

RESOLUTION No. 535

**MINISTERIAL COMMITMENT TO SUPPORT THE FIGHT AGAINST AFRICAN
SWINE FEVER**

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (IABA), at its Twenty-first Regular Meeting,

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT:

The dietary, economic and social importance of the pork sector in the countries of the Americas,

CONSIDERING:

That on 29 July 2021, the Government of the Dominican Republic issued an official notification regarding the appearance of African swine fever (ASF) in that country, using the mechanism established by the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE);

That the Minister of Agriculture of the Dominican Republic informed the participants at this Regular Meeting of the IABA about the current situation and actions that are being taken to manage ASF in that country;

That the Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Haiti informed the participants at this Regular Meeting of the IABA about actions that his country is implementing to prevent ASF;

That ASF could affect the stability of the pork industry in the Hemisphere, particularly for medium- and small-scale farmers, and therefore, collaboration between official veterinary services and the private sector is imperative;

That ASF poses no risk to human health, neither from direct contact with affected animals nor through the consumption of any product of pork origin;

That appropriate management of a health emergency requires transparent communication among the different actors involved in attention, response and recovery;

That, to mitigate the progressive spread and endemic persistence of ASF, application of the OIE's international standards on ASF is recommended, as well as the adoption of recommendations by the Standing Group of Experts on African Swine Fever (SGE-ASF) of the Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs);

That the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures of the World Trade Organization (WTO) reaffirms the right of member countries to protect the health of humans and animals;

That the aforementioned agreement establishes that the health measures of these countries should be based on scientific principles and risk analysis to ensure that international trade takes place without discrimination or unjustified restrictions;

That capacity building in risk analysis, as well as the updating and improvement of the emergency plans of official agricultural health services are essential for the prevention and control of transboundary and other animal diseases; and

That the implementation of national, regional and hemispheric actions and initiatives, supported by the coordinated and complementary actions of international organizations, is important for efforts to prevent and combat ASF, as they allow for the optimization and adequate use of the available technical and financial resources, while also facilitating safe trade,

RESOLVES:

1. To thank the Government of the Dominican Republic and the Government of Haiti, by way of their Ministers of Agriculture, for the efforts that both countries are undertaking in the health, economic and social spheres to control and eradicate ASF.
2. To recognize the importance of the implementation of national, regional and hemispheric actions and initiatives by the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), the International Regional Organization for Plant and Animal Health (OIRSA), the General Secretariat of the Andean Community (SG-CAN), the Standing Veterinary Committee of the Southern Cone (CVP), the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the Caribbean Animal Health Network (CaribVET), the Pan-American Association of Veterinary Sciences (PanVet), the Latin American and Caribbean Feed Industries Association (FeedLatina), the Ibero-American Pork Organization (OIPORC) and the veterinary services of the countries of the Americas, to prevent and combat ASF in a coordinated and complementary manner, under the umbrella of the GF-TADs.
3. To request that the Director General of IICA assist in the development and execution of binational projects and actions and the implementation of work plans defined at the subregional level to support efforts to address the emergency, in coordination with the GF-TADs, to eradicate the source of the outbreaks and to prevent and contain the spread of the virus, thereby enabling the American hemisphere to regain its ASF-free status.

4. To request that the Director General of IICA, in collaboration with the Member States of the Institute and the GF-TADs, identify financial and technical resources to support the development and execution of projects and actions to prevent ASF, focusing on the following issues:
 - a) Technical capacity building of official veterinary services;
 - b) Risk management and communication;
 - c) Updating and improvement of health emergency preparedness and management plans, including the development of ASF contingency plans, standardized operations manuals and recovery plans, aimed at protecting production, trade and the food supply; and
 - d) Development and strengthening of strategic alliances, in particular public-private partnerships.