERIAL AGREEMENT OF GUAYAQUIL ON
AGRICULTURE AND RURAL LIFE IN THE AMERICAS**

We, the Ministers and Secretaries of Agriculture of the Americas, assembled in Guayaquil, Republic of Ecuador (August 30-31, 2005) at the Third Ministerial Meeting “Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas” within the framework of the Summit of the Americas process, in fulfillment of the mandates on agriculture and rural life issued by the Heads of State and Government at the Third Summit of the Americas (Quebec 2001) and the Special Summit (Monterrey 2004), and in follow-up to the AGRO 2015 Plan for Agriculture and Rural Life of the Americas adopted at the Second Ministerial, reaffirm our commitment to the Plan and its components: Shared Vision 2015, Strategic Objectives, Hemispheric Agenda and Implementation and Follow-up.

Accordingly, pursuant to the ministerial agreements on implementation and follow-up of the Plan adopted in 2003, the national progress reports and the challenges identified in implementing the AGRO 2015 Plan, presented by our respective ministries, we hereby update the Hemispheric Agenda, for implementation in the 2006-2007 biennium, and adopt the measures necessary for implementation and follow up.

2006-2007 Hemispheric Agenda

Promoting national policies on agriculture and rural life

The process of updating the Hemispheric Agenda, for implementation in 2006-2007, is comprised of two components: the continued validity of the strategic actions adopted in 2003, and the new, complementary strategic actions identified by the countries in 2005.

In order to move towards the Shared Vision for 2015 and the achievement of the Strategic Objectives, we express our wish to continue the efforts which began in 2003, and besides, to promote, together with stakeholders of the agri-food sector and the rural milieu and others linked to the development of agriculture and rural life, the following complementary strategic actions:

I. Promoting competitive rural enterprises

(Rural territories – production/trade dimension)

Areas of local economic development

1. To further promote local economic development with support from public and private investment based on an integrated approach aimed at improving the productivity, competitiveness and managerial capabilities of rural enterprises, with a view to generating employment and improving living conditions in rural territories.

II. Integrating chains and strengthening their competitiveness

(Agricultural production-trade chains – production/trade dimension)

Quality management and certification

2. To promote quality integrated management in the agricultural production chains by, inter alia, developing agricultural health and food safety systems, including certification mechanisms. Information related to existing quality management tools shall be disseminated to facilitate the expansion of production and trade.

Development of products based on the biotechnologies

3. To develop new products based on the application of biotechnologies, within the framework of national policies on innovation considering biosafety mechanisms, with the coordinated participation of public and private sectors in compliance with existing regional and international agreements.

III. Promoting an environment conducive to competitive agriculture (National and international context – production/trade dimension)

Generation of energy from alternative sources

4. To promote policies that will encourage the generation of energy from alternative sources based on agricultural and agroindustrial activities, sustainable use of renewable natural resources and modern biotechnology.

Policies for agroindustry

5. To promote the adoption of policies for the development of market oriented agro-industries, agribusiness and non-agricultural rural activities.

IV. Being environmentally responsible in the rural areas (Rural Territories – ecological/environmental dimension)

No complementary strategic actions have been added to those contained in the Hemispheric Agenda approved in 2003.

V. From farm to table: promoting integrated environmental management (Agricultural production-trade chains – ecological/environmental dimension)

No complementary strategic actions have been added to those contained in the Hemispheric Agenda approved in 2003.

VI. Participating in building an institutional environmental framework (National and international context - ecological/environmental dimension)

Environmental services and environmentally sound practices

6. To encourage the development of various approaches and mechanisms that recognize the value of the environmental services offered by the rural milieu and environmentally sound practices.

Market opportunities for goods and services produced in an environmentally sustainable manner

7. To improve institutional frameworks and consolidate the progress reached in the production and marketing of sustainable agricultural products.

VII. Quality of life in rural communities: creating know-how and opportunity (Rural Territories - sociocultural/human dimension)

No complementary strategic actions have been added to those contained in the Hemispheric Agenda approved in 2003.

VIII. Advancing learning and expertise in the chain

(Agricultural production-trade chains – sociocultural/human dimension)

No complementary strategic actions have been added to those contained in the Hemispheric Agenda approved in 2003.

IX. Promoting policies to create capabilities and opportunities for the rural communities (National and international context - sociocultural/human dimension)

Social responsibility in rural enterprises

8. To promote the concept of social responsibility in rural enterprises; fostering the creation of jobs and the principle of decent work as reflected in international conventions.

X. Strengthening public and private sector participation and coordinated action between them in the territories (Rural Territories – political/institutional dimension)

Integral development of rural territories

9. To foster integrated rural development based on a multisectoral and participatory approach, and strengthened public-private coordination.

XI. Strengthening dialogue and commitments among actors in the chain (Agricultural production-trade chains – political/institutional dimension)

No complementary strategic actions have been added to those contained in the Hemispheric Agenda approved in 2003.

XII. Promoting National policies and regional and hemispheric cooperation for agriculture and rural life (National and international context – political/institutional dimension)

National policies

10. To promote long-term national policies for the development of the agri-food sector and the rural milieu, taking into consideration existing international frameworks.

Interinstitutional and multisectoral work

11. To strengthen sectoral and multisectoral coordination to facilitate the implementation of long-term national policies, for improving agriculture and the quality of life in rural communities.

Implementation and Follow-up

Strengthening regional integration and international cooperation

The AGRO 2015 Plan reflects the intention of member countries to work towards the shared vision with the understanding that national governments have the main responsibility for implementing the shared agenda and the execution of the Action Plan in compliance with international commitments and agreements.

Updating of the biennial agendas

12. The 2006-2007 Hemispheric Agenda is the second of six two-year agendas by means of which the AGRO 2015 Plan is implemented. National governments will deliver reports on their progress in implementing each two-year agenda to the Ministerial Meeting “Agricultural and Rural Life in the Americas” which takes place at the end of that two-year period, and use these reports to update the agenda for the next period.

Regional mechanisms and strategies

13. To strengthen regional meetings of ministers of agriculture, mechanisms for the regional integration of agriculture, for consultation, identification of priorities, coordination of actions and adoption of regional policies on matters of common interest, in support of the implementation of the national strategies aimed at improving agriculture and the quality of life in rural communities.

Support for international organizations and interagency agendas

14. To recognize and thank international organizations for their efforts in support of the ministerial process for the

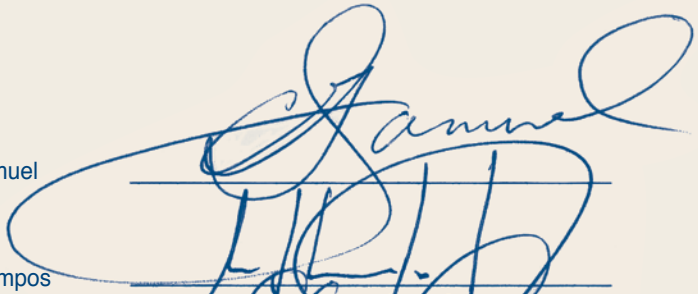
implementation of AGRO 2015 Plan. We ask them to continue these efforts, avoiding duplication of actions and strengthening the inter-institutional and multisectoral work. We recall our call, as we did in 2001 and 2003, to international financial institutions and other regional cooperation agencies and cooperating governments to engage in this institutional effort, strengthening joint actions, in accordance with national and regional strategies, aimed at implementing and following up on the shared agenda of the AGRO 2015 Plan.

Information system for agriculture and rural life

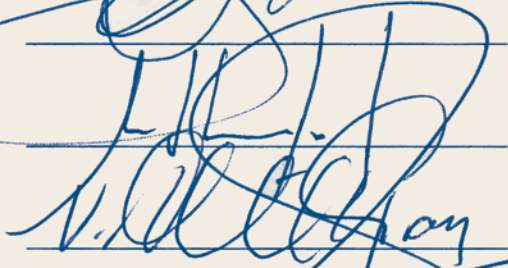
15. To support the development of an agriculture and rural life information system for the AGRO 2015 Plan follow-up and evaluation. In this regard, we acknowledge the initial efforts made by ECLAC, IICA, PAHO, FAO and UNESCO in the identification of indicators for the AGRO 2015 Plan. We applaud the recent incorporation of the ILO into this initiative. We request their continued support, and call other international organizations associated with agriculture and rural life to join this initiative by providing information, resources and technical support in order to implement the system in 2007.
16. Recognizing the importance of developing appropriate measurement and assessment mechanisms for the progress of the AGRO 2015 Plan, we will work along side international organizations in collecting national data for input into the information system for follow-up to the AGRO 2015 Plan. Moreover, efforts will continue to define appropriate measurements to evaluate the progress of the Plan.

Signed in the city of Guayaquil, Republic of Ecuador, on the thirty-first of August of the year two thousand and five.

Antigua and Barbuda
Charlesworth T. Samuel



Argentina
Miguel Santiago Campos



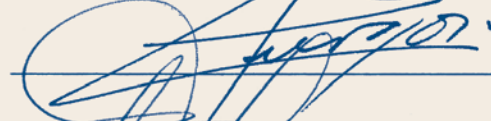
Bahamas
V. Alfred Gray



Barbados
Erskine Griffith



Belize
Jaime David Burgos



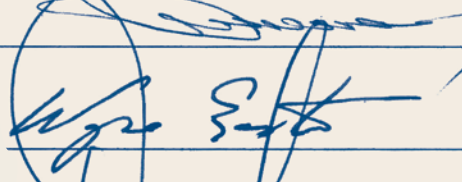
Bolivia
Guillermo Ribera Cuellar



Brazil
Roberto Rodrigues Rodrigues



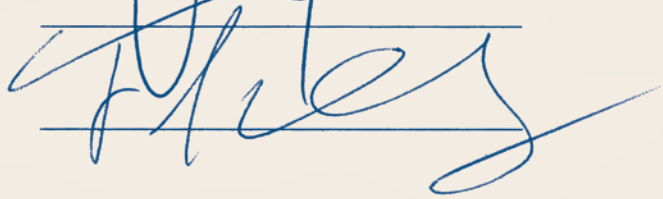
Canada
Wayne Easter



Chile
Arturo Barrera Miranda



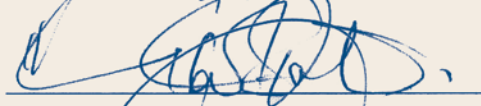
Colombia
Fernando Arbeláez Soto




Costa Rica
Rodolfo Coto Pacheco



Dominica
Randolph Cato



Dominican Republic
Amilcar Romero Portuondo



El Salvador
Mariano Ernesto Salaverría




Grenada
Roland Bhola



Guatemala
Bernardo López Figueroa



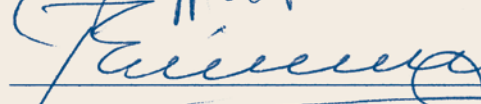
Guyana
Satyadeow Sawh



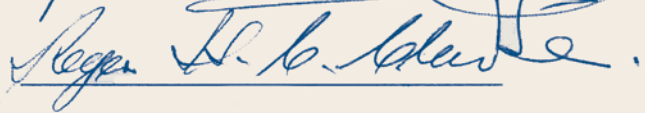
Haiti
Philippe Mathieu



Honduras
Roberto Villeda Toledo



Jamaica
Roger Clarke



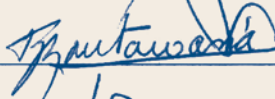
Mexico
Víctor Manuel Villalobos



Nicaragua
José Augusto Navarro



Panama
Erick Fidel Santamaría




Paraguay
Gustavo N. Ruíz Díaz Roa



Peru
Manuel Manrique Ugarte



Saint Lucia
Ignatius Jean



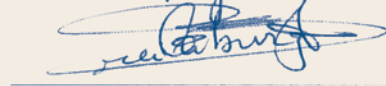
St. Kitts and Nevis
Cedric Roy Liburd



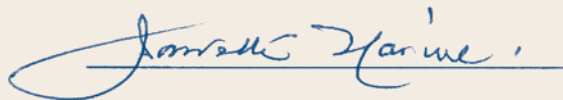
St. Vincent and the Grenadines
Girlyn Miguel



Suriname
Gerrit Arno Breinburg



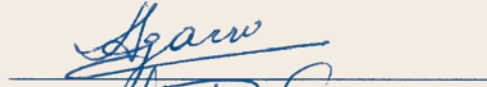
Trinidad and Tobago
Jarrette Narine



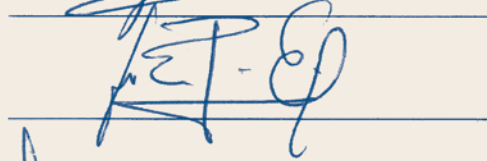
United States of America
William L. Brant



Uruguay
Ernesto Agazzi

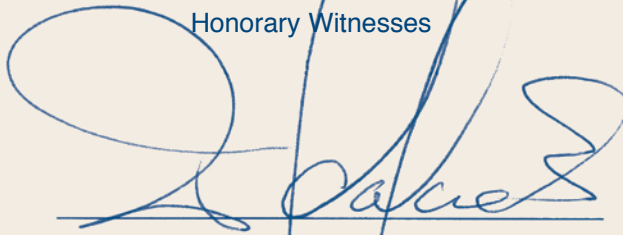


Venezuela
Freddy Escalona

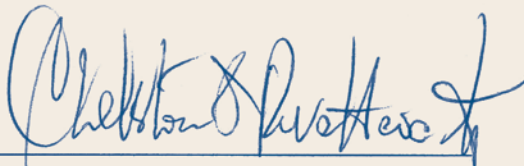


Pablo Rizzo Pastor
Minister of Agriculture and Livestock
Chairperson of the Third Ministerial Meeting

Honorary Witnesses



Alfredo Palacio
President of the Republic of Ecuador



Chelston W. D. Brathwaite
Director General
Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture

MM3/HMA5-2005
August 31, 2005

HEMISPHERIC MINISTERIAL AGREEMENT
**IMPLEMENTATION AND FOLLOW-UP OF THE
AGRO 2003-2015 PLAN IN PREPARATION FOR
THE FOURTH MINISTERIAL MEETING**

The Third Ministerial Meeting “Agriculture and Rural Life” within the context of the Summit of the Americas,

Having seen:

The report of the Secretariat on the ministerial process “Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas,” entitled “Building today the Agriculture and Rural Life of 2015: Opportunity for a renewed institutional framework, joint action and cooperation,”

The “Ministerial Agreement of Guayaquil on Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas,” adopted by this the Third Ministerial Meeting,

The Declaration of Nuevo Leon, issued at the Special Summit of the Americas (Monterrey 2004), specifically mandate 43, on agriculture and rural life, and mandate 72, on coordination among and support from international organizations and partner institutions in the Summit process in implementing and following up on the mandates of the Summits;

Considering:

That the Ministerial Meeting “Agriculture and Rural Life” within the context of the Summit of the Americas plays an important role in the implementation of the mandates and in contributing inputs for decision making by the Heads of State and Government;

That the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan is a hemispheric ministerial agreement that can be viewed as a mandate from the Summit process, and constitutes the shared agenda and the strategic framework for the development of national and regional strategies for improving agriculture and rural life;

That the Ministerial Delegates, in their respective countries, have been playing a coordinating role in the implementation of the Hemispheric Agenda and in the preparation of the progress reports;

That the Group for the Implementation and Coordination of the Agreements on Agriculture and Rural Life of the Summits Process (GRICA), which is the Hemispheric Forum of Ministerial Delegates, played a major role in building consensus for preparation of the Plan and updating same;

That IICA, as Secretariat of the Ministerial Meeting, provides support to the Group for the Implementation and Coordination of the Agreements on Agriculture and Rural Life of the Summits Process (GRICA) and to the Ministerial Meetings “Agriculture and Rural Life,”

Agrees:

1. To entrust the Ministerial Delegates and the Secretariat of the Ministerial Meeting with disseminating the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan, updated with the “Ministerial Agreement of Guayaquil on Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas.”
2. To charge the Ministerial Delegates, with support from the Secretariat of the Ministerial Meeting, and in advance of the Fourth Ministerial Meeting, with preparing the national reports on compliance with the 2006-2007 Hemispheric Agenda of the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan, and on the challenges encountered in implementing the Plan.
3. To charge the Hemispheric Forum of Ministerial Delegates (GRICA) with updating the Hemispheric Agenda, for application in 2008-2009 to be presented at the Fourth Ministerial Meeting.
4. To charge the Secretariat of the Ministerial Meeting, drawing on the reports of the Ministerial Delegates, with preparing a report on compliance with the Hemispheric Agenda and on the actions it carries out to ensure coordination of the ministerial process with the Summit of the Americas process to be presented at the Fourth Ministerial Meeting.

MM3/HMA6-2005
August 31, 2005

HEMISPHERIC MINISTERIAL AGREEMENT
**INFORMATION SYSTEM FOR FOLLOWING UP
ON THE AGRO 2003-2015 PLAN**

The Third Ministerial Meeting “Agriculture and Rural Life” within the context of the Summit of the Americas,

Having seen:

The “Ministerial Agreement of Guayaquil on Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas,” adopted by this the Third Ministerial Meeting, specifically as regards the development of an information system on agriculture and rural life for following up on the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan,

The report from the Secretariat on the ministerial process “Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas,” entitled “Building today the Agriculture and Rural Life of 2015: Opportunity for a renewed institutional framework, joint action and cooperation,”

The presentation by the Secretariat on an information system for following up on the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan, and progress achieved thanks to joint action among ECLAC, IICA, FAO, PAHO, UNESCO and ILO,

Considering:

That the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan is implemented via biennial Hemispheric Agendas;

That it is necessary to monitor and evaluate efforts being made, by means of an information system that covers compliance with the agreements, the impact of same on the improvement of agriculture and rural life, and the opinions and expectations of leaders,

Agrees:

1. To ask those international organizations that have supported the initial effort to develop an information system for follow up and evaluation of the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan, and the Secretariat of the Ministerial Meeting, to continue said effort, coordinating actions aimed at further developing the system with a view to the Fourth Ministerial Meeting, in 2007. Also, to encourage other international organizations to join in this initiative.
2. To ask the Secretariat of the Ministerial Meeting to present this experience, along with the organizations that have participated in this initiative, at the Meeting of the Joint Summit Working Group, as a contribution in defining goals and indicators for the mandates of the Summits of the Americas.

HEMISPHERIC MINISTERIAL AGREEMENT
**MINISTERIAL PROPOSAL ON AGRICULTURE AND RURAL
LIFE FOR THE FOURTH SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS**

The Third Ministerial Meeting “Agriculture and Rural Life” within the context of the Summit of the Americas,

Having seen:

The presentation by Mr. Luis Alberto Rodriguez, Director of the Summits of the Americas Secretariat of the OAS,

The consensus reached on the Ministerial Proposal on Agriculture and Rural Life for the Fourth Summit of the Americas,

Considering:

That the dialogue on and efforts to reach consensus on the Declaration of Mar del Plata and its Plan of Action will continue at the SIRG Meeting (September 7-9) and subsequent meetings;

That we believe it is imperative to consolidate the positioning achieved for agriculture and rural life in earlier summits, as a contribution to the implementation of the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan,

Agrees:

1. To entrust the Chair of the Third Ministerial Meeting and the Secretariat with forwarding to the Chair of the SIRG (the following Ministerial Proposal on Agriculture and Rural Life:

Declaration of Mar del Plata

A comprehensive framework for rural and agricultural development, to promote investment, job creation and rural prosperity, as a contribution to the objectives defined in paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of this Declaration.

Plan of Action

We shall promote comprehensive national policies and strategies for agriculture that will encourage agricultural trade, investments in the rural milieu to contribute to its sustainable development, the creation of jobs and the improvement of living conditions in rural communities, and agricultural production based on principles of agricultural health and food safety.

PANAMA 2003: SECOND MINISTERIAL MEETING

- AGRO 2003-2015 Plan of Action for Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas
- Implementation of and Follow-up to the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan of Action

Heads of State and Government of the Americas Support for the Implementation of the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan of Action

We commit to maintain a sustained effort to improve living conditions for inhabitants of rural areas, by promoting investment and creating a favorable environment to achieve sustainable improvements in agriculture that will contribute to social development, rural prosperity, and food security. In this context, we support the implementation of the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan of Action for Agriculture and Rural Life of the Americas, adopted at the Second Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Rural Life, held in Panama in November 2003.

**Special Summit of the Americas, 2004
Paragraph 43, Declaration of Nuevo León**

Second Ministerial Meeting - 2003



At the Second Ministerial Meeting “Agriculture and Rural in the Americas” held within the context of the Summits of the Americas Process, the Ministers of Agriculture adopted the ***AGRO 2003-2015 Plan of Action for Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas*** (Panama, November 11-12, 2003).

Democracy and economic and social development are interdependent and mutually reinforcing as fundamental conditions to combat poverty and inequality. We will spare no effort to free our fellow citizens from the dehumanizing conditions of extreme poverty.

- *We commit to further efforts to reach international development goals, especially the reduction by 50% by the year 2015 of the proportion of people living in extreme poverty.*
- *We commit ourselves to promote programs for the improvement of agriculture and rural life and agro business as an essential contribution to poverty reduction and integral development.*

**Third Summit of the Americas, 2001
Paragraph 19 y 20, Declaration of Quebec City**



Foreword

With the desire to disseminate the hemispheric ministerial agreements on agriculture and rural life to a wide audience, we are pleased to share this publication with the leaders and key stakeholders of agriculture, and other organizations responsible for agricultural development.

We are convinced that the valuable and visionary ministerial agreements presented herein and the support received from the Heads of State and Government at the Special Summit of the Americas for implementation of the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan of Action, will do much to help strengthen joint efforts, encourage investment and create an atmosphere conducive to the sustainable development of agriculture and the rural milieu, food security and the promotion of rural prosperity in the countries of the Americas.

Execution of the Hemispheric Agenda for the first biennium of the aforementioned Plan (2004-2005) offers us the opportunity to address the presidents' mandates. The Ministers of Agriculture agreed to adopt the Hemispheric Agenda for the second biennium of the Plan (2006-2007), at the Third Ministerial Meeting, in 2005, taking into account the reports of the national governments on progress made in implementing the first Agenda.

In addition, and on the basis of the above, it will be necessary to report to the Presidents and Prime Ministers regarding compliance with the mandates issued on agriculture and rural life at the last Summits (Quebec City 2001 and Monterrey 2004) and to draw up proposals to be submitted to the Fourth Summit of the Americas (Argentina 2005) on ways to continue improving agriculture and rural life in the Americas.



Lynette M. Stanziola A.
*Minister of Agricultural Development
of Panama
Chair, Second Ministerial Meeting*



Salvador Urrutia Loucel
*Minister of Agriculture and
Livestock of El Salvador
Vice-Chair, Second Ministerial Meeting*



Chelston W. D. Brathwaite
*Director General
Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)
Secretariat of the Ministerial Meeting*

The AGRO 2003-2015 Plan of Action for Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas includes agreements reached by consensus on the following four complementary components:

- the **Shared Vision for Agriculture and Rural Life by 2015** is a characterization of the desired future in terms of the national and international context, rural territories and agricultural production-trade chains;
- the **Strategic Objectives** aimed at focusing the efforts of the leaders of the Community of Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas;
- the **2003-2005 Hemispheric Agenda** is the first of six biennial agendas that contains a number of strategic actions to be promoted by the governments together with the stakeholders of agriculture and others responsible for the development of agriculture and the improvement of rural life;
- **implementation and follow-up** encompasses agreements on the preparation of national progress reports, the updating of the hemispheric agenda for the following period and the definition of measurements to indicate the progress of the plan. Also, the ministers encourage the institutional partners of the Summits process to continue their efforts to support the implementation of its agreements, and call on international funding institutions and cooperating government to coordinate their strategies based on the hemispheric agenda.

The Plan embodies the overarching purposes and principles contained in the Declaration of Bavaro. Therefore, it is based on a **systemic concept of agriculture and rural life** which includes rural territories, agricultural production-trade chains and the national and international context; as well as an **approach to sustainable development** which takes into account the differences among countries and regions of the hemisphere in terms of the production-trade, ecological-environmental, sociocultural and human, and political-institutional dimensions.

MM2/HMA2-2003
November 12, 2003

“AGRO 2003-2015” PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE AGRICULTURE AND RURAL LIFE OF THE AMERICAS

We, the Ministers and Secretaries of Agriculture of the Americas, assembled in Panama City, Republic of Panama (November 11-12, 2003) at the Second Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Rural Life within the framework of the Summit of the Americas process, in fulfillment of the mandates on agriculture and rural life issued by the Heads of State and Government at the Third Summit of the Americas, and in follow up to the Ministerial Declaration of Bavaro, which we approved at our First Ministerial Meeting, held in the Dominican Republic in the year 2001, hereby adopt this AGRO 2003-2015 Plan of Action for Agriculture and Rural Life of the Americas, including The Hemispheric Agenda 2003-2005.

We based the preparation of the Plan on a systemic concept of agriculture and rural life which encompasses rural territories, agricultural production-trade chains and the national and international context, and an approach to sustainable development which takes into account the differences amongst countries and regions in the hemisphere in production-trade, ecological-environmental, sociocultural and human development, and political-institutional dimensions.

1. The Shared Vision 2015

Situated in the year 2015, we observe agriculture and rural life characterized as follows:

National and international context

1. Macroeconomic policies facilitate effective management of agricultural development that foster and promote the improvement of rural life and allow greater access to efficient services, new and

appropriate technologies, improved infrastructure, user-friendly information systems, and transparent markets.

2. Agricultural trade is taking place in an international framework significantly less distorted by subsidies and market access barriers.
3. Agriculture is recognized as a key component of the health and food security systems and of strategic importance to development.

Rural territories

4. The rural economy comprises both agricultural and non-agricultural activities, based on the coordinated action of the public and private sectors. There are organizations, institutions and enterprises with capacity for innovation. There are efficient support services and improved access to technology for production and trade. It also generates goods and services with levels of production and productivity in line with national and world markets.
5. Agriculture uses environmentally friendly practices and technologies that address sustainable management of natural resources.
6. There has been a substantial reduction in rural poverty as defined in Millennium Development Goals. The quality of life of the inhabitants in rural communities has improved as well as the levels of employment and employment opportunities.
7. The different social and productive groups of the rural sector have democratic mechanisms for reflection and dialogue and have mechanisms for their full participation in the definition and execution of actions aimed at improving rural life.

Agricultural production-trade chains

8. Agriculture encompasses production-trade chains whose links add value. It has mechanisms among the different stakeholders to discuss various aspects of the distribution of global benefits.

9. Agriculture supplies safe, healthy, and high-quality products; it has support services and is efficient and competitive.
10. Production-trade chains use systems and technologies that mitigate the effects of natural disasters and sanitary and phytosanitary emergencies.
11. Production-trade chains have information systems that enhance knowledge and learning processes to facilitate the management of risk involved in agriculture and contribute to the operation of efficient food security systems.

2. The strategic objectives

In order to attain the Shared Vision in 2015 and to focus the efforts of the leaders of the Community of Agriculture and Rural Life of the Americas, we reaffirm our commitment, as agreed to in the Ministerial Declaration of Bavaro, with the strategic objectives of **Rural Prosperity, Food Security, the Positioning of Agriculture in the International Scenario and Regional Integration, Agricultural Health and Food Safety and Sustainable Development of Agriculture and the Rural Milieu.**

3. The Hemispheric Agenda: Chapter 2003-2005

To advance toward Rural Prosperity, Food Security and Sustainable Development of Agriculture and the Rural Milieu we pledge, as called for by the Heads of State and Government during the Third Summit of the Americas (Plan of Action - Section 10 - Mandate 1), to promote, together with the stakeholders of the agricultural sector and others associated with the development of agriculture and rural life, the following strategic actions:

National and international context

Production-Trade Dimension

1. Support a real and meaningful reform in agriculture by strengthening the multilateral rules governing agricultural trade, as agreed in Doha, including substantial improvements in market access; reductions of, with a view to elimination of, all forms of export subsidies, and substantial reductions in trade-distorting domestic support. Support the establishment of free trade areas in the hemisphere and in other regional or sub-regional forums. Support and participate in capacity building and technical assistance that contributes to these objectives.
2. Assign high priority to regional policies on animal and plant health and on food safety, strengthening national and regional systems, and reaffirming their commitment to the competent organizations recognized by the WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures and the relevant international organizations (Codex Alimentarius, the World Animal Health Organization (OIE), the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)) and regional organizations.
3. Foster economic and social conditions conducive to the development of agribusinesses, the generation of employment, the integration of production-trade chains and their participation in the international context.
4. Promote micro, small and medium scale rural enterprises, cooperatives and community groups engaged in agricultural production, agroindustry and rural services.
5. Promote cooperatives as a way to improve production and marketing organization and to improve rural income.
6. Support programs that encourage internal and external private investment in the rural milieu, promoting the adoption of legal measures that provide investors with security.

7. Foster the establishment of priorities and the revitalization of research capabilities by coordinating among farmers, research centers and agricultural services, and facilitate access to innovative technologies that are adaptive and practical with direct links to production, processing and marketing systems.
8. Facilitate access to new technologies to improve productivity; and establish a hemispheric mechanism to advance better understanding of the science and safety of biotechnology products, including the development of a data base. Consider the development of biotechnology and its use in agriculture with a sustainable strategic vision.
9. Support actions to comply with international agricultural health standards.

Ecological-Environmental Dimension

10. Promote organic agriculture, as well as regulations for the production, oversight, quality certification and trade of organic products.
11. Collaborate with the appropriate domestic authorities on the updating of environmental regulations for agriculture and strengthen public-private coordination for environmental management.
12. Encourage active participation of agricultural and rural community leaders in national discussions related to international negotiations on the environment and sustainable development.
13. Encourage the establishment of a hemispheric network specialized in early warning and agrometeorological monitoring for the mitigation of natural disasters through the joint efforts of public and private institutions in the hemisphere.

Socio-Cultural and Human Dimension

14. Promote rural development programs that include gender equity, including multicultural considerations, where applicable, and special attention to different age groups to improve the living conditions of the rural population.
15. Promote agricultural and rural training and recommend to the competent authorities the evaluation and accreditation of agricultural education.

Political-Institutional Dimension

16. Strengthen the mechanisms for cooperation among countries in the areas of technical assistance, knowledge, information and experience which contribute to the modernization of agriculture and rural life.
17. Develop additional opportunities for cooperation and collaboration with agricultural and non-agricultural stakeholders and with civil society and to ensure that agricultural institutions have sufficient capacity to pursue these objectives.
18. Strengthen regional and hemispheric interaction among and between agricultural ministries and international organizations.

Rural territories

Production-Trade Dimension

19. Promote conditions that will stimulate, in the rural milieu, the development of needed infrastructure, competitive enterprises, and greater investment to improve rural life.
20. Promote innovative types of financial and non-financial services, and risk management for the rural milieu.

21. Promote food security through increased productivity, greater market access through improved distribution and the production of safe, nutritious foods, as well as the production and consumption of products that offer greater competitive advantages, taking into consideration social and economic issues.
22. Improve rural connectivity and access to information through the creation of information network systems within communities.
23. Promote increased coordination among farmers, research centers and agricultural public and private services to establish priorities and implement actions in the areas of research and technology transfer.

Ecological-Environmental Dimension

24. Increase understanding of the environmental impact of conventional agricultural systems, and of production systems suited to agroecological systems.
25. Promote access to, and adoption of, agricultural, forestry and fisheries practices that are environmentally sound, including agroecological and organic alternatives.
26. Foster better understanding, facilitate dialogue and work towards hemispheric consensus with regard to the links between agriculture and biodiversity within the framework of national and international agreements.
27. Strengthen national and local capabilities to mitigate natural disasters.
28. Foster sustainable agriculture with an expanded agroecological and innovative vision based on land use planning, diversification and non-food uses of agricultural products.
29. Foster dialogue and collaborate with other sectors related to rural life for the development of activities that link agriculture with other non-agricultural activities such as agro-tourism, eco-tourism and environmental services.

Socio-Cultural and Human Dimension

30. Support public-private interaction and coordination in order to improve national capabilities for strategic action, dialogue and negotiation.
31. Improve the agricultural education system and promote the improvement of education of the rural population.
32. Promote appropriate social protection measures for economically vulnerable rural families.
33. Promote the participation of the rural population and consider its cultural diversity in the design and application of rural development strategies.
34. Promote policies that support access to resources such as land, credit, market information and other services.

Political-Institutional Dimension

35. Support the participation of rural communities in decisions that affect their lives and the environment in which they live, specifically to develop their capabilities, leadership skills and their ability to participate in government programs.

Agricultural Production-Trade Chains

Production-Trade Dimension

36. Promote the strengthening of linkages in agricultural production-trade chains, and the expansion of infrastructure for development.
37. Promote research, development and marketing programs for products that recognize added value use of national raw materials.

Ecological-Environmental Dimension

38. Promote environmental management in the links of the production-trade chains.

Socio-Cultural and Human Dimension

39. Promote the development of entre-preneurial capabilities among different social and cultural groups in the rural communities.

Political-Institutional Dimension

40. Promote institutional frameworks to facilitate dialogue and negotiation among all participants in the production-trade chains.

4. Implementation and Follow-up

The “AGRO 2003-2015” Plan of Action reflects the intention of member countries to work towards the shared vision with the understanding that national governments have the primary responsibility for implementing the shared agenda and recognition that each national government will undertake the Plan of Action consistent with international commitments and agreements.

1. The 2003-05 Hemispheric Agenda is the first of six two-year agendas by means of which the “AGRO 2003-2015” Plan of Action will be implemented. National governments will deliver reports on their progress in implementing each two-year agenda to the Ministerial Meeting on Agricultural and Rural Life which takes place at the end of that two-year period, and use these reports to up-date the agenda for the next period.
2. We recognize the efforts of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), the Economic Commission for

Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and the Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE) in support of this process. We urge them to continue their efforts and renew our call, as set out in paragraph 20 of the Ministerial Declaration of Bavaro, to the other institutions of the Summit of the Americas process, international financial organizations (Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI), Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), Andean Development Corporation (CAF) and World Bank) and cooperating governments, to join this effort to coordinate their strategies with a view to implementing the shared agenda of the “AGRO 2003-2015” Plan of Action.

- 3. Moreover, we entrust the delegates to define appropriate measurements for this Plan of Action.

Signed in Panama City, Republic of Panama, on the twelfth of November of the year two thousand and three.

Antigua and Barbuda
Winston D. Burleigh



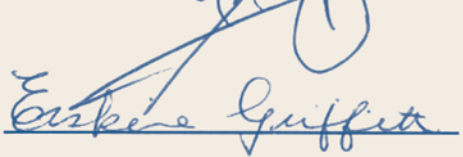
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Miguel Santiago Campos



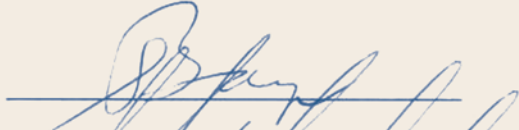
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V. Alfred Gray



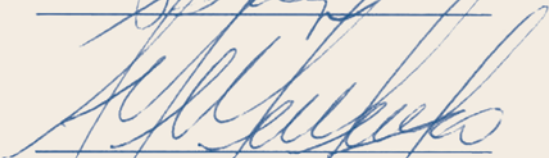
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Erskine Griffith



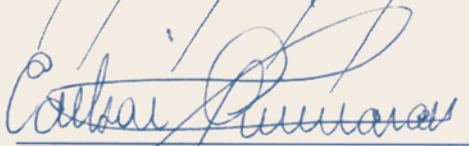
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Servulo Baeza



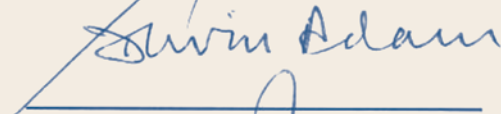
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Diego Montenegro Emst



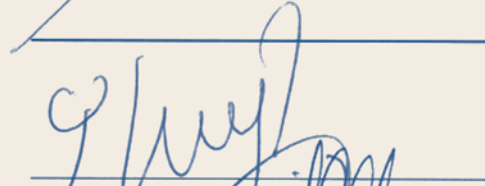
Brazil
Edilson Guimarães



Canada
David Adam



Chile
Jaime Campos Quiroga



Colombia
Carlos Gustavo Cano



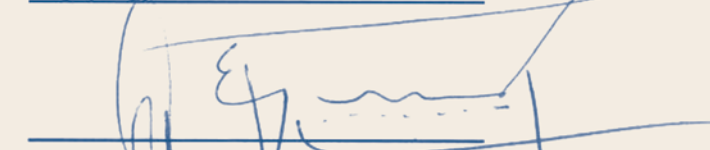
Costa Rica
Rodolfo Coto Pacheco



Dominica
Vince Henderson



Dominican Republic
Eligio Jáquez



Ecuador
Sergio Seminario



El Salvador
Salvador E. Urrutia Loucel



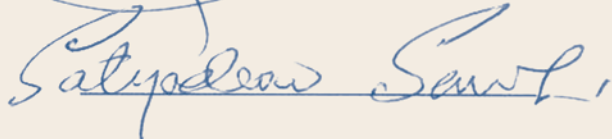
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Malachy Dottin




Guatemala
Carlos Sett Oliva



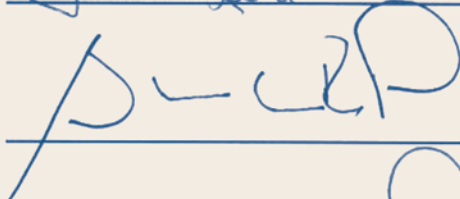
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Satyadeow Sawh



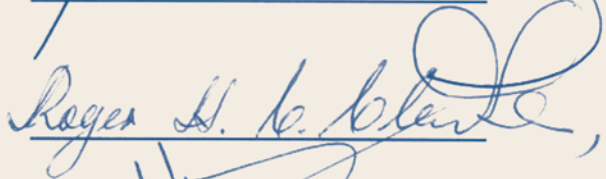
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Sébastien Hilaire



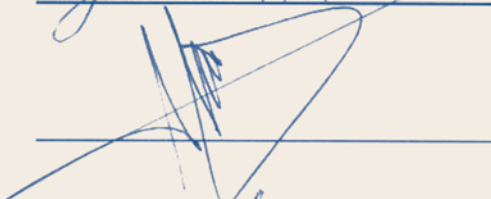
Honduras
German Pérez D'estephen



Jamaica
Roger Clarke



Mexico
Víctor Manuel Villalobos
Arámbula



Nicaragua
José Augusto Navarro Flores



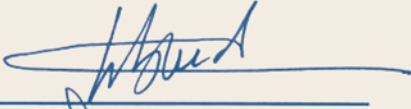
Paraguay
Antonio Ibáñez Aquino



Peru
Francisco González García



St. Kitts and Nevis
Cedric Roy Liburd



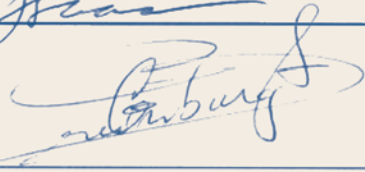
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Calixte George



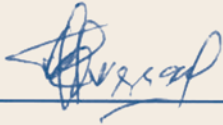
St. Vincent and the Grenadines
Philmore Isaacs



Suriname
Gerrit Arno Breinburg



Trinidad and Tobago
Trevor W. Murray



United States of America
James G. Butler



Uruguay
Martín Aguirrezabala



Venezuela
Héctor Garzón





Lynette M. Stanziola
Minister of Agricultural Development
Chairperson of the Second Ministerial Meeting
for Agriculture and Rural Life

Honorary Witnesses



Mireya Moscoso
President of the Republic of Panama



Harmodio Arias
Minister of Foreign Affairs of Panama



Chelston W. D. Brathwaite
Director General
Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture

MM2/HMA3-2003
November 13, 2003

HEMISPHERIC MINISTERIAL AGREEMENT
**IMPLEMENTACIÓN Y SEGUIMIENTO DEL
PLAN AGRO 2003-2015**

The Inter-American Board of Agriculture, at its Twelfth Regular Meeting,

Considering:

That as a result of the Summit of the Americas process and the agreements adopted by the ministers to implement the decisions of the Heads of State and Government, a new institutional architecture is being constructed to contribute to: (i) economic growth with equity; (ii) social development; and (iii) democratic governance;

That the Second Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Rural Life, within the framework of the Summits of the Americas process, made it possible to reach consensus on issues of strategic importance to agriculture and rural life;

That within this framework, the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan of Action for Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas (AGRO 2003-2015 Plan), which was the chief output of the Second Ministerial Meeting, constitutes the common agenda to be used by our countries in developing national and regional plans of action;

That the Hemispheric Forum of Ministerial Delegates, Group for the Implementation and Coordination of the Agreements on Agriculture and Rural Life (GRICA), has been playing a key role in the process of analyzing, discussing and building consensus among the countries of the hemisphere for the preparation of the Plan of Action;

That IICA, as a partner institution in the Summits process, has been helping the countries to implement the mandates of the Heads of State and Government and serving as a link with the follow-up mechanisms of the Summits of the Americas process; furthermore, as the Secretariat of the Ministerial Meeting it provides support to the GRICA and the Ministerial Meetings on Agriculture and Rural Life;

That, at the meeting of the Board of Governors of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), held in 2000 in New Orleans, United States of America, and attended by the ministers of agriculture from the hemisphere, we promoted the creation of the Interagency Group on Rural Development, as a hemispheric network designed to complement the action of its member agencies and, especially, to implement joint, national and regional training, technical assistance and investment projects and projects aimed at generating and disseminating important information for the development of the rural economies of the Latin American and Caribbean countries;

That the ministers of agriculture are involved in four forums on agriculture and rural development, namely: the Ministerial Meetings on Agriculture and Rural Life within the framework of the Summit of the Americas process; the Inter-American Board of Agriculture; the FAO Regional Meeting for Latin America and the Caribbean; and the Ibero-American Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture,

Resolves:

1. To entrust IICA with continuing to provide support to the ministers of agriculture in the process to implement the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan of Action.
2. To instruct the Ministerial Delegates and their hemispheric forum (GRICA), assisted by the Secretariat of the Ministerial Meeting, to present to the Third Ministerial Meeting a progress report on the implementation of the 2003-2005 Hemispheric Agenda of the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan of Action and the proposal for updating it.

3. To ask the Interagency Group on Rural Development, comprised of the World Bank, the IDB, ECLAC, FAO, IFAD, GTZ, IICA and USAID, to draw up a proposal for an interagency agenda, with a view to gradually aligning international cooperation with the actions established in the Hemispheric Agenda of the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan of Action.
4. To adopt the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan of Action as the Common Agenda to be used as an instrument of joint and common action by the nations of the hemisphere in the four ministerial forums, as a support for the transformation of agriculture and the improvement of rural life.

BAVARO 2001: FIRST MINISTERIAL MEETING

- Declaration of Bavaro for the Improvement of Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas

Our Governments,

Recognizing the fundamental importance of agriculture as a way of life for millions of rural families of the Hemisphere as well as the role it plays in the creation of prosperity as a strategic sector in our socio-economic system and taking note of the importance of developing its potential in a manner compatible with sustainable development that would ensure adequate treatment and attention to the rural sector, will:

- *Promote dialogue involving government ministers, parliamentarians and civil society, in particular organizations linked to rural areas as well as the scientific and academic communities, with the objective of promoting medium and long-term national strategies toward sustainable improvement in agriculture and rural life.*

- *Instruct the Ministers of Agriculture to promote, in cooperation with the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), joint action by all the actors of the agricultural sector to work towards the improvement of agriculture and rural life that enables the implementation of the Plans of Action of the Summits of the Americas.*

**Third Summit of the Americas, 2001
Section 10, Plan of Action**

First Ministerial Meeting - 2001



At the Ministerial Meeting on “Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas” held within the context of the Summits of the Americas Process, the Ministers of Agriculture adopted the ***Declaration of Bavaro for the Improvement of Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas*** (Dominican Republic, November 26-27, 2001).

In the Declaration of Bavaro, the Ministers of Agriculture committed themselves to the mandate of the Third Summit of the Americas which calls for promoting joint actions involving all the stakeholders in agriculture aimed at improving agriculture and rural life. They identified the critical issues that must be addressed immediately and stated their conviction of the need for, and willingness to promote, a shared agenda that would enable their countries to tackle these issues.

The Ministers of Agriculture called particular attention to the need for significant progress in the areas of:

- **sustainable development of agriculture and the rural milieu**
- **food security; and**
- **the reduction of rural poverty,**

by means of ten types of strategic actions:

- i. further liberalization of agricultural trade;
- ii. the strengthening of dialogue and consensus building on strategies;
- iii. the development of an institutional framework conducive to the sustainable development of agriculture and the rural milieu;
- iv. support for rural organizations and communities, with a view to enhancing their capabilities;
- v. the elimination of anti-agricultural biases in policies, and the recognition in such policies of the broad contribution of agriculture to the well-being of all members of society;
- vi. promotion of environmentally friendly agriculture;
- vii. prevention and mitigation of natural disasters and sanitary and phytosanitary emergencies;
- viii. greater investment in the development of human capital;
- ix. reduction of knowledge, information and technology gaps; and
- x. the modernization of agriculture and the strengthening of services in support of agrifood production and trade.

Furthermore, they urged the international institutions that provide cooperation and funding for development, and cooperating governments, to coordinate the strategies they adopt for providing support and to harmonize the technical and financial cooperation they provide in connection with the implementation of the Declaration.

DECLARATION OF BAVARO FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL LIFE IN THE AMERICAS

1. We, the Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas, meeting as the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), in Bavaro, Dominican Republic, reaffirm our steadfast commitment to the mandate issued at the Third Summit of the Americas calling for concerted action with all those involved in agriculture, aimed at the improvement of agriculture and rural life.

Cognizant that:

2. There has been a renewed commitment to the integration of the Hemisphere, economic well-being, security of our peoples, strengthening of democracy, generation of prosperity, environmental protection and the development of human potential. Agriculture is recognized as the livelihood of millions of rural families in the hemisphere, for its contribution to food security as well as for its strategic importance in the socioeconomic system.
3. As a result of consultations with other leaders of the Agriculture and Rural Life Communities in our countries, we have reached national consensus and a spirit of collaboration and support regarding the need to implement medium- and long-term strategies aimed at sustainable improvement of agriculture and rural life.

We consider it essential:

4. To move forward in the achievement of the objectives of agricultural trade liberalization, the elimination of subsidies and unfair commercial practices within the multilateral trade negotiations of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and in

other hemispheric and subregional fora, and to support the creation of free trade areas and integration agreements in the Americas.

5. To assign high priority to food security, food safety and food quality in national policies.
6. To create and strengthen institutional opportunities for dialogue among all levels of government, business and agricultural organizations and civil society, with a view to reaching agreement on strategies and commitments related to the management of agriculture and rural development, within a framework of transparency and accountability.
7. To renew the national and international institutional frameworks in such a way that they contribute to the sustainable development of agriculture and the rural milieu, based on the objectives of greater competitiveness, equity, sustainable management of natural resources and democratic governance.
8. To strengthen or develop institutional mechanisms intended to support organizations of the civil society and rural communities in the improvement of their capabilities and living conditions, because they are one of the pillars of democratic principles and social harmony.
9. To design and implement macroeconomic policies which eliminate the bias against agriculture, and foster the increased contribution of the agricultural sector to the improvement of the quality of rural life.
10. To promote processes aimed at the transformation and modernization of agriculture for the purpose of increasing production, productivity, profitability, and improving competitiveness in global markets, with special emphasis on the creation and revitalization of small- and medium-scale production units and the integration of agri-food chains.

11. To ensure that agriculture generates economic growth with equity and provides alternatives to the production of illicit crops, prevents the degradation of natural resources, and creates employment opportunities for vulnerable groups in accordance with the legislation of each country.
12. To reduce the knowledge, information and technological gaps, both within and among countries of the Hemisphere, in order to obtain increased competitiveness and more equitable economic development.
13. To adopt strategies, policies and programs intended to reduce the growing incidence of rural poverty, which, aside from affecting the poor, contributes to the degradation of natural resources; fosters violence; encourages the production and marketing of illicit crops; creates insecurity with respect to land tenure; and weakens democratic governance.
14. To reduce the detrimental effects of natural phenomena and external factors through policies for the prevention and mitigation of natural disasters and sanitary and phytosanitary emergencies, promoting support programs, special considerations related to investment, trade, technical assistance and other forms of support, especially to smaller economies.
15. To implement differentiated strategies and programs that enhance the possibilities for development in agriculture through increased investments in the development of human capital, particularly for vulnerable groups.
16. To redouble efforts focusing on the use of environmentally friendly agricultural practices, and to provide economic incentives for such efforts through mechanisms that do not distort trade.
17. To strengthen and expand services in support of agri-food production and trade, with special emphasis on rural financing,

agricultural health, and technology innovation and transfer, through the adoption and implementation of policies, strategies and action programs that will contribute to guaranteeing investments aimed at agricultural and agroindustrial production.

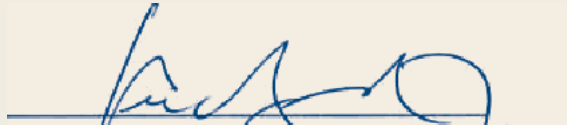
Therefore, in keeping with the mandate received from the Heads of State and Government in their efforts to combat poverty, generate greater prosperity, increase economic opportunities, foster social justice and develop human potential,

We declare our intention to:

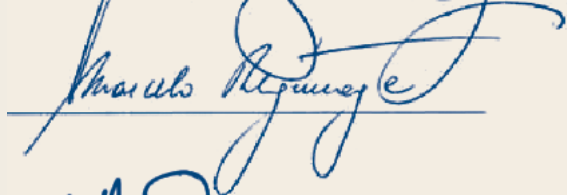
18. Lead and facilitate the process of implementing this Declaration, and reaching consensus on the strategic guidelines for a shared agenda, to be used by our countries in developing future national and regional plans of action.
19. Adopt policies, strategies and programs that will encourage harmonious,
20. Equitable development, as well as improve the quality of life in rural areas; thereby discouraging rural-urban migration.
21. Call on the institutions associated with the Inter-American Summit process, the international financial institutions and the cooperating governments to coordinate their strategies and to support the actions aimed at improving agriculture and rural life. In addition, to call on the international cooperation organizations that make up the Interagency Group on Rural Development in Latin America and the Caribbean to harmonize their technical and financial cooperation efforts in support of this Declaration and future national and regional plans of action that are consistent with same.

Signed in Bavaro, in the Province of Altagracia of the Dominican Republic, on the twenty-seventh of November of the year two thousand and one.

Antigua and Barbuda
Vere C. Bird Jr.



Argentina
Marcelo Regúnaga



The Bahamas
Valerie Outten



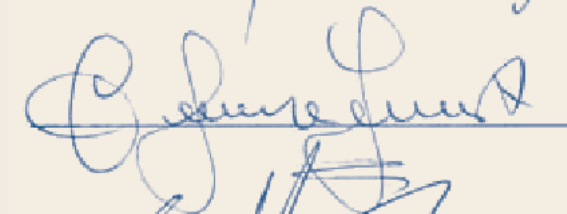
Barbados
Antony P. Wood



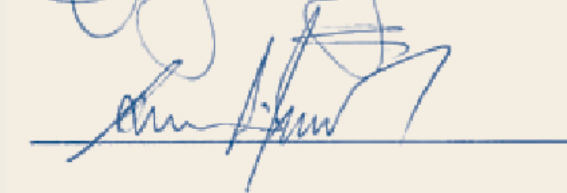
Belize
Daniel Silva



Bolivia
Jorge Monje



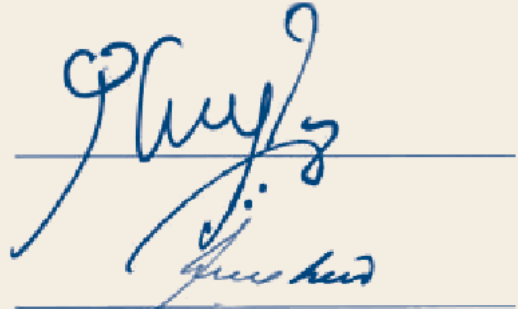
Brazil
Marcus Vinicius Pratini
de Moraes



Canada
David Kilgour



Chile
Jaime Campos Quiroga

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jaime Campos Quiroga', written on a horizontal line.

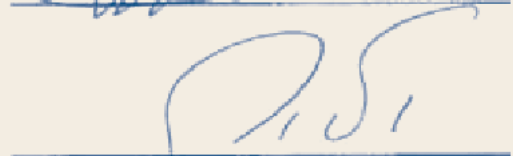
Colombia
Rodrigo Villalba Mosquera

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Rodrigo Villalba Mosquera', written on a horizontal line.

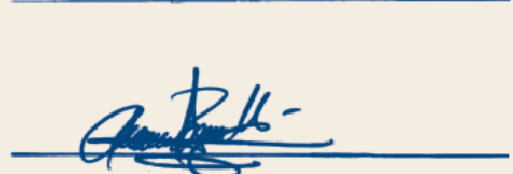
Costa Rica
Alfredo Robert Polini

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Alfredo Robert Polini', written on a horizontal line.

Dominica
Vince Henderson

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Vince Henderson', written on a horizontal line.

Ecuador
Galo Plaza Pallares

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Galo Plaza Pallares', written on a horizontal line.

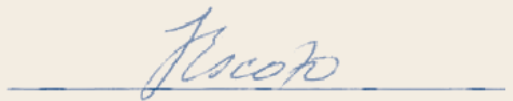
El Salvador
Armando Servellón

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Armando Servellón', written on a horizontal line.

Grenada
Clariss Charles

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Clariss Charles', written on a horizontal line.

Guatemala
Jorge Rolando Escoto Marroquín

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jorge Rolando Escoto Marroquín', written on a horizontal line.

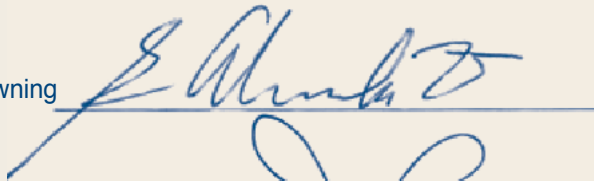
Guyana
Navin Chandarpal



Haiti
Sébastien Hilaire



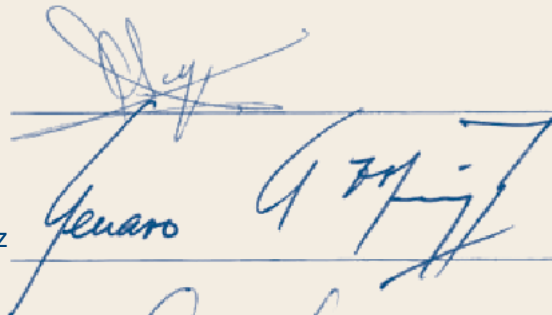
Honduras
Guillermo Alvarado Downing



Jamaica
Roger Clarke



Mexico
Javier Usabiaga



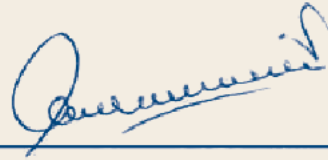
Nicaragua
Genaro A. Muñiz Bermúdez



Panama
Pedro Adán Gordón S.

Paraguay
Carmelo Peralta

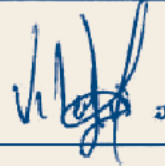
Peru
Alvaro Quijandría



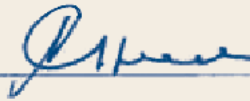
St. Kitts and Nevis
Rafael Adonis Archibald



St. Lucia
Eustace Vitalis



St. Vincent and the
Grenadines
Simeon Greene



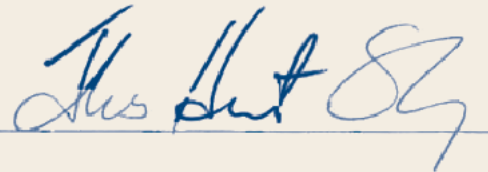
Suriname
Geetapersad Gangaram
Panday



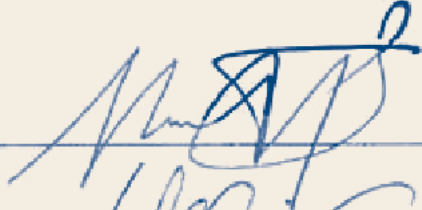
Trinidad and Tobago
Swally Mohammed



United States of America
Thomas Hunt Shipman



Uruguay
Gonzalo E. González

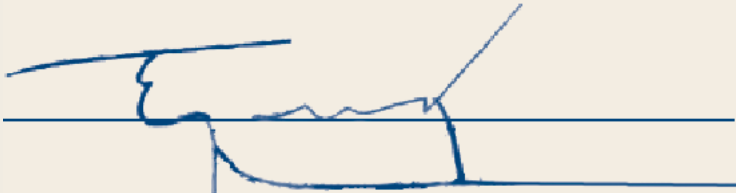


A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Gonzalo E. González', written over a horizontal line.

Venezuela
Efrén Andrade

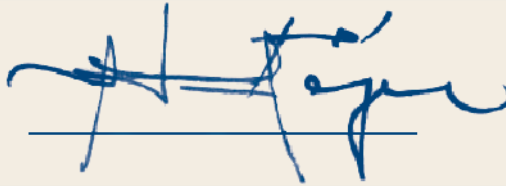


A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Efrén Andrade', written over a horizontal line.

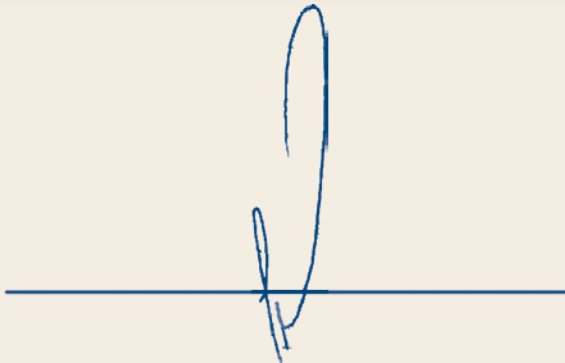
A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Eligio Jaquez', written over a horizontal line.

Eligio Jaquez
Secretary of State for Agriculture of the Dominican
Republic and Chairman of the Eleventh Regular Meeting
of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture

Honorary Witnesses

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Hipolito Mejia', written over a horizontal line.

Hipolito Mejia
Constitutional President of the Dominican Republic

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Carlos E. Aquino', written over a horizontal line.

Carlos E. Aquino
Director General
Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture