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**Committee on Agriculture  
Committee on Trade and Environment**

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**PRINCIPLES AND VALUES OF THE REGION REGARDING THE PRODUCTION OF FOOD WITHIN  
THE FRAMEWORK OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT - SOUTHERN AGRICULTURAL COUNCIL  
(CAS) – FORTY-SECOND REGULAR MEETING****COMMUNICATION FROM ARGENTINA, BRAZIL, CHILE, PARAGUAY AND URUGUAY**

The following communication, received on 31 May 2021, is being circulated at the request of the delegations of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay.

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**1 MINISTERS' DECLARATION**

The Ministers of Agriculture of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay, members of the Southern Agricultural Council (CAS), meeting virtually on 4 May 2021.

Consider that:

1. The countries in the region are facing shared challenges within the framework of international negotiations regarding sustainable development, and that, in view of this, it is extremely valuable to compile, in a declaration by the CAS, the principles and values shared by the Ministers of Agriculture in the region.
2. Our main challenge is to ensure the implementation of these principles and values, which are widely recognized at the international level. Therefore, the countries of the CAS call on the international community to finalize the global agreements and mechanisms that will make it possible to put into practice these principles and practices, thus moving from a declaration to implementation.

We declare that we share the following positions:

**1.1 FOOD SECURITY**

- In the current context of the pandemic, the region is called on to play a central role in addressing the challenges faced internationally. Our countries are among the main global providers of healthy, nutritional and high-quality food, in accordance with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and particularly with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 1 on ending poverty and Sustainable Development Goal 2 on zero hunger.
- We recognize that climate change is a challenge for the whole of humanity. When adopting measures to reverse climate change, we must give top priority to safeguarding food security and ending hunger.
- Food production systems are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change. The challenges posed by climate change make it imperative to focus efforts on adaptation, in order to ensure the resilience of systems and maintain the production necessary for food security.
- We need to produce more and better food, while creating mechanisms to ensure physical, social and financial access to this food.

- We underscore the contribution of sustainable agriculture and livestock farming to food security, economic development and land tenure.

## **1.2 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

- We reaffirm our commitment to producing food in a sustainable manner, while respecting the balance among the three pillars of sustainability, in order to contribute to poverty reduction, the progressive distribution of income, the efficient and responsible use of natural resources, and the economic development of our countries.
- Moreover, we recognize that there are key challenges at the environmental level, particularly regarding climate change adaptation, and at the social level, in terms of ensuring that the sector is inclusive.
- We highlight the importance, in accordance with the 2030 Agenda, of moving forward with effective means of implementation by, *inter alia*, providing adequate financing mechanisms, investments in new and innovative technology aimed at sustainably increasing productivity, and promoting technology transfer and technical training.

## **1.3 SHARED BUT DIFFERENTIATED RESPONSIBILITIES**

- All countries must cooperate to preserve the environment, while taking into account historical responsibilities, as well as national capacities in terms of level of development and socio-economic conditions.
- Least developed countries are the most vulnerable to the impact of climate change, due to physical, social and economic factors.
- As recognized by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), both in the past and at present, most of the world's greenhouse gases come from developed countries.
- Countries that are primarily responsible, both historically and currently, for environmental degradation should provide adequate economic and technological tools that will enable developing countries to increase the sustainability of their production.

## **1.4 FAIR TRANSITION AND RESPECT FOR LOCAL DIVERSITY**

- The transition towards sustainability in production systems must be carried out gradually, and in the format and within the timeframes decided by each country based on its productive, economic and social situation.
- It is essential to recognize and respect the local circumstances of the different regions of the world and their specific productive, social and environmental circumstances.
- There is no one development model that can be applied to all nations in the world, and it is therefore fundamental to have an inclusive vision of the sustainability of food systems, with solutions that are adapted to local realities, based on sound scientific arguments.
- We therefore agree on the need to establish mechanisms that will guarantee the implementation this transition without leaving anybody behind, and without affecting food production, and providing the assurance that the quality of life of our producers, particularly the most vulnerable, will not be affected.

## **1.5 PAYMENT FOR ECOSYSTEM SERVICES**

- Latin America and the Caribbean is the main region providing ecosystem services at the global level, with over half of the world's primary forest and biodiversity.

- We agree that the international community needs to have a frank and in-depth discussion to urgently put in place efficient systems to quantify and capitalize global positive externalities resulting from ecosystem services that are created in agricultural or agroforestry systems.

#### **1.6 GENDER AND INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES**

- Rural women play a central role in food security, particularly in family, rural and indigenous production, and are particularly vulnerable to climate change in our sector.
- The poverty rates for indigenous populations are on average double those for other Latin Americans.
- We must agree on effective mechanisms that make it possible to close gender gaps, as they are key to reducing poverty and achieving sustainable food systems, in economic, social and environmental terms.

#### **1.7 INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

- We underscore the value of international cooperation as a tool for sharing experiences, transferring knowledge and technology, and creating positive synergies for climate action and environmental sustainability.
- South-South cooperation action must be strengthened and be adjusted to local needs.

#### **1.8 INTERNATIONAL TRADE**

- It is vital to achieve a fairer, transparent and predictable international trading system. Production- and trade-distorting subsidies, and para-tariff barriers, have a negative impact on consumers and producers. We call on WTO Members to cap and reduce by at least half, by 2030, the total current global agricultural trade- and production-distorting domestic support entitlements. The contributions by individual WTO Members to achieving these reductions must be proportional to their current entitlements and the potential repercussions on global markets, and take into account the needs of the different Members in terms of development, in order to accomplish the objective at the global level by 2030.
  - Open trade plays a fundamental role in ensuring and strengthening global food security and compliance with the SDGs.
  - We therefore insist on the need to move forward decisively with the WTO agricultural reform process.
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