



REPORT OF THE NINETEENTH REGULAR MEETING OF THE INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

San Jose, Costa Rica
25-26 October 2017



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What is IICA?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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



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**MINUTES OF THE NINETEENTH
REGULAR MEETING OF THE IABA**

OPENING CEREMONY

OPENING CEREMONY

Start of the ceremony

The opening ceremony of the Nineteenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) was called to order at 10:45 hours on 25 October 2017 at the Headquarters of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), located in San Jose, Costa Rica. The Acting President of the Republic of Costa Rica, Mr. Helio Fallas, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Religion of Costa Rica, Mr. Manuel González Sanz, the Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of Costa Rica, Mr. Luis Felipe Arauz, and the Director General of IICA, Mr. Víctor M. Villalobos Arámbula, were in attendance.

Remarks by the Director General of IICA, Mr. Víctor M. Villalobos

The Director General of IICA gave a warm welcome to everyone present at the House of Agriculture of the Americas, and expressed his solidarity with the countries recently affected by natural disasters.

He then gave a brief overview of IICA's 75-year history, during which the organization had collaborated with the countries in their efforts to meet the challenges of the agriculture sector. He pointed out that, in endeavoring to tackle those challenges, the Institute had focused its efforts on achieving the four strategic objectives established in its 2010-2020 Strategic Plan, which aimed to: 1) improve agriculture's productivity and competitiveness; 2) enhance agriculture's contribution to area-based development and rural well-being; 3) enhance agriculture's climate change mitigation and adaptation capabilities and its use of natural resources; and, 4) enhance agriculture's contribution to food security.

He underscored the potential of the agriculture sector of the Americas to become the world's breadbasket. To achieve that, it would be necessary to innovate and create a new productive paradigm designed to make agriculture more efficient, competitive,

sustainable and inclusive. Finally, he urged the countries to ponder the Institute's future and the need to strengthen the organization so that it would continue to produce tangible results at the national, regional and hemispheric levels.

Remarks by the Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of Costa Rica, Mr. Luis Felipe Arauz

The Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of Costa Rica expressed his hope that the meeting of the IABA would make it possible to establish closer ties of cooperation among the ministries of agriculture of the countries of the Americas. He remarked that agriculture faced major challenges, which included the following: a) the high cost of raw materials, b) the need to increase production while reducing the impact on the environment, c) the urgent need to raise productivity and, at the same time, tackle climate change; and d) the need to reduce food losses, which had a significant impact on the production of greenhouse gases.

He stated that knowledge-based management was what was required today to adequately meet the current and future challenges. He encouraged the ministers to support their research institutes and universities, and the international cooperation agencies, among which IICA had excelled for 75 years.

Remarks by the Acting President of Costa Rica, Mr. Helio Fallas

The Acting President of Costa Rica recalled the Institute's beginnings, and said the organization's objectives had always complemented and been compatible with Costa Rica's agricultural policy in areas such as productivity, the reduction of poverty and inequality, climate change adaptation in agriculture, and food security.

He noted that a successful administration was concluding its eight-year term at IICA and a new one was beginning that faced important challenges: changes in the global and agricultural contexts, new ways of producing food, and the pressing need for the empowerment of women, among others. He added that it was very important to focus on matters such as family farming, renewable resources, comprehensive rural development, ecological tourism, respect for indigenous rights, access to water, the resilience of agriculture and the use of technology in the sector. He concluded his remarks by suggesting that the Institute needed to evolve so it could continue to transform agriculture in the Americas.

Keynote address: “Legacy of Henry A. Wallace and his influence over the future of agriculture”

Mr. Ricardo García de Alba, the representative of the firm DuPont Pioneer LAN, began his address by listing the major changes that had occurred in the world since Henry A. Wallace came to Costa Rica in 1942, including the huge increase in maize production. He observed that such changes were made possible by visionaries like Mr. Wallace, with their passion for science and for farmers’ well-being.

He explained that Mr. Wallace began to learn about hybrids at a young age then founded the firm Pioneer, which revolutionized agricultural production in his country, and in the 1940s extended its efforts to other nations, including those of Latin America. One of his mottos was that no farmer should go to bed hungry. De Alba added that DuPont Pioneer currently operated in 140 countries and maintained its commitment to the original ideals of supporting farmers and promoting science-based agriculture.

He then underscored Latin America’s importance to the future of agriculture in a context of climate change and other challenges. Finally, he emphasized the importance of biotechnology, plant protection, genome editing and trade in moving forward toward the future.

Unveiling of the bust in honor of Mr. Henry A. Wallace

The Director General of the Institute invited the delegates to witness the unveiling of the bust in honor of Mr. Henry A. Wallace, founder of IICA. He thanked DuPont Pioneer LAN for donating the funds for the creation of the bust.

Mr. Jeffrey Nawn, representative of the Wallace Foundation, outlined the achievements of Mr. Henry A. Wallace, who had served as his country’s Secretary of Agriculture and Vice President. He remarked that Mr. Wallace was a visionary who was always intent on making his ideas a reality, a risk taker, a philosopher, a dreamer and a human being wholeheartedly committed to the well-being of society.

He mentioned that Mr. Wallace had visited Costa Rica in 1942 while serving as Vice President of the United States of America, and, in his address to the country’s Legislative Assembly, stated the following: “If people are to live free from misery, the theories of sustained yields and the free exchange of products among nations must be accepted and followed without artificial borders.” He said that Mr. Wallace’s message remained valid today, 75 years after he and the President of Costa Rica, Dr. Rafael

Ángel Calderón Guardia, laid the foundations of what is now IICA. Finally, he thanked the Institute for the tribute paid to the memory of Mr. Wallace.

The Director General, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of Costa Rica, the representative of the Wallace Foundation and the sculptor, Katherine McDevitt, proceeded to unveil the bust in honor of Mr. Henry A. Wallace.

Close of the ceremony

The opening ceremony of the Nineteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA concluded at 12:00 hours on 25 October 2017.

**NINETEENTH REGULAR MEETING
OF THE INTER-AMERICAN BOARD
OF AGRICULTURE**

PREPARATORY SESSION

0.1 Opening of the session

0.1.1 The preparatory session of the Nineteenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) was called to order at 14:55 hours on 25 October 2017, in the Sala Magna (the United States and Canada Rooms) at the Headquarters of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA). The session was chaired by Mr. Raúl Urteaga Trani, General Coordinator of International Affairs of the Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food (SAGARPA) of Mexico, the country serving as the Chair of the IABA.

0.1.2 Delegations representing 32 of IICA's 34 Member States were present. Dominica and Venezuela did not attend for reasons of force majeure.

0.2 Agreements

0.2.1 Election of the Chair and the Rapporteur of the meeting

0.2.1.1 The Chair informed the delegates that, in accordance with the rules in effect, the officers of the meeting would be elected by a simple majority vote. Votes were to be cast by the Regular Representative of each Member State. He added that, for this meeting of the IABA, 32 Member States had been duly accredited, with full voting powers.

0.2.1.2 The Representative of Peru proposed that Mr. Luis Felipe Arauz, Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of Costa Rica, serve as the Chair of the Nineteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA. The Chair was elected by acclamation.

0.2.1.3 The Representative of Bolivia asked about the provisions in the rules with regard to the election of the representative of the host country to chair meetings of the IABA, as he was concerned that the position was occupied, repeatedly and consecutively, by a single country.

0.2.1.4 The Legal Adviser explained that the practice of electing the representative of the host country to chair the IABA was not established in the rules. He

pointed out that a motion to amend the Rules of Procedure of the IABA could be put forward, establishing that the position was to be assigned on a rotating basis. A proposal could be submitted to the IABA at the present meeting or a future one.

0.2.1.5 The Representative of Nicaragua requested that reference be made in the minutes to the desirability of the next IICA administration submitting to the Executive Committee and the IABA a proposed amendment to the Rules of Procedure of the IABA of the kind suggested by the Legal Adviser.

0.2.1.6 The Representative of Mexico then proposed that Ms. María de Lourdes Cruz, Director of International Relations of SAGARPA be elected to serve as Rapporteur. The proposal was approved unanimously.

0.2.1.7 The following individuals were elected as officers of the meeting:

Chair:	Luis Felipe Arauz
Rapporteur:	María de Lourdes Cruz
Secretary, <i>ex officio</i> :	Victor M. Villalobos

0.2.2 Agenda of the meeting

0.2.2.1 Pursuant to Article 25 of the Rules of Procedure of the IABA, the Chair asked the representatives of the Member States to consider the agenda of the Nineteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA, which was approved as presented.

0.2.2.2 The Chair announced that the folders distributed among the representatives contained the working and informational documents that had been made available in electronic format, in Spanish and English, 30 days before the start of the meeting, as stipulated in Article 22 of the Rules of Procedure of the IABA.

0.2.2.3 The Technical Secretary explained the procedure for discussion and approval of the draft resolutions.

0.2.3 Duration of the meeting

0.2.3.1 The plenary decided that the Nineteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA would conclude on Thursday, 26 October 2017 at 17:00 hours.

0.2.4 Setting up of working committees

0.2.4.1 Pursuant to Article 52 of the Rules of Procedure of the IABA, the Chair asked the representatives whether they considered it necessary to set up committees to examine any of the matters included in the agenda of the meeting.

0.2.4.2 No proposals had been received for the establishment of committees, but the Chair informed the delegates that they could also be set up during the meeting, if the representatives of the Member States so decided.

0.2.4.3 The Representative of Saint Lucia asked whether it was necessary to set up a committee to oversee the process of electing the new Director General.

0.2.4.4 The Legal Adviser explained that this was not necessary, because, when the election took place, three representatives would be selected randomly to undertake of the counting of the votes.

0.2.5 Deadline for submitting draft resolutions

0.2.5.1 Wednesday, 25 October at 18:00 hours was set as the deadline for submitting draft resolutions.

0.2.6 The right to the vote in meetings of the IABA

0.2.6.1 The Director General of IICA asked the Legal Adviser to explain the scope and application of the rules governing the right to vote in meetings of the IABA.

0.2.6.2 The Legal Adviser explained that the cases of those Member States owing more than two annual quotas to IICA needed to be discussed, to determine whether their right to vote should be suspended under Article 24 of the Convention on IICA. He provided details of the status of quota payments, pointing out that Brazil and Venezuela were behind with their obligations.

0.2.6.3 The Representative of Brazil stated that his country's government was keen to take part in all the activities of the IABA meeting. He pointed out that Brazil had made efforts to fulfill its obligations as soon as possible and that only a few formalities remained to be completed. He therefore asked that he be granted the right to vote.

- 0.2.6.4 The Representative of Haiti asked for clarification of the situation regarding the payment of quotas by the United States of America, since that country appeared to owe more than Brazil.
- 0.2.6.5 The Director General explained that countries had the entire year of 2017 in which to pay their quota, so the United States of America was not yet in arrears.
- 0.2.6.6 The representatives of Suriname and the Dominican Republic pointed out that their countries owed smaller sums than those that appeared in the “Report on the collection of quotas.”
- 0.2.6.7 The Director General explained that the version published in the information system showed the status of quota payments up to and including 21 September 2017, so any payments made after that date would not be reflected.
- 0.2.6.8 The meeting agreed to grant to Brazil the right to vote at the Nineteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA.
- 0.3 *Ratification of the candidates nominated for the position of Director General of IICA for the period 2018-2022*
- 0.3.1 The Chair announced that the candidates put forward by the Member States for the position of Director General for the period 2018-2022 were Mr. Manuel Otero and Mr. Carlos Furche, nominated by the governments of Argentina and Chile, respectively.
- 0.3.2 He added that, in accordance with Article 105 of the Rules of Procedure of the IABA, “No candidate’s name may be on the election ballot on the day of the election, unless the Member State that nominated the candidate reaffirms the nomination in the Preparatory Session of the meeting in which the election is to be held.” He therefore asked the heads of delegation of the two countries whether their nominations remained in effect as of the day of the meeting, and both confirmed that they were.

0.4 *Close of the session*

0.4.1 The Preparatory Session of the Nineteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA was adjourned at 16:15 hours on 25 October 2017.

FIRST PLENARY SESSION

1.1 *Opening of the session*

1.1.1 The first plenary session of the Nineteenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) was called to order at 16:20 hours on 25 October 2017, in the Sala Magna (the United States and Canada Rooms) at the Headquarters of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA). In the chair was Mr. Luis Felipe Arauz, Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of Costa Rica.

1.2 *Director General of IICA's report on his administration (2010-2017)*

1.2.1 The Director General, Mr. Víctor M. Villalobos, stated that when he was elected to the position at the Fifteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA, he had pledged to strengthen IICA's technical capabilities in order to improve the support it provided to the Member States' efforts to achieve competitive, inclusive and sustainable agriculture. That pledge was reflected in the 2010-2020 Strategic Plan and in the medium-term plans implemented between 2010 and 2018. The achievements included the application by the Institute of a technical cooperation model designed to obtain results related to the areas in which IICA had the most technical capabilities and experience and in which, working with other stakeholders, it could increase the impact of its contributions to the countries' agriculture sector and rural area-based development.

1.2.2 He mentioned that IICA had focused its cooperation on the following strategic areas: a) productivity, sustainability and competitiveness of agrifood chains; b) agricultural health and food safety; c) integrated rural area-based development to strengthen the social fabric and living conditions of family farmers and vulnerable rural dwellers; and d) climate change adaptation and mitigation in agriculture, to reduce the phenomenon's effects on the environment, and risk management. He explained that IICA had implemented four operational instruments designed to achieve results in those areas that complemented one another: a) the flagship projects, which were the cross-cutting linchpins of technical cooperation to which most of the Institute's resources were assigned; b) rapid response actions, a flexible

mechanism for meeting needs and tapping opportunities in the Member States; c) the Technical Cooperation Fund, which allocated pre-investment resources in order to leverage international resources and resources of the countries themselves; and d) externally funded projects, which complemented the Institute's own capabilities and accounted for more than 70% of the funds earmarked for technical cooperation.

1.2.3 He then commented that the Institute's work at the national level was based on strategies tailored to each country, developed in dialogue with the national stakeholders. They included actions that the Institute carried out in all its strategic areas in the countries, which were flexible enough to be adapted to the needs in each case. He added that IICA complemented its country-level activities with support for a number of regional integration and cooperation mechanisms, such as the Central American Agricultural Council (CAC) and the Southern Agricultural Council (CAS); regional cooperative programs for research, innovation and development; and multinational initiatives such as the Regional Fund for Agricultural Technology (FONTAGRO) and the Forum for the Americas on Agricultural Research and Technology Development (FORAGRO). Working with the Government of Mexico, he then explained, the Institute had developed a graduate scholarship program that had benefited more than 1000 students. He mentioned that IICA had also strengthened its strategic partnerships with institutions such as the European Union, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), Germany's Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), the Development Bank of Latin America (CAF), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), and the World Bank.

1.2.4 The Director General noted that IICA had fulfilled its obligations of ensuring transparency and accountability, producing regular reports for the authorities of its 34 member countries; modernized its regulatory framework; and implemented a system of corporate management aimed at continuous improvement. All of that had helped to boost the member countries' confidence in the Institute's work, but continuing financial constraints affected the availability of human talent for providing technical cooperation of the highest quality.

1.2.5 He warned that the countries needed to take drastic decisions to ensure that the Institute's financial and technical viability was not compromised. He appreciated the efforts that the Member States had made to pay their quotas to IICA. Certain situations existed that prevented some countries from making their payments on time. He felt, however, that prompt solutions needed to be found to the Institute's financial problems, which did not mean raising quotas, reducing operating expenses or only seeking further external resources, as their availability varied considerably over time. He pointed out that IICA was engaged in efforts to secure resources from the Green Fund, but that this took time and required the support of the countries. He expressed his conviction that international technical cooperation was particularly important for the Member States, which meant that special measures were required to ensure the sustainability of cooperation in the long run. He concluded by remarking that IICA could survive and continue to support the countries as long as they were not indifferent to the Institute's needs.

1.3 Analysis and comments

1.3.1 The Representative of Argentina thanked the Director General for his efforts, underscoring his leadership at the helm of the Institute in 34 countries with different situations, and acknowledged the support provided to Argentina. He congratulated IICA on its 75 years of existence and mentioned some of the challenges that humankind was now facing: hunger, climate change, drug trafficking and food losses, among others. He said the challenge for the Institute would be to work on policies aimed at achieving sustainable production. He availed himself of the opportunity to congratulate the two candidates standing for the position of Director General of the Institute for the period 2018-2022, and noted that Argentina had nominated one of them.

1.3.2 The Representative of Jamaica congratulated the Director General on his eight years at the helm of IICA, and thanked him for the support provided to his country for capacity building, to enable it to tackle frosty pod rot in cocoa and coffee rust. He mentioned that his country had a groundbreaking program for growing sweet potatoes. He then stressed the importance of promoting value added in agricultural products, viewing farming as a business and promoting training in business administration, all of which had contributed to the development of agriculture in his country. He pointed out that climate-related emergencies had affected Jamaica, and acknowledged the Institute's offer of support for the efforts to tackle climate change. He concluded by

emphasizing the importance of promoting organic production and investing in the rural areas.

- 1.3.3 The Representative of Brazil thanked IICA for the work it had carried out throughout its history, during which time it had always been an ally of all the countries in the hemisphere. He mentioned that the Institute had been lending support to Brazil for 53 years, had actively witnessed the evolution of that country's agriculture sector and had played a key role in the founding, growth and consolidation of the Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (EMBRAPA). He referred to his country's efforts to promote systemic, integrated, low-cost agriculture focused on natural risk management and diversification, and value added. He recognized IICA's role as a key partner in the development of that agricultural model in Brazil.
- 1.3.4 The Representative of Antigua and Barbuda thanked IICA for the work of its Director General and personnel. He highlighted the support that the Institute had provided to the Caribbean countries as they endeavored to tackle the emergencies caused by natural phenomena. He mentioned the importance of the Institute focusing on the implementation of the resolutions adopted at the meeting of the IABA. He remarked that that the report on the joint activities of IICA and FAO presented during the First Extraordinary Meeting of the 2017 Executive Committee showed how the emphasis had been placed on policies. The challenge now was to ensure that resources were invested in the development of agriculture and reached farmers, which would help achieve food security. He acknowledged and congratulated the Institute for the training services provided in his country and hoped that IICA would continue to be strengthened.
- 1.3.5 The Representative of Chile thanked and congratulated the Institute for its work on behalf of its member countries. She underscored the important role it had performed in a region extremely rich in agricultural diversity, especially the generation of public goods in the area of agricultural health and food safety. She also acknowledged IICA's readiness to facilitate the implementation of projects on specific aspects tailored toward the needs of its Member States.
- 1.3.6 The Representative of Grenada acknowledged the Institute's excellent work in her country for the development and strengthening of capabilities related to climate-smart agriculture, postharvest services, policies, and screening

systems for food safety and agricultural risk management, among other areas. She thanked IICA for its support in dealing with emergencies caused by natural disasters, and expressed her country's interest in continuing to receive support on topics related to climate change and smart practices.

- 1.3.7 The Representative of the United States of America echoed the expressions of appreciation for the Director General. He acknowledged that the Member States had a responsibility to help the Institute address the financial and other challenges it faced.
- 1.3.8 The Representative of Haiti also expressed appreciation for the work of the Director General and IICA. He suggested that cooperation should lead to solidarity among countries.
- 1.3.9 The Representative of Mexico congratulated the Director General on the Institute's outstanding work during the previous eight years. He mentioned that in his country the technical cooperation of IICA and multilateral agencies such as FAO had been the key to capacity building in areas such as best practices, automated irrigation systems, resilience, climate change mitigation and adaptation and agricultural health and food safety, the last of these being vital for foreign trade. He pointed out that his country had become a net exporter of fruits, vegetables and animal protein. He also highlighted the development of value chains and the progress made in developing processed products that had a positive impact on rural families. He suggested that to further develop foreign trade it was essential to promote free trade and attract overseas and domestic investment.
- 1.4 *“The Outlook for Agriculture and Rural Development in the Americas: A Perspective on Latin America and the Caribbean 2017-2018”*
- 1.4.1 Mr. Miguel García, IICA Representative in the United States of America and Director of the Center for Strategic Analysis for Agriculture (CAESPA), thanked the staff of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), FAO and IICA who had helped prepare the document he was about to present.
- 1.4.2 He explained that the objectives of his presentation were threefold: a) to launch the seventh edition of the report “The Outlook for Agriculture and Rural Development in the Americas”, b) to present the AGRIRURAL

platform, and c) to reflect on the future of both initiatives. He noted that the document addressed the following topics: the macroeconomic and agriculture sector contexts, agriculture (crops), livestock, fisheries and aquaculture, forestry, rural well-being, and policies and the institutional framework. He added that on this occasion a special chapter had been added on food systems and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

- 1.4.3 He then highlighted issues that characterized the period covered by the report, including the economic slowdown of 2015-2016, the economic recovery of 2017, the establishment of the Sustainable Development Goals in 2016, the existence of new positions with regard to the international commitments on climate change, a period of transition in the trade policies of several countries and, unfortunately, geopolitical tensions related to migration and terrorism, among other aspects.
- 1.4.4 He pointed out that the growth of agriculture had been inequitable and uneven in the countries, that the impact of prices of agricultural products had been different, that exchange rate policies had affected farmers' incomes, and that great uncertainty surrounded the production of cereals and oilseeds, due to prices, changes in domestic policies and the slowdown in China. He mentioned that Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) had repositioned itself with regard to the production of fruits, vegetables and beverages; the production of the livestock subsector, concentrated in five countries, had experienced the strongest growth; and the economic and social importance of fisheries and aquaculture had increased, especially because of the contribution made by the latter. He explained that LAC continued to record one of the world's highest rates of deforestation, and move from an agricultural economy toward one based on non-agricultural activities. There were still nearly 30 million rural households, and countries were endeavoring to reorient their support for producers and modernize sectoral policies.
- 1.4.5 He remarked that the report included a section with recommendations concerning, on the one hand, the implementation of general public policies (macroeconomic policies and those aimed at further structural reforms, the modernization of agricultural regulations and the strengthening of trade, domestic markets, investment, innovation and infrastructure) and, on the other, sectoral policies aimed at promoting the use of state-of-the-art technologies, machinery and precision agriculture, fostering the creation of

value chains, improving information systems and generating data for decision-making and for tackling climate change, among others.

- 1.4.6 Mr. García then presented the AGRIRURAL platform and suggested that the representatives of the member countries familiarize themselves with it. He explained that it was the result of several years of collaboration between IICA, ECLAC and FAO aimed at providing agricultural decision-makers and technical personnel in the Americas with solid analyses that contribute to knowledge-based decision-making. He mentioned that the platform's contents (findings, agricultural data, information resources and so on) were presented in a user-friendly way and that new items were added periodically.
- 1.4.7 He urged the Member States to provide funding for the continuation of both initiatives, and to present the report in each country and improve its contents by supplying information.

1.5 *Analysis and comments*

- 1.5.1 The Representative of Saint Lucia thanked Mr. Garcia for his presentation of the document, which he felt contained information that was of great value to the countries. He explained that in the Caribbean Region the participation of young people in agriculture was limited, and that ways of encouraging it needed to be found. He acknowledged the support received from various international organizations, IICA among them, and asked them to redouble their efforts so that the benefits reached farmers in the Caribbean more and more.

1.6 *Presentation on the tenth anniversary of the establishment of the Inter-American Commission on Organic Agriculture (ICOA)*

- 1.6.1 Mr. Euro Torres, the chair of ICOA's Board of Directors, provided an overview of the Commission's development over the last decade. He informed the meeting that the ministers of agriculture of the Americas had established the ICOA by means of Resolution No. 484 of the Twenty-eighth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee, held in 2008, and since then the Commission's Assembly had met nine times. He explained that the ICOA had a Board of Directors, an Assembly composed of 19 full members and Spain, as a Permanent Observer, and an Executive Secretariat operated by IICA. He said that the four strategic areas on which the Commission focused

its work were: a) facilitation of trade in organic products and the development of markets for them, b) the establishment and strengthening of national control systems for organic production, c) information and knowledge management, and d) promotion of organic production.

- 1.6.2 He then went on to describe the positive evolution of organic agriculture, both across the world and in the Americas. He pointed out that ICOA member countries accounted for 90% of the certified area under organic farming and 98.6% of organic producers in the Americas. He also noted that the market for such products had been growing over the years, quadrupling the values recorded between the late 1990s and 2015.
- 1.6.3 He listed the main results achieved in the strategic areas, the most important of which were as follows: a) the drafting of the Central American Technical Regulations and the Andean Technical Regulations; b) equivalence, harmonization and bilateral agreements; c) the setting up of a working group on inputs suitable for organic production; d) the development of the tool *Evaluation and Planning for Strengthening National Control Systems for Organic Production*; e) capacity building under an IICA-ICOA-USDA agreement and horizontal cooperation; f) the generation of information and knowledge resources, such as the Web portal, the Inforgánica newsletter, social networks, guides to good organic practices for producers and several joint projects and training activities, under the ICOA's technical cooperation agreement with the Chamber of Inspection Authorities of the Autonomous Communities of Spain (INTERECO); and, g) the creation of the ICOA Organic Production Development Group.
- 1.6.4 He explained that the ICOA's intangible results included the production of healthy food, the preservation of natural resources and biodiversity, and a contribution to rural development and climate change mitigation. He concluded his remarks by stating that organic farming was not a panacea, but helped to counteract some problems in agriculture and improve production.
- 1.7 *Close of the Session*
- 1.7.1 The first plenary session of the Nineteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA was adjourned at 19:00 hours on 25 October 2017.

SECOND PLENARY SESSION

2.1 Opening of the session

- 2.1.1 The Second Plenary Session of the Nineteenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) was called to order at 08:40 hours on Thursday, 26 October 2017 in the Sala Magna (the United States and Canada Rooms) at the Headquarters of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), under the chairmanship of Mr. Luis Felipe Arauz, Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of Costa Rica.
- 2.1.2 The plenary session began with a Special Session held to elect the Director General of IICA for the period 2018-2022.

SPECIAL SESSION

2.2 Election of the Director General for the period 2018-2022

- 2.2.1 The Director General explained certain aspects of the process to elect the Director General of IICA for the period 2018-2022. He pointed out that two countries had nominated candidates in accordance with the provisions of Article 105 of the IABA Rules of Procedure. They were, in order of presentation, Argentina and Chile.
- 2.2.2 The Legal Adviser, who was responsible for conducting the election, coordinated the process of randomly selecting the three persons who would serve as electoral officers (one who would be the polling officer and the other two the scrutineers). The Representative of El Salvador was selected as polling officer, and the representatives of Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago as scrutineers 1 and 2, respectively.
- 2.2.3 The Chair of the meeting asked that the ballots for the first round of voting be distributed among the heads of delegation. He explained that, once the countries had voted for their preferred candidate, the ballots were to be deposited in the ballot box, which all the delegations of the Member States present proceeded to do.

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2.2.4 Following the procedure for the election of the Director General, the electoral officers selected for the task counted the votes. The final tally was:

Mr. Manuel Otero 16 votes
Mr. Carlos Furche 16 votes

2.2.5 The voting officer explained that, as neither candidate had obtained the minimum 18 votes required, there would be a second round of voting, which produced the following result:

Mr. Manuel Otero 17 votes
Mr. Carlos Furche 15 votes

2.2.6 Candidate Carlos Furche stated that, although neither of the two had obtained the minimum 18 votes required, as Mr. Manuel Otero had received a majority of the votes cast, Chile had decided to withdraw its candidacy for the position of Director General of IICA for the period 2018-2022.

2.2.7 The polling officer pointed out that, as Chile had withdrawn its candidacy, a third round of voting was required to validate the election of Mr. Manuel Otero as Director General for the period 2018-2022, or he could be elected by acclamation.

2.2.8 By acclamation, the representatives of the Member States elected Mr. Manuel Otero, the candidate nominated by Argentina, to serve as Director General of IICA for the period 2018-2022.

2.2.9 The Chair of the meeting thanked the polling officer and scrutineers for their efforts and invited Mr. Manuel Otero to address the plenary.

2.3 Remarks by the Director General-elect

2.3.1 At the request of the Chair of the meeting, the Director General-elect, Mr. Manuel Otero, began by thanking the Minister for Agribusiness, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the President of Argentina for endorsing and promoting his candidacy for the position of Director General of IICA. He also thanked the governments of the countries that had supported him from the outset and those that had finally elected him by acclamation, and announced that his Administration would work with, and for, all the member

countries. He then thanked the authorities of IICA and the Directors General emeritus for the contributions they had made to agriculture and to the Institute.

2.3.2 He was mindful that IICA needed to look to the future and find innovative and creative ways of working in the difficult times that lay ahead. He emphasized that, although he had roots in the Institute and knew it well, his actions would not be determined by that fact, and that his only obligation was to the member countries and producers. He added that he was prepared to make whatever changes were necessary for the benefit of agriculture and IICA itself. He declared his support for, and commitment to, the progress and improvement of the conditions of farmers and rural dwellers, especially those of the relatively less developed countries. He wanted to see a less bureaucratic and more flexible Institute involved in projects, strengthened by strategic partnerships and promoting public-private partnerships. He pledged to do his very best to achieve all of that as the eleventh Director General.

2.3.3 He concluded by thanking everyone present and emphasizing the integrity of the candidate nominated by Chile, Mr. Carlos Furche, whom he praised for his democratic values and the progress achieved in Chilean agriculture.

2.3.4 The Chair of the meeting congratulated the Director General-elect and asked the Rapporteur to read out three draft resolutions for approval.

2.4 Reading and approval of draft resolutions

2.4.1 The Rapporteur read out the draft resolutions “General Power of Attorney of the Director General-elect for the period 2018-2022,” “Authorization for the Thirty-eighth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee to approve the Medium-term Plan of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) for 2018-2022” and “Appointment of Dr. Victor Manuel Villalobos Arámbula as Director Emeritus,” which were unanimously approved.

2.5 Close of the Special Session

2.5.1 The Special Session of the Nineteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA was adjourned at 09:50 hours on 26 October 2017.

2.6 *Report on Resolution No. 501 of the IABA, "Institutional process for the formulation and presentation of proposals for the financial strengthening and strategic restructuring of the Institute" and Resolution No. 615 of the Executive Committee, "Progress made in drafting proposals for the financial strengthening and strategic restructuring of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)"*

2.6.1 The Director General described the elements of the international environment, in which there were a large number of intergovernmental multilateral agencies, both regional and global, such as IICA and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), which shared a long history and had similar mandates. He added that FAO and IICA currently faced similar problems, as it was increasingly difficult to secure more funding for multilateral institutions from the countries. He explained that this situation had led the Member States to suggest the need to formulate proposals for the financial strengthening and strategic restructuring of the Institute.

2.6.2 He then informed the meeting that he had held talks with the FAO Deputy Director General and Regional Representative for Latin America and the Caribbean, Mr. Julio A. Berdegué, during which they had decided to sign a new memorandum of understanding with commitments on concrete subjects, to replace the general agreement signed in 2015. He announced that, after a process of negotiation, the two institutions had agreed that the memorandum should focus on three main areas of collaboration:

- Improvement of interinstitutional effectiveness by means of joint national and regional administrative actions, including the shared use of offices where possible, following a joint study to determine the countries in which the process should begin.
- Implementation of joint projects on specific issues related to the Central American Dry Corridor, the implementation of the Peace Agreement in Colombia, and food, agricultural and rural development in the Caribbean.
- Conducting of joint research and production of analytical documents, according to the information needed for decision-making in the

countries of the region, on subjects related to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

2.6.3 He concluded his remarks by stating that both candidates for the position of Director General of the Institute had expressed their support for this initiative to strengthen the partnership between IICA and FAO.

2.7 Report on the results of the First Extraordinary Meeting of the 2017 Executive Committee

2.7.1 The Representative of the United States of America, in his capacity as the Chair of the First Extraordinary Meeting of the 2017 Executive Committee, informed the participants that the meeting had been used to revisit the question of the strengthening of cooperation with FAO. He remarked that most of the members of the Executive Committee felt that the proposal to adapt the WHO/PAHO cooperation model to the relationship between IICA and FAO was premature.

2.7.2 He stated that IICA had a great deal in common with FAO and that working together strengthened both institutions. He indicated that the Executive Committee supported the signing of the memorandum of understanding between the two institutions and the approval of the draft resolution on the subject submitted to the IABA. He then urged the Director General and the Director General-elect to seek similar opportunities with other organizations. He concluded by stating that the Member States should make a commitment to supporting all activities related to food, agriculture and rural development.

2.8 Signing of the memorandum of understanding between FAO and IICA

2.8.1 The FAO Deputy Director General and Regional Representative for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Director General of IICA signed the memorandum of understanding between the two institutions.

2.8.2 The FAO Deputy Director General and Regional Representative for Latin America and the Caribbean thanked the representatives of IICA's Member States for their support for the memorandum of understanding between the two institutions, which was a "new-generation" agreement on issues that they both were mandated to tackle.

2.8.3 He then stated that both he and the FAO Director General were firmly committed to ensuring that the work carried out under the three lines of collaboration established in the agreement was successful. He concluded by thanking the Director General of IICA for facilitating the process, and expressing his readiness to collaborate with the Director General-elect, whenever he felt it appropriate.

2.9 *IICA's financial and programming-budgetary situation*

2.9.1 Report on the collection of quota contributions

2.9.1.1 The Director of the Financial Management Division observed that IICA had published a series of strategic documents for its management and modernization, such as the Code of Ethics, the Gender Policy, the Policy on the Prevention and Resolution of Sexual Harassment, and the Anti-Fraud Policy. It had also updated the Procedures Manual for the Procurement of Goods and Services and the Financial Rules, and had made further progress with the implementation of the SAPIENS human resources system and database. She emphasized that transparency in the use of resources had been one of the core principles applied in the management of the Institute. She added that the SAP financial information system was functioning in all the Institute's delegations, thus strengthening the planning, control and financial management processes.

2.9.1.2 She then presented a report on the collection of quota contributions. She explained that the Member States' quota contributions were the main source of financing of the Regular Fund, which enabled the Institute to implement cooperation programs in each country aimed at meeting the needs and requirements of the agricultural sector and promoting sustainable and competitive agriculture in the Americas. She added that, by means of IABA Resolution No. 493, "2016-2017 Program Budget," the Member States had approved the budget for that biennium financed with USD 30,064,900 of quota resources each year. She explained that the sum included the first increase in the quota budget since 1995, making it possible to recover the resources of the Miscellaneous Income Fund that had been lost, plus USD 873,800 of over-quota contributions agreed by the countries.

2.9.1.3 She informed the meeting that the amount of quotas collected in the year ending 31 December 2016 was USD 24.2 million, or 80.41% of the annual

quota budget, and that the total sum owed as of the 2016 financial close was USD 13.1 million. She remarked that 73.82% of the total quota budget for 2017 had already been received, a percentage equivalent to USD 22.2 million in monetary terms. She reported that at the end of October as many as 16 countries were up to date, 16 in regular status (they owed quotas for less than two years) and 2 were in arrears (they owed quotas for more than two years).

2.9.1.4 She clarified that IABA Resolution No. 414 established that a country was considered to be behind with the payment of its annual quota if it had not paid it by 30 June of the year in question. This was considered a reasonable date, as payment of the annual quota became due from January 1 onwards each year. Finally, she stressed the importance of the Member States' paying their quotas, as it was essential in order for IICA to implement its work plan.

2.9.2 2016 financial statements of the Institute and report of the external auditors

2.9.2.1 The Director of the Financial Management Division pointed out that the financial statements had been prepared and audited in strict adherence to generally accepted accounting principles (US GAAP). She presented the results of the 2016 external audit, carried out by the firm of Deloitte, which concluded that "(...) the financial statements of the Institute represented reasonably, in all important aspects, IICA's financial position as of 31 December 2016 (...)."

2.9.2.2 She noted that the audit evidence obtained was considered sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for a qualified opinion of the auditors. She explained that the qualification was due to the fact that some of the provisions for employee termination benefits required actuarial studies, and insufficient information was available to assess quota contributions owed for more than one year, based on the application of the US GAAP accounting standard.

2.9.3 Twenty-third report of the Audit Review Committee (ARC)

2.9.3.1 Mr. Steve Rickrode, in his capacity as a member of the ARC, presented the Committee's report on the review of IICA's financial statements and the external audit in 2016.

- 2.9.3.2 He explained that the ARC had carefully reviewed the external auditors' comments on the calculation of termination benefits, the status of quotas receivable and the AIS Program in Colombia.
- 2.9.3.3 He mentioned that the ARC acknowledged the actions undertaken by IICA to address the recommendation made the previous year regarding a vulnerability analysis of the information technology infrastructure. He added that the ARC appreciated the appropriate manner in which the Institute's Administration had responded to each of the external auditors' comments.
- 2.9.4 2018-2019 Program Budget
- 2.9.4.1 The Director of the Programming, Budgeting and Control Division explained that the overall budget, aligned with the institutional strategic planning contained in the 2010-2020 Strategic Plan and the 2014-2018 Medium-term Plan (MTP), had been allocated to projects that contributed more efficiently to meeting the needs of agriculture in the Member States, for which the institutional strategic objectives and contributions established in the MTP had been taken into account. She pointed out that the sources of financing of the Regular Fund included in the 2018-2019 Program Budget submitted for approval were the quotas and miscellaneous income for the years 2018 and 2019, along with the detailed proposed expenditure budget for 2018.
- 2.9.4.2 She then explained that the Institute financed its technical cooperation and operational activities with funds from the Regular Fund, comprised of Member State quotas and miscellaneous income. She pointed out that the budget for income from the Regular Fund was USD 33,074,100 for each year of the 2018-2019 biennium. That sum was made up of USD 29,574,100 in Member State quotas, including some over-quotas, and USD 3,500,000 in miscellaneous resources. She noted that the balance in the Regular Fund was down 3.76%, or USD 1,287,300 in monetary terms, from 2017. There were two reasons for the decrease. Firstly, the exhaustion of the Miscellaneous Income Fund translated into a USD 800,000 annual decline in the Regular Fund; and secondly, the Government of Mexico would no longer be contributing an over-quota of USD 487,300.
- 2.9.4.3 She pointed out that it might be necessary to adjust the 2018 expenditure budget to the 2018-2022 MTP, to facilitate its immediate implementation, and that the 2019 expenditure budget would have to be approved taking into

account the guidelines of the MTP. She concluded by stating that the execution of the 2018-2019 Program Budget would be aligned closely with the institutional strategic model, respecting the financial constraints and applying the criteria of quality, effectiveness, rationality, equity, transparency and accountability.

2.9.4.4 Before moving on to the analysis and discussion by the Member States, the Chair announced a break in matters relating to the IABA, which would resume following an event on the importance of Codex Alimentarius organized by the Government of Canada.

2.10 *Contribution of Codex Alimentarius to agriculture and trade (the importance of Codex for ensuring food safety and facilitating international trade)*

2.10.1 The following panelists took part: Guilherme Antonio da Costa Jr., Chairperson of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, who referred to the role played by Codex Alimentarius and the benefits for agriculture and trade; Michel Leporati Néron, Chairperson of the Codex Coordinating Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean (CCLAC), who gave a presentation on LAC's participation in Codex Alimentarius, its current status and future challenges; and Brent Wilson, Deputy Director, Technical Trade Policy Division at Agriculture and Agri-food Canada, who referred to the role that Codex had played in his country in the establishment of standards, and to its main advantages.

2.10.2 The Director General of IICA, Víctor M. Villalobos, served as the moderator of the panel, and the Institute's Deputy Director General, Mr. Lloyd Day, also took part. The latter underscored the importance of Codex Alimentarius in the countries and the Institute's contribution to capacity building for the adoption of healthy practices and the strengthening of cooperation.

2.10.3 Following the event organized by the Government of Canada, the Director General invited the participants to the opening of the exhibition "Portrayal of Agriculture in the Americas." He added that when the representatives of the Member States returned to the business of the IABA, they would be able to comment on IICA's financial and programming-budgetary situation.

2.11 *Inauguration of the exhibition, “Portrayal of Agriculture in the Americas”*

2.11.1 The Director General explained that the idea of encouraging reflection and discussion of the present and future of agriculture through art and education had been proposed as a way to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the founding of IICA and keep alive its legacy and mission in the hemisphere.

2.11.2 He said that the Institute was delighted to present 20 works by the Mexican painter Cruzgaali not exhibited previously. The paintings, which had also been included in a commemorative publication containing texts written by IICA specialists, dealt with various aspects of agriculture and rural life that posed challenges and provided opportunities for contributing to the sector’s development in a more sustainable, productive and inclusive way that would guarantee food security and the quality of life of producers and rural dwellers.

2.12 *Close of the session*

2.12.1 The Second Plenary Session of the Nineteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA was adjourned at 12:00 hours on 26 October 2017.

THIRD PLENARY SESSION

3.1 Opening of the session

3.1.1 The Third Plenary Session of the Nineteenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) was called to order at 15:10 hours on 26 October 2017, in the Sala Magna (the United States of America and Canada Rooms) at the Headquarters of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), under the chairmanship of Mr. Luis Felipe Arauz, Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of Costa Rica.

3.2 Analysis and comments on IICA's financial and programming-budgetary situation

3.2.1 The Director General provided a recap of the points touched upon in the presentation on IICA's financial and programming-budgetary situation. He highlighted the fact that the budget for the 2018-2019 biennium showed a deficit of USD 487,300, since one of the Member States would no longer be making an over-quota contribution. He added that there were two ways of resolving the situation. The IABA could either: a) approve a USD 487,300 increase in the level of quota contributions to compensate for the reduction in over-quotas, so that the total in the Regular Fund remained at USD 33,561,400; or b) approve a budget adjusted to the expected income and eliminate the deficit of USD 487,300, thereby reducing the sum in the Regular Fund to USD 33,074,100. Lastly, he pointed out that it would be up to the Director General-elect to make any adjustments in the expenditure budget.

3.2.2 The Representative of Jamaica observed that the objective of the budget was to ensure that enough resources were available to carry out the technical cooperation activities for the Member States. He felt that more information should be provided about the results expected to be achieved with the budgetary resources. He recommended that sufficient resources be allocated to training activities, especially in the Caribbean Region.

3.2.3 The Representative of the United States of America asked that the proposed 2018-2019 Program Budget be adjusted to reflect the deficit of USD 487,300

created by the reduction in over-quota contributions. She requested that the Executive Committee be informed of the amended proposal.

- 3.2.4 The Representative of Colombia said his country could not accept a change in the amount of its quota, and therefore requested that the proposed 2018-2019 Program Budget be adjusted taking into account the current quota scale and the miscellaneous income that IICA expected to generate.
- 3.2.5 The Representative of Canada suggested authorizing the Director General-elect to make the adjustments to the budget and asking him to present the new proposal to the Executive Committee.
- 3.2.6 The Representative of Saint Kitts and Nevis requested more details about the items included in the termination benefits of IICA personnel. He proposed hiring an internal actuary to conduct an analysis in all the Institute's delegations, whose report could then be verified by an external actuary.
- 3.2.7 The Representative of Nicaragua said it was difficult for his country to support an increase in quota contributions, as his government's priority was to channel as many resources as possible into the actions required to deal with the effects of the natural disasters that had occurred recently, with investment required to get everything back to normal. He proposed that the budget be adjusted and that the question of the financing of the Regular Fund be discussed at the next meetings of the governing bodies. At that point in time, he could not support a proposal that called for a quota increase, and explained that the finance ministry had to be consulted about such decisions.
- 3.2.8 The Representative of Saint Lucia requested information about the percentages of the regular budget allocated to cover recurring expenses and the costs of technical cooperation. He also wished to know what the variation from the previous year was. He added that the budget was based on the assumption that all the Member States would pay their quotas in full, but history showed that, on average, 70%-75% of the amount budgeted was collected annually. He noticed that the reductions in costs included international personnel, and hoped that the Caribbean would not be affected. He wondered whether the reduction in costs was sufficient to compensate for the reduction in income, or further austerity measures were required. Finally, he said his country was not in a position to support an increase, so he was in favor of the second option.

- 3.2.9 The representatives of Antigua and Barbuda and Grenada informed the meeting that they were not authorized to support an increase in the quota scale. In addition, the Representative of Grenada expressed agreement with the ARC's report on actuarial studies and urged the Administration to continue to address the issue as it had been doing.
- 3.2.10 The Legal Adviser and the Director of the Financial Management Division explained the items that made up the termination benefits of IICA personnel. The cost-benefit of conducting actuarial studies in all the Institute's delegations each year was very high, for which funds allocated for technical cooperation would have to be used. The Director of the Financial Management Division highlighted the difficulty of finding an actuary familiar with the legislation of all the Member States.
- 3.2.11 The Director General commented that the budget had been executed adopting the criteria of effectiveness, rationality, transparency and accountability, with a policy based on continuous improvement and prioritizing the allocation of resources to direct technical cooperation. In view of the decision of one of the Member States not to continue to contribute its over-quota of USD 487,300, there were two options: to prorate that sum among all IICA's member countries, or present a draft budget eliminating the deficit. Finally, he emphasized in that in recent years 90% of the resources of the Regular Fund had been allocated to direct technical cooperation services.
- 3.2.12 The Representative of the United States of America requested a detailed explanation of the two options in order to approve the 2018-2019 Program Budget.
- 3.2.13 The Legal Adviser said the two options were: a) approve a USD 487,300 increase in quota contributions to compensate for the reduction in over-quotas, in which case the amount in the Regular Fund would remain unchanged at USD 33,561,400; or b) approve an adjusted budget of expected income and eliminate the deficit of USD 487,300 in over-quota contributions, which would reduce the amount in the Regular Fund to USD 33,074,100.
- 3.2.14 The Chair pointed out that there was consensus on the matters related to the quota report, the external auditors' report and the ARC's report, which were approved. In addition, and taking into account the comments made by the

delegates, he asked the Technical Secretary to prepare a draft resolution based on the second option that the Legal Adviser had mentioned.

- 3.2.15 In reply to the Representative of Colombia, who had expressed concern about a possible quota increase, the Director General explained that, in line with the second option, a budget for USD 487,300 less would be presented, and the Director General-elect would be asked to present a proposal to the next meeting of the Executive Committee approving the reduction.
- 3.3 *Report of the IABA Representative to the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE) for the period 2015-2017*
- 3.3.1 The Technical Secretary reminded the delegates that at its Seventeenth Meeting, held in 2013, the IABA had adopted Resolution No. 487, in which Chile was designated as the IABA's representative on CATIE's governing bodies for the period 2015-2017. He added that the report on the work of Chile's representative was available in the online information system of the Nineteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA. He announced that Ecuador would be representing the IABA on the board and council of CATIE during the period 2017-2018.
- 3.4 *Report on Resolution No. 500 of the IABA, "Extension of the contract signed between the Government of Costa Rica and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) on the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE)"*
- 3.4.1 The Director General of IICA reminded the meeting that the IABA was CATIE's highest governing body and that, in compliance with Resolution No. 500 of the Eighteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA, he was presenting the report on the progress achieved through the actions implemented under the 2016-2017 Program of Joint Action.
- 3.4.2 In the area of technical cooperation, he highlighted the collaboration provided to strengthen and promote the sustainability of the coffee sector in Central America and the Caribbean, the support lent to Mexico's livestock sector, the improvement of the food security of family farmers, and capacity building for aspects of climate change adaptation. The two institutions had coordinated other technical cooperation actions in countries in the Central American, Caribbean and Andean regions, for which the respective letters of

understanding had been signed. He announced that IICA, CATIE and the Public Policy and Rural Development in Latin America network, which was coordinated by the French Agricultural Research and International Cooperation Centre (CIRAD), would be implementing the project “Innovation for the adaptation of family farming to climate change” (INNOVA-AF) in eight countries. The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) would be providing USD 2 million in financing.

3.4.3 The Director General also reported that the content of CATIE’s onsite master’s degree program had been revised and optimized, design of the Inter-American Tropical Agriculture Distance Education Program was under way and, as part of the Center’s corporate management activities, topographical surveys had been carried out and the documents deposited with the Public Registry of Costa Rica. He added that IICA had transferred roughly USD 6.9 million to CATIE between 2010 and 2017, and the regulations governing local personnel and the election of the Director General had been updated. He added that over the last year and a half, IICA and CATIE had strengthened their collaboration, thereby reducing costs and achieving economies of scale.

3.4.4 He emphasized that, despite the progress made, the Center’s current management model needed to be analyzed to make it sustainable within the legal framework governing the relationship between IICA, CATIE and the Government of Costa Rica. That called for a commitment from the CATIE Administration, the next Director General of the Institute and the countries to strengthen the Center’s research programs and education, and promote the generation and capture of the economic resources required to meet the countries’ needs with a supply of high-quality technical services, and to make CATIE a benchmark institution in its areas of greatest expertise. He suggested that the extension of Law 8028 for another 20 years (2020-2040) was an excellent opportunity to propose scenarios and strategies that would equip CATIE with a modern legal framework and a strategic vision, if the member countries supported it. In conclusion, he informed the delegates that a draft resolution on the subject had been prepared.

3.5 *Report of the Director General of CATIE on joint activities with IICA*

3.5.1 The Director General of CATIE confirmed the progress made with joint technical cooperation, institutional management, administrative coordination

and economies of scale. He announced that the Center was in a position to present concrete results with verifiable indicators, and reported that CATIE had supported and advised IICA on specific projects related to sustainable development and the rehabilitation of agricultural production systems. He expressed his wish for IICA-CATIE collaboration to continue. He explained that the master's degree programs in administration were being revised and that, working with the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI), new areas of mutual support and collaboration in that region had been identified. On behalf of the Administration, staff and students of CATIE, he thanked IICA, its Director General and the countries for the support he had received from them since he assumed the position of Director General of the Center.

3.6 *Proposed implementation of sanitary and phytosanitary risk assessments by countries in the Americas*

3.6.1 The Representative of Brazil explained that his country had requested that this item be placed on the agenda of the IABA meeting due to the growing importance of agricultural health, in particular antimicrobial resistance, for countries in the region.

3.6.2 He pointed out that not every country had the installed capacity to conduct sanitary and phytosanitary risk assessments, and that no entity existed to provide support for such work. It was for that reason that Brazil had submitted a proposal to create a platform or working group to take charge of organizing sanitary and phytosanitary risk assessments requested by the countries of the Americas.

3.6.3 However, after speaking with several representatives on the days prior to the IABA meeting, he had concluded that further dialogue on the topic with the Member States was needed before submitting a definitive proposal. He therefore asked that the matter and the corresponding draft resolution be withdrawn from the agenda of the present meeting.

3.6.4 The Chair accepted the Representative of Brazil's request.

- 3.7 *Remarks by the Director General Emeritus of IICA, Mr. Chelston W. D. Brathwaite*
- 3.7.1 The Director General Emeritus of IICA, Mr. Chelston W. D. Brathwaite, congratulated Mr. Manuel Otero on his election as the next Director General of IICA and said he was certain he would acquit himself with great distinction. He also congratulated Dr. Víctor Villalobos on his designation as Director General Emeritus; and the Institute team that had worked with specialists of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) on the preparation of the report on “The Outlook for Agriculture and Rural Development in the Americas: A Perspective on Latin America and the Caribbean 2017-2018.”
- 3.7.2 He then remarked on the importance of food security for all the countries of the world. He described the process of economic reform carried out in the People’s Republic of China, which in a few decades had transformed it from an agrarian society into a world power, with a population whose growing purchasing power was making the country an important market for foodstuffs. It was no secret that China’s demand for food would increase in the future and that cooperation on agricultural issues with Latin America and the Caribbean was very important for that country. He concluded by highlighting the Institute’s capacity to help to improve agricultural cooperation between China and the countries of the Americas.
- 3.8 *Rotation of countries on the Executive Committee for the period 2019-2033*
- 3.8.1 The Technical Secretary explained that the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee stipulated that the body was to be composed of 12 Member States, elected by the IABA for two-year periods, according to the criteria of partial rotation and equitable geographical distribution. He pointed out that Resolution No. 396 of the IABA had established the order of rotation of the Executive Committee for the period 2004-2018. He added that Resolution No. 627 of the Executive Committee recommended that the present regular meeting of the IABA approve the proposed new table for the rotation of the Member States that would comprise the Executive Committee during the period 2019-2033. He explained that the proposal was available in the online information system established for the IABA meeting and would be attached to the respective draft resolution.

- 3.9 *Status of the resolutions of the Eighteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA and the Thirty-sixth and Thirty-seventh Regular Meetings of the Executive Committee*
- 3.9.1 The Technical Secretary pointed out that the reports on the status of the resolutions adopted at the Eighteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA and the Thirty-sixth and Thirty-seventh regular meetings of the Executive Committee had been made available to the Member States in advance via the online information system. He explained that the reports detailed the level of progress made in implementing each resolution adopted at the aforementioned meetings. The meeting took note of the report.
- 3.10 *Date and venue of the Twentieth Regular Meeting of the IABA*
- 3.10.1 The Technical Secretary informed the delegates that no Member State had yet offered to host the Twentieth Regular Meeting of the IABA, which meant that the meeting would be held at IICA Headquarters in the second half of 2019.
- 3.10.2 The Director General added that any country that wished to host the meeting should contact the General Directorate.
- 3.11 *Reading and approval of draft resolutions*
- 3.11.1 The Rapporteur read out the following draft resolutions: a) Management Report of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) for the period 2010-2017; b) Report on “The Outlook for Agriculture and Rural Development in the Americas: A Perspective on Latin America and the Caribbean 2017-2018;” c) Report on the collection of quotas; d) 2015-2016 Financial Statements of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, Report of the External Auditors and Twenty-second and Twenty-third Reports of the Audit Review Committee; e) 2018-2019 Program Budget; f) Membership table of the Executive Committee for the period 2019-2033; and g) Status of the resolutions of the Eighteenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture and the Thirty-sixth and Thirty-seventh Regular Meetings of the Executive Committee. The draft resolutions were approved as read.

- 3.11.2 The Rapporteur read aloud the draft resolution “Date and Venue of the Twentieth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture.” It was approved with an amendment requested by the Representative of Saint Kitts and Nevis that involved adding, at the end, a text that would leave open the possibility of accepting invitations to hold the meeting, pursuant to the Rules of Procedure.
- 3.11.3 The Rapporteur read out the draft resolution “Report on the results of the IICA-CATIE Program of Joint Action and extension of the Contract between the Government of the Republic of Costa Rica and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture on the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center.” The Chair invited the representatives of the Institute’s member countries to discuss the draft resolution.
- 3.11.4 The Representative of Canada was concerned that no mention was made in the operative paragraphs of the fact that the contract would be extended for twenty years. He asked whether the contract was extended for that period automatically if the IABA had no objection.
- 3.11.5 The Director General confirmed that the Representative of Canada’s observation was correct. He added that the IABA was the highest governing body of IICA and CATIE. He suggested that the decision be taken based on the results that the ad hoc group mentioned in the second operative paragraph of the resolution it would present to the Executive Committee. He considered it important, therefore, that the IABA task the Executive Committee with receiving that group’s report at its next regular meeting, which would be held next year.
- 3.11.6 The Deputy Director General of the Institute mentioned that he and some members of the IABA had met with the Director General of CATIE, who informed them of the technical, administrative and financial progress that the Center had made. He explained that much of the progress was the result of the coordination of activities with IICA on subjects related to resilience to climate change, animal production in the tropics and improved seeds. He pointed out that CATIE had turned a deficit of close to one million dollars into a surplus.

- 3.11.7 The draft resolution “Report on the results of the IICA-CATIE Program of Joint Action and extension of the Contract between the Government of the Republic of Costa Rica and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture on the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center” was approved as read.
- 3.11.8 The Rapporteur read out the draft resolution “Support for the IICA/FAO Memorandum of Understanding in fulfilment of Resolution IICA/JIA/Res. 501 (XVIII-O/15)”.
- 3.11.9 The Representative of Colombia asked that it be noted in the minutes that he had abstained from approving the draft resolution, as he had no specific instructions from his government on the matter. He explained that he was awaiting a technical opinion on the subject, which was being prepared by his country’s ministry of agriculture.
- 3.11.10 The Representative of Argentina requested that the second operative paragraph be eliminated or amended so that the Director General-elect would have a reasonable amount of time to put the memorandum of understanding into effect and not be obliged to do so immediately, as stated in the operative paragraph. He also requested information about the possible budgetary implications of the memorandum.
- 3.11.11 The Director General explained that the draft resolution instructed the Director General to begin implementing the memorandum of understanding. He added that the new Administration would continue the actions already under way and that the memorandum of understanding had no implications of a budgetary nature for either of the two agencies.
- 3.11.12 The Representative of the United States of America endorsed the Director General’s comments and said it was of the utmost importance to consolidate the memorandum of understanding as soon as possible. He proposed amending the third operative paragraph to include an invitation to the Regional Representative of FAO to take part in the next meeting of the Executive Committee, and adding a paragraph asking the Director General of the Institute to prepare a report on the achievements of the first twelve months of the IICA/FAO relationship under the terms of the memorandum of understanding. He then gave the Technical Secretariat of the meeting a copy of the text he wished to see incorporated into the draft resolution.

- 3.11.13 The Representative of Antigua and Barbuda pointed out that, in the Extraordinary Meeting of the Executive Committee held the previous Tuesday, he had requested that the text of the memorandum of understanding be distributed among the representatives before it was signed, but this had not happened. He explained that it was difficult to support a resolution on an instrument of which he had not received a copy in advance. He asked the Legal Adviser to clarify the difference between a memorandum of understanding and an agreement of understanding. He also requested that in the first operative paragraph of the version in English the order of the words “program work” be changed.
- 3.11.14 The Representative of Nicaragua agreed with the comments of the Representative of Antigua and Barbuda and mentioned that he did not object to the Director General having powers to sign legal instruments, but he regretted the fact that the request made by several members of the IABA to see a copy of the text of the memorandum of understanding before it was signed had not been met. He asked that this be recorded in the minutes. He was concerned that the Director General was being instructed to implement the memorandum of understanding immediately, when the text had not been shared with the representatives of the member countries. He also explained that the memorandum made reference to national and regional cooperation, which meant that at some point the countries would be taking part in the actions carried out within the framework of the memorandum of understanding. He requested a copy of the document, as he wished to study its contents in order to be able to report back to his country’s authorities.
- 3.11.15 The Representative of Saint Lucia asked to see a copy of the amendments proposed by the Representative of the United States of America to the draft resolution “Support for the IICA/FAO Memorandum of Understanding in fulfilment of Resolution IICA/JIA/Res. 501 (XVIII-O/15).” He agreed with the representatives of Antigua and Barbuda and Nicaragua that the delegates needed to study the text of the memorandum of understanding, since, as the leader of his country’s agriculture sector, he would be involved in the implementation of national actions.
- 3.11.16 The Director General asked the Technical Secretary to distribute copies of the memorandum of understanding signed between IICA and FAO. The Director General explained that there had been a lengthy process of negotiation leading up to the signing of the memorandum of understanding,

which he was authorized to sign, and pointed out that the new memorandum of understanding differed from those signed previously because it established coordinated work in specific areas of importance to the Member States such as: a) the Central American Dry Corridor, b) the peace process in Colombia and c) agricultural and rural development in the Caribbean. He considered that these three topics did not rule out the possibility of others of mutual interest being incorporated in the future.

- 3.11.17 The representatives of Jamaica and Saint Lucia urged their fellow delegates to conclude their discussion of the resolution, and the Technical Secretary to make the corresponding amendments.
- 3.11.18 The Legal Adviser informed the meeting that the new paragraph was being incorporated into the draft resolution, after which the members of the IABA would have the opportunity to study the new text.
- 3.11.19 The Representative of the United States thanked Saint Lucia for its procedural motion. He explained that the purpose of the amendment proposed by his delegation was to ensure that the Executive Committee had a basis on which to make decisions and facilitate processes.
- 3.11.20 The Legal Adviser read aloud the suggested changes to the first and third operative paragraphs of the draft resolution, as well as the text of the new operative paragraph number four. He opened the floor to the representatives of the Member States to comment on the amendments.
- 3.11.21 The Representative of Grenada felt that the text of the fourth operative paragraph was very general in nature, and therefore suggested that it be worded differently.
- 3.11.22 The Representative of Jamaica felt that the operative paragraph that the Representative of the United States had suggested adding to the draft resolution was not linked to the relationship between IICA and FAO. As it would create obligations for the new Director General of the Institute, he suggested that its contents be addressed in another draft resolution.
- 3.11.23 The Representative of the United States of America agreed with the Representative of Jamaica's comment. Operative paragraph number four had been suggested with a view to supporting the work between FAO and IICA.

Another draft resolution could be put forward that it would be up to the Director General-elect to implement. He stated that it would be necessary to analyze in depth the success or otherwise of implementation of the memorandum of understanding signed by the parties, as well as any other memorandum that IICA signed with other international organizations.

- 3.11.24 The Representative of Grenada proposed that two separate but interrelated draft resolutions be prepared.
- 3.11.25 The Representative of Guyana suggested adding another operative paragraph linking the two draft resolutions.
- 3.11.26 The Chair agreed with the Representative of Grenada's proposal and urged IICA to undertake a full strategic analysis of IICA/FAO cooperation. He proposed accepting Grenada's recommendation that there be two separate but interrelated draft resolutions, and requested that the draft resolution related to the IICA/FAO memorandum of understanding contain only the first three operative paragraphs and that a new draft resolution be prepared on the conducting of a full strategic analysis of IICA/FAO cooperation.
- 3.11.27 The Legal Adviser proposed that the new draft resolution be prepared and submitted to the representatives for comments, and that the draft resolution under discussion be approved without paragraph number four.
- 3.11.28 The Chair submitted the Legal Adviser's proposal to the representatives to the IABA for approval and it was approved unanimously.
- 3.11.29 The Chair read out the draft resolution "IICA and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" and opened the floor for comments by the representatives of the Member States.
- 3.11.30 The Representative of the United States of America acknowledged that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development had a key role to play in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), but that the policies of the 2030 Agenda were under review in his country. He considered it important for IICA to report on the progress made in implementing the Agenda, but it was not necessary for the Institute to modify its mandate in order to reflect the activities related to that instrument. He believed that, although the United States of America did not currently support the draft

resolution, it should be an important focus of dialogue going forward and in establishing priorities.

- 3.11.31 The Representative of Colombia informed the meeting that he would consult his country's authorities about the draft resolution, hence he would abstain from approving it.
- 3.11.32 The Chair, in his capacity as the Representative of Costa Rica, proposed that the draft resolution be discussed at the Thirty-eighth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee.
- 3.11.33 The Representative of El Salvador emphasized that it was an opportunity for the Institute to support the United Nations' efforts to achieve the SDGs. He felt that the draft resolution should not exclude the objective of contributing to the achievement of those goals.
- 3.11.34 The Representative of Jamaica remarked that IICA should support the Member States' efforts to achieve their national sustainable development goals and implementation of the 2030 Agenda. He thought that receiving more collaboration for the achievement of those goals would be a big plus for the member countries. He asked the Representative of the United States to explain what were the problems with the draft resolution that could limit the sustainable achievement of the countries' development goals.
- 3.11.35 The Representative of the United States of America clarified that he did not oppose the initiative but felt that more work was needed on the wording of the draft resolution. He supported the Chair's proposal that the matter be discussed in greater depth at the next meeting of the Executive Committee.
- 3.11.36 The Representative of Canada thanked the Chair of the meeting for his proposal that the draft resolution be discussed by the Executive Committee. He wished to know which document was being referred to in the operative paragraph that was entitled "2030 Agenda for Agriculture in the Americas."
- 3.11.37 The Chair explained that the purpose of the draft resolution was to task IICA with convening a forum to formulate the 2030 Agenda for Agriculture in the Americas.

- 3.11.38 The Technical Secretary stated that clarity was needed regarding the IABA's mandate with respect to the draft resolution under discussion. He suggested that the Board agree to request that the draft resolution be discussed at the Thirty-eighth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee, as proposed by the Chair of the IABA meeting.
- 3.11.39 The Chair's proposal was approved unanimously.
- 3.11.40 The Chair, in his capacity as the Representative of Costa Rica, read out the draft resolution "Geographical rotation for the election of the Chair of the meetings of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture held at Headquarters." He mentioned that Costa Rica felt it would be healthy for the chairmanship of IABA meetings to be assigned based on the principle of geographical rotation when meetings were held at IICA's Headquarters.
- 3.11.41 The draft resolution was approved as read.
- 3.11.42 The Representative of Brazil referred to the draft resolution dealing with the 2018-2019 Program Budget. He noted that it was stated in the first operative paragraph that in fiscal year 2019 the quotas would be computed based on the quota scale approved by the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS) for that year. He asked for an explanation of the procedure used to review quotas and how often reviews took place.
- 3.11.43 The Legal Adviser explained that Article 23 of the Convention on IICA established that the Member States would help support the Institute by means of annual quotas established by the Board, in accordance with the system used by the OAS to calculate quotas. He then gave an overview of the particular characteristics of the application of the aforementioned article. He added that the new quota scale that increased Brazil's contribution was adopted under a resolution approved in June 2017. He explained that, in its resolution on the 2018-2019 Program Budget, the Executive Committee had recommended including the fact that the adjustments to the OAS quota scale approved at the end of this month of October would be applied in the second year of that biennium (2019).

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3.12 *Close of the session*

3.12.1 The Third Plenary Session of the Nineteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA was adjourned at 18:35 hours on 26 October 2017.

CLOSING SESSION

4.1 Opening of the session

4.1.1 The closing session of the Nineteenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) was called to order at 18:40 hours on 26 October 2017 in the Sala Magna (the United States of America and Canada Rooms) at the Headquarters of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA). Mr. Luis Felipe Arauz, Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of Costa Rica, was in the chair.

4.2 Remarks by the Director General of IICA

4.2.1 The Director General expressed his profound gratitude to the Member States for the trust they had placed in him, as well as to the staff of the Institute for their support during the eight years of his Administration.

4.2.2 He then mentioned the two factors that accounted for IICA's 75 years of existence: a) the member countries' conviction that international technical cooperation was extremely important to complement and increase their strengths, and b) the Institute's demonstrated capacity to adapt continually to the changing challenges of agriculture in the Americas.

4.2.3 He congratulated the Director General-elect and assured him that he would be leading an outstanding team of professionals, both those working at Headquarters and those in the 34 delegations, who shared IICA's values and identified with its objectives completely.

4.2.4 He concluded his remarks by stressing the fact that the future of the peoples of the Americas was closely linked to the continent's agriculture, so supporting it would be crucial to eradicate poverty and hunger.

4.2.5 He reiterated his thanks for having been granted the opportunity to serve for eight years as the Director General of IICA. He concluded by sharing a verse from the Huehuetlatolli of the Nahuas: "Take care of the things of the earth. Do something, chop wood, work the land, plant cactus, plant agave. You'll have something to drink, to eat, to wear. With that you'll stand, you'll be true,

you'll walk. With that they'll speak of you, praise you, with that you'll be known.”

4.3 Remarks by the Chair of the IABA

4.3.1 The Chair thanked all the delegations of the Member States for taking part in the meeting and for their contributions to agriculture in the Americas.

4.4 Close of the meeting

4.4.1 The closing session of the Nineteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA was adjourned at 18:50 hours on 26 October 2017.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTIONS

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IICA/JIA/Res. 503 (XIX-O/17)
26 October 2017
Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 503

**MANAGEMENT REPORT OF THE INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR
COOPERATION ON AGRICULTURE (IICA) FOR THE PERIOD 2010-2017**

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

HAVING SEEN:

The presentation by the Director General of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) on the work of his administration during the period 2010-2017,

CONSIDERING:

That the Executive Committee, at its Thirty-third Regular Meeting, by means of Resolution IICA/CE/Res. 565 (XXXIII-O/13) resolved to accept the 2010-2013 Management Report of the Director General;

That the Executive Committee, at its Thirty-seventh Regular Meeting, by means of Resolution IICA/CE/Res. 617 (XXXVII-O/17) resolved to accept the 2014-2017 Management Report of the Director General; and,

That the management report presented by the Director General at the Nineteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA contains an adequate summary of the work of the Institute during the period 2010-2017 under the leadership of Dr. Víctor M. Villalobos Arámbula, as well as the results obtained during this period, which were made possible through the support provided by the Member States of the Institute,

RESOLVES:

1. To accept the 2010-2017 Management Report.

2. To congratulate the Director General and the staff of the Institute on the results achieved during the aforementioned periods with respect to both technical cooperation and the process of financial strengthening and modernization of IICA.

IICA/JIA/Res. 504 (XIX-O/17)
26 October 2017
Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 504

**REPORT ON “THE OUTLOOK FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL
DEVELOPMENT IN THE AMERICAS: A PERSPECTIVE ON
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN 2017-2018”**

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

HAVING SEEN:

The report, “The Outlook for Agriculture and Rural Development in the Americas: A Perspective on Latin America and the Caribbean 2017-2018,”

CONSIDERING:

That, in the Ministerial Declaration Bávaro 2001, the countries of the Americas pledged to target the problem of rural poverty and make significant strides in reducing it;

That Article 3.a of the Rules of Procedure of the IABA establishes that this highest-level governing body of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) is to take note of the report of the Director General of the Institute on the status of the development of agriculture and the rural milieu in the Americas;

That the General Directorate has presented to the Member States of IICA the report entitled “The Outlook for Agriculture and Rural Development in the Americas: A Perspective on Latin America and the Caribbean 2017-2018,” which was prepared jointly by IICA, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), which highlights the role played by agriculture in contributing to the creation of employment and the reduction of rural poverty, and,

That, in addition to this report, the three institutions worked on the construction of a web platform that facilitates greater use of existing products and the generation of new, complementary products (www.agrirural.org),

RESOLVES:

1. To accept the report, “The Outlook for Agriculture and Rural Development in the Americas: A Perspective on Latin America and the Caribbean 2017-2018,” and underscore its importance for the governments of the region as a useful tool for the tasks of analysis and policy-making.
2. To urge ECLAC, FAO and IICA to continue to jointly prepare this report, to operate the platform www.agrirural.org and to generate additional, complementary products, by allocating the necessary human, financial and other resources to successfully carry out these tasks.
3. To support these efforts by requesting that the member countries provide the official information required for advancing the construction of a competitive, sustainable and inclusive agriculture.

IICA/JIA/Res. 505 (XIX-O/17)

26 October 2017

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 505

**AUTHORIZATION FOR THE THIRTY-EIGHTH REGULAR MEETING OF
THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO APPROVE THE MEDIUM-TERM
PLAN OF THE INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR COOPERATION
ON AGRICULTURE (IICA) FOR 2018-2022**

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

CONSIDERING:

That Article 2.a of the Rules of Procedure of the IABA states that a function of this highest-level governing body of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) is to adopt measures related to the policies and actions of the Institute and, consequently, to approve IICA's medium-term plans (MTPs);

That the Director General-elect, with the participation of the Member States, is required to prepare a proposed IICA MTP for the period 2018-2022, based on the guidelines contained in the 2010-2020 Strategic Plan and in the mandates issued by the Executive Committee and the IABA;

That, to facilitate implementation of the MTP for 2018-2022, consistency must be ensured between the mandates of the Plan and the Institute's budget, and that, therefore, it is advisable to ensure that said Plan establishes the financial requirements for its implementation in the period 2018-2022; and,

That, inasmuch as the IABA will not hold a regular meeting in 2018, authority must be delegated to the Executive Committee at its Thirty-fourth Regular Meeting to review and approve the proposed IICA MTP for 2018-2022 and the adjustments to the allocation of funds required in the 2018-2019 Program Budget for its implementation,

RESOLVES:

1. To instruct the Director General to prepare IICA's MTP for 2018-2022 in consultation with the Member States, considering as basic guidelines: a) the resolutions in force of the IABA and of the Executive Committee, and b) the guidelines for the actions of the Institute contained in IICA's 2010-2020 Strategic Plan.
2. To authorize the Executive Committee to approve, at its Thirty-eighth Regular Meeting, IICA's MTP for 2018-2022, as well as the required adjustments to the allocation of funds under the Institute's 2018-2019 Program Budget in order to implement it.

IICA/JIA/Res. 506 (XIX-O/17)
26 October 2017
Original: English and Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 506

**STRATEGIC ANALYSIS OF THE INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE
FOR COOPERATION ON AGRICULTURE (IICA)**

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

HAVING SEEN:

Resolution IICA/JIA/Res. 508 (XIX-O/17), “Support for the IICA/FAO memorandum of understanding in fulfilment of Resolution IICA/JIA/Res. 501 (XVIII-O/15),”

CONSIDERING:

The Institute’s need to identify new financial and administrative modalities that would enable it to effectively address the formidable challenges facing the agri-food sector; and,

The Institute’s interest in facilitating the implementation of the IICA/FAO memorandum of understanding signed on 26 October 2017,

RESOLVES:

To urge the incoming Director General of IICA to undertake a full strategic review relating to IICA/FAO cooperation within the first 12 months of his administration, including, but not limited, to the following areas: office structure and costs at Headquarters and at the country delegations; external project funding; contributions to other international organizations; quotas and status of arrears, as well as strategic partnerships; and to present a report to the Thirty-ninth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee of IICA in 2019.

IICA/JIA/Res. 507 (XIX-O/17)

26 October 2017

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 507**REPORT ON THE RESULTS OF THE IICA-CATIE PROGRAM OF
JOINT ACTION AND EXTENSION OF THE CONTRACT BETWEEN
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF COSTA RICA AND THE
INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR COOPERATION ON AGRICULTURE
ON THE TROPICAL AGRICULTURE RESEARCH AND HIGHER
EDUCATION CENTER**

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

HAVING SEEN:

The presentation by the Director General of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) on progress achieved in implementing the IICA-CATIE Program of Joint Action as well as the extension of the Contract on the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE) between the Government of Costa Rica and IICA, (the Contract),

CONSIDERING:

That the Government of Costa Rica and IICA established CATIE as a scientific and educational civil association in 1973, by way of the Contract (Law 5201), subsequently modified in 1983 (Law 6873) and 1999 (Law 8028);

That, pursuant to its thirty-third clause, the Contract-Law expires in 2020; however, it may be extended for consecutive twenty-year terms provided that two years before the end of each term the Government of Costa Rica and the General Directorate of IICA, pursuant to the decision of the IABA, do not notify the Governing Council of CATIE of their decision to terminate the contract and dissolve the association;

That the Governing Council of Ministers, at the request of the Government of Costa Rica, represented by its Minister of Agriculture, unanimously adopted Resolution

11-14/XVI ROCS of 31 October 2014, in which it requested that the IABA, as the highest governing body of CATIE, endorse the position of the Government of Costa Rica regarding the need to secure an automatic extension to the contract, emphasizing the enormous contribution made by CATIE and its value in meeting the needs of its member countries;

That, via resolution IICA/JIA/Res. 500 (XVIII-O/15), the IABA resolved to support the automatic extension of the Contract, from 2020 onward, according to the terms of clause thirty-three of said contract; to request that the Director General of IICA and the new Director General-elect of CATIE prepare a report on the relationship between the two institutions, including a proposal for strengthening it that would benefit the member countries of the Center and of the Institute; and to task the Executive Committee of IICA with studying said report at its next regular meeting and presenting it, with its recommendations, to the next regular meeting of the IABA;

That, pursuant to that Resolution the institutions have presented a progress report on the main actions carried out within the framework of the Program of Joint Action, which establishes the operating and corporate management areas and mechanisms required to coordinate actions between the two institutions;

That the extension of the Contract is an excellent opportunity to provide CATIE with a modern legal framework and a strategic vision for the future that strengthens its academic, operational, financial and research position and enables it to offer cutting-edge proposals to its member countries, in close collaboration with IICA;

That it is necessary to develop a “strategic proposal” for updating and improving CATIE’s current operating framework, with the aim of perfecting the Center’s relationship with IICA and assisting in overcoming the challenges facing member countries in the short, medium and long term; and,

That, in order to prepare this strategic proposal, an *ad hoc* working group must be established that includes representatives of CATIE, IICA and the Government of Costa Rica, as well as two external specialists and a legal expert who are familiar with the legal, operational and corporate aspects of the Center,

RESOLVES:

1. To accept the Report on the Results of the IICA-CATIE Program of Joint Action (second semester of 2016 and first semester of 2017) in the areas

of technical cooperation, capacity building and corporate management, which has contributed to strengthening the relationship between the institutions; to encourage the institutions to continue working for the benefit of their Member States and to task them with reporting on the results of the Program to the Executive Committee and the IABA, at their next regular meetings.

2. To request that the directors general of IICA and CATIE establish, with support from the Government of Costa Rica, an *ad hoc* working group that includes representatives of each institution, two external consultants and an international legal expert, who shall be responsible for preparing a “strategic proposal” for the future of CATIE that details scenarios and alternatives for restructuring and strengthening the Center’s organizational, scientific, academic and financial frameworks, as well as its legal basis.
3. To instruct both directors general to ensure that the *ad hoc* group presents this strategic proposal, including its conclusions and scenarios, to the Executive Committee, so that it may issue recommendations at its next regular meeting.
4. To task the Executive Committee with studying and analyzing the strategic proposal and adopting the corresponding resolutions at its next regular meeting, as well as reporting on this topic at the next regular meeting of the IABA.

IICA/JIA/Res. 508 (XIX-O/17)
26 October 2017
Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 508

**SUPPORT FOR THE IICA/FAO MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING IN
FULFILMENT OF RESOLUTION IICA/JIA/RES. 501 (XVIII-O/15)**

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

HAVING SEEN:

The documents prepared by the General Directorate of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) in fulfilment of the mandates contained in Resolutions IICA/JIA/Res. 501 (XVIII-O/15) and IICA/CE/Res. 615 (XXXVI-O/16), and

The presentations by the General Directorate on the new memorandum of understanding between IICA and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), to be signed at this meeting of the IABA,

CONSIDERING:

That, at its Eighteenth Regular Meeting, via Resolution IICA/JIA/Res. 501 (XVIII-O/15), the IABA requested that the Executive Committee “submit to the next meeting of the IABA proposals for the financial strengthening and strategic restructuring of the Institute”;

That this resolution was motivated by the Institute’s need to identify new financial and administrative modalities that would enable it to effectively address the formidable challenges facing the agri-food sector using limited resources;

That, in compliance with Resolution IICA/JIA/Res. 501 (XVIII-O/15), the Executive Committee, via Resolution IICA/CE/Res. 615 (XXXVI-O/16), requested that the Director General of the Institute undertake a study to examine the possibility of establishing “a strengthened alliance between IICA and FAO in order to eliminate

duplication, promote savings in the implementation of activities, and make better use of the resources allocated by the Member States to both organizations”;

That, in response to this mandate, the Director General submitted the study requested to the Executive Committee and the IABA;

That, as a result of this study, IICA and FAO have negotiated a new memorandum of understanding based on their respective mandates that takes into account regional challenges, especially those related to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in order to intensify joint cooperation actions; and,

That, at its extraordinary meeting held on 24 October 2017, the Executive Committee expressed its support for the new memorandum of understanding between IICA and FAO, and pledged to support its implementation,

RESOLVES:

1. To support the efforts undertaken by the General Directorate of IICA to strengthen its cooperative relationship with FAO, as well as to congratulate the Director General on his efforts to establish a new memorandum of understanding with FAO that seeks to improve and strengthen the cooperation mechanisms between both institutions by means of a joint program work, for the benefit of Latin American and Caribbean countries.
2. To request that the Director General proceed immediately with the operational implementation of the memorandum of understanding, including, among other aspects, areas and modalities for cooperation at the regional and national levels as well as mechanisms for joint work and financing.
3. To task the Director General with informing the Executive Committee, at its next meeting, on progress achieved in strengthening the cooperation between IICA and FAO, in accordance with the provisions of the memorandum of understanding and the present resolution.

IICA/JIA/Res. 509 (XIX-O/17)
26 October 2017
Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 509

REPORT ON THE COLLECTION OF QUOTAS

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

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/JIA/Doc. 381 (17), “Report on the Collection of Quotas,”

CONSIDERING:

That the financing of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and its technical cooperation projects can only be achieved if Member States remain current with the payment of their annual quota contributions;

That the IABA, at its Thirteenth Regular Meeting, by means of Resolution IICA/JIA/Res. 414 (XIII-O/05), adopted the document “Revised measures for collecting quotas owed to the Institute;” and,

That, thanks to the support of the Ministers of Agriculture and other authorities in the Member States, the measures adopted and the efforts of the General Directorate, the collection of quotas has been more stable, which has contributed to the satisfactory implementation of the technical cooperation services established in the 2016-2017 Program Budget of the Institute,

RESOLVES:

1. To thank the Ministers of Agriculture and Foreign Affairs, as well as other high-level government officials in IICA’s Member States, for the efforts they have been making to honor their annual quota payments to the Institute in a timely fashion.

2. To maintain in effect the measures established by the Executive Committee and the IABA to encourage the Member States to make their annual quota payments in a timely fashion and to pay arrears for previous years.
3. To instruct the Director General of the Institute to continue efforts to collect the quotas of the Member States, both for the current year and previous years, and to keep the Member States informed of progress in this area.
4. To strengthen the commitment of the Member States to remain current with the payment of their annual quotas, and to reach an agreement with IICA, as necessary, for the payment of quotas owed for previous years.

IICA/JIA/Res. 510 (XIX-O/17)

26 October 2017

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 510

**2015-2016 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE INTER-AMERICAN
INSTITUTE FOR COOPERATION ON AGRICULTURE REPORT OF THE
EXTERNAL AUDITORS AND TWENTY-SECOND AND TWENTY-THIRD
REPORTS OF THE AUDIT REVIEW COMMITTEE**

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

HAVING SEEN:

Documents IICA/JIA/Doc. 382 (17), “2015 and 2016 Financial Statements of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and Report of the External Auditors” and IICA/JIA/Doc. 383 (17), “Twenty-second and Twenty-third Reports of the Audit Review Committee (ARC),”

CONSIDERING:

That the Executive Committee, pursuant to articles 3.c and 4.d of its Rules of Procedure, examined, at its Thirty-sixth and Thirty-seventh Regular Meetings, the financial statements of IICA and the reports of the external auditors for 2015 and 2016, and, as a result, by means of resolutions IICA/CE/Res. 612 (XXXVI-O/16) and IICA/CE/Res. 620 (XXXVII-O/17), recommended that the documents in question be submitted to the consideration of the IABA;

That, in its Twenty-second and Twenty-third Reports, the ARC states that it examined the reports of the external auditors and found that the General Directorate had properly administered IICA’s financial resources, in accordance with the rules of the Institute and with generally accepted auditing standards; and,

That, the Executive Committee, at its Thirty-sixth and Thirty-seventh Regular Meetings, resolved to approve said reports by means of resolutions IICA/CE/Res. 612 (XXXVI-O/16) and IICA/CE/Res. 620 (XXXVII-O/17),

RESOLVES:

1. To approve the 2015 and 2016 financial statements of IICA, as well as the reports of the external auditors.
2. To accept the Twenty-second and Twenty-third Reports of the ARC.
3. To express to the members of the ARC the satisfaction and appreciation of the Member States of IICA for the work accomplished.

IICA/JIA/Res. 511 (XIX-O/17)
26 October 2017
Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 511

2018-2019 PROGRAM-BUDGET

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

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/JIA/Doc. 384 (17), “2018-2019 Program-budget,”

CONSIDERING:

That the Convention on the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) establishes:

- i. In Article 8.b, that a function of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) is “to approve the biennial Program-budget and to determine the annual quotas of the Member States”,
- ii. In Article 14.b, that a function of the Executive Committee is “to examine the proposed biennial Program-budget that the Director General submits to the Board and to make such observations and recommendations as it deems appropriate”,
- iii. In Article 23, that “the Member States shall contribute to the maintenance of the Institute through annual quotas established by the Board, in accordance with the system for calculating quotas of the Organization of American States”;

That IICA’s current Medium-Term Plan (MTP) covers the period 2014-2018 and that in January 2018 a new administration takes office, and will have to submit to the governing bodies a new medium-term plan for the period 2018-2022;

That the Director General submitted the proposed 2018-2019 Program-budget to the Regular Meeting of the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues (SACMI), held in April 2017; and,

That the Director General submitted the proposed 2018-2019 Program-budget for consideration by the Executive Committee at its Thirty-seventh Regular Meeting, in a format consistent with the structure and content established in the rules currently in effect, and that, through resolution IICA/CE/Res. 621 (XXXVII-O/17), the Committee recommended that the IABA approve it,

RESOLVES:

1. To approve the overall allocation of USD 33,074,100 per year from the Institute's Regular Fund for the 2018-2019 Program-budget, financed with USD 29,574,100 annually in quota contributions from the Member States, as per the amounts indicated in the scale attached hereto as Annex A, including assessed quotas and over-quota contributions; and with USD 3,500,000 per year in miscellaneous resources, from income that it is estimated will be generated; however, for fiscal year 2019, the assessed quotas will be those computed in accordance with the percentages established in the quota scale approved by the General Assembly of the OAS for that year.
2. To approve the use of resources for the 2018 Program-budget, in the amount of USD 33,074,100 in accordance with the allocations for each of the chapters, headings and programs specified in Document IICA/JIA/Doc. 384 (17), "2018-2019 Program-budget." The summary of allocations by chapter is attached to this resolution as Annex B.
3. To instruct the Director General to submit to the consideration of the Executive Committee at its Thirty-eighth Regular Meeting, a draft allocation of the funds approved for the 2019 Program-budget, consistent with the priorities of the new MTP of the Institute.
4. To authorize the Director General to effect transfers among chapters of the Program Budget, provided that the total transfers do not significantly affect the priorities approved.

5. To authorize the Director General to make the necessary adjustments in the allocation of resources approved in this resolution, should the combined income for fiscal years 2018 and 2019 fall below estimated levels, and to inform the Executive Committee and the IABA of this situation.
6. To instruct the Director General to ensure that any additional over-quota contribution received that exceeds the total amount approved for the 2018-2019 biennium is applied to the Regular Fund used to finance the 2018-2019 Program-budget, in accordance with the MTP approved by the IABA.
7. To express appreciation for the voluntary over-quota contributions pledged by the Member States for the Program Budget, and any others they might consider making to complement the amount required to maintain at least the same operating level as in 2017.

ANNEX A
QUOTA SCALE OF THE MEMBERS STATES, OVER-QUOTA CONTRIBUTIONS
AND MISCELLANEOUS INCOME 2018

MEMBER STATES	2018			
	OEA ¹	IICA		TOTAL QUOTAS
		ASSESSED QUOTA	OVER-QUOTA	
%	USD ²	US\$	USD ²	
Antigua and Barbuda	0.022	6,500	1,100	7,600
Argentina	3.000	879,500	247,000	1,126,500
Bahamas	0.047	13,800	7,000	20,800
Barbados	0.026	7,600	5,500	13,100
Belize	0.022	6,500	1,100	7,600
Bolivia	0.070	20,500	600	21,100
Brazil	12.457	3,652,000		3,652,000
Canada	9.801	2,873,400		2,873,400
Chile	1.415	414,800	14,600	429,400
Colombia	1.638	480,300		480,300
Costa Rica	0.256	75,100	2,500	77,600
Dominica	0.022	6,500	1,100	7,600
Dominican Republic	0.268	78,600	3,500	82,100
Ecuador	0.402	117,900	3,500	121,400
El Salvador	0.076	22,300	12,500	34,800
Grenada	0.022	6,500	1,100	7,600
Guatemala	0.171	50,100	13,800	63,900
Guyana	0.022	6,500	1,700	8,200
Haiti	0.022	6,500	4,200	10,700
Honduras	0.043	12,600	3,200	15,800
Jamaica	0.053	15,500	5,100	20,600
Mexico	6.470	1,896,800		1,896,800
Nicaragua	0.022	6,400	2,800	9,200
Panama	0.191	56,000	6,000	62,000
Paraguay	0.087	25,500	8,800	34,300
Peru	1.005	294,600	9,400	304,000
Saint Lucia	0.022	6,500	1,100	7,600
Saint Kitts and Nevis	0.022	6,500	1,100	7,600
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	0.022	6,500	1,100	7,600
Suriname	0.022	6,500	4,200	10,700
Trinidad and Tobago	0.129	37,800	15,000	52,800
United States of America	59.470	17,435,300		17,435,300
Uruguay	0.298	87,400	7,900	95,300
Venezuela	1.940	568,800		568,800
SUB TOTAL	99.555	29,187,600	386,500	29,574,100
Cuba	0.446	130,800		130,800
TOTAL QUOTAS	100.001	29,318,400	386,500	29,704,900
MISCELLANEOUS INCOME²		3,500,000		3,500,000
TOTAL REGULAR FUND³		32,687,600		33,074,100

Note: The Kingdom of Spain contributes an annual quota of USD60,000 as an Associate Member, pursuant to the agreement adopted at the First Plenary Session of the Eleventh Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture, held on November 26, 2001, in Bávaro, Dominican Republic.

1/ As per Resolution AG/RES. 2912 (XLVII-O/17) of the General Assembly of the OAS.

2/ In USD rounded out to the nearest hundred.

3/ The total of the Regular Fund does not include Cuba.

ANNEX B**Allocation of the Regular Fund by Chapter in 2018
(in USD)**

CHAPTER	2018	
	REGULAR FUND	
	USD	%
I: Direct Technical Cooperation Services	29,760,802	90.0
II: Management Costs	1,663,669	5.0
III: General Costs and Provisions	1,351,060	4.1
IV: Renewal of Infrastructure and Equipment	298,569	0.9
TOTAL	33,074,100	100.0

IICA/JIA/Res. 512 (XIX-O/17)

26 October 2017

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 512**GENERAL POWER OF ATTORNEY OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL-ELECT
OF THE INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR COOPERATION ON
AGRICULTURE FOR THE PERIOD 2018-2022**

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

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/JIA/Doc. 386 (17), “General Power of Attorney of the Director General-elect for the period 2018-2022,”

CONSIDERING:

That within the framework of the Nineteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA held on 26 October 2017, Mr. Manuel Otero was elected Director General of IICA for the period 2018-2022;

That this election was conducted in accordance with the provisions of articles 8.f and 19 of the Convention on the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (the Convention), and articles 2.f, 103 and 106 of the Rules of Procedure of the IABA;

That during the 2018-2022 period, which begins on 15 January 2018 and ends on 15 January 2022, the Director General-elect shall legally represent the Institute;

That pursuant to Article 20 of the Convention, the Director General is the legal representative of the Institute and is also responsible for administering the General Directorate; and,

That in accordance with Costa Rican legislation, all general powers of attorney must be recorded in the Public Registry of Costa Rica, the host country of IICA,

RESOLVES:

1. To grant to the Director General-elect general power of attorney for a period of four years, beginning 15 January 2018, so that he may faithfully fulfill the responsibilities of Director General conferred upon him under Article 20 of the Convention and Chapter II of the Rules of Procedure of the General Directorate.
2. To confer this general power of attorney pursuant to the general stipulations of the Civil Code of the Republic of Costa Rica, the host country of the Institute and, in particular, to Article 1253 of said Code.
3. To authorize the Director General-elect, Mr. Manuel Otero, to grant and revoke powers of attorney of all kinds, and to register the power of attorney conferred upon him, where indicated.
4. To request that the Director General-elect carry out the other legal procedures required to comply with this resolution.

IICA/JIA/Res. 513 (XIX-O/17)

26 October 2017

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 513**APPOINTMENT OF DR. VÍCTOR MANUEL VILLALOBOS
ARÁMBULA AS DIRECTOR EMERITUS**

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

HAVING SEEN:

Article 15 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Directorate of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA),

CONSIDERING:

That Dr. Víctor Manuel Villalobos Arámbula, upon completion of his term of office on January 14, 2018, will have fulfilled the maximum term as Director General of IICA, as allowed in the Convention on the Institute;

That during his administration, Dr. Villalobos Arámbula raised the Institute to the highest level of excellence and efficiency, to the benefit of the Member States; and,

That his work at the helm of the Institute resulted in the transformation and modernization of IICA's cooperation capabilities, through which collaboration activities on behalf of the countries were strengthened, and the mandates of the Member States were fully complied with,

RESOLVES:

1. To recognize Dr. Víctor Manuel Villalobos Arámbula for his outstanding performance over the past eight years as Director General of the Institute.
2. To appoint, with great pleasure, Dr. Villalobos Arámbula as Director Emeritus of the Institute, as of January 15, 2018.

IICA/JIA/Res. 514 (XIX-O/17)
26 October 2017
Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 514

**GEOGRAPHICAL ROTATION FOR THE ELECTION OF THE CHAIR
OF THE MEETINGS OF THE INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF
AGRICULTURE HELD AT HEADQUARTERS**

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

HAVING SEEN:

Article 33 of the Rules of Procedure of the IABA,

CONSIDERING:

That it is necessary to apply the principle of geographical rotation in the election of the Chair of the IABA, whenever the meetings of this governing body of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) are held at Headquarters,

RESOLVES:

To add the following to Article 33 of the Rules of Procedure of the IABA:

“In the event that the meeting of the Board is held at the Institute’s Headquarters, the Chair shall be elected taking into account the principle of geographical rotation.”

IICA/JIA/Res. 515 (XIX-O/17)

26 October 2017

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 515**MEMBERSHIP TABLE OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
FOR THE PERIOD 2019-2033**

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

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/JIA/Doc. 388 (17), "Rotation of Member States on the Executive Committee for the period 2019-2033,"

CONSIDERING:

That Articles 8.e and 13 of the Convention on the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), Article 2.e of the Rules of Procedures of the IABA and Article 5 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee establish that the Executive Committee shall be composed of twelve Member States, elected by the IABA for two-year periods, according to the criteria of partial rotation and equitable geographical distribution, and that the IABA shall regulate the manner in which the Member States are appointed to sit on the Committee;

That Article 6 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee establishes the procedure governing membership on the Committee;

That the table adopted by Resolution IICA/JIA/Res. 2 (I-E/81) was amended in 1983 by Resolution IICA/JIA/Res. 25 (II-E/83); in 1987 by Resolution IICA/JIA/Res. 126 (IV-O/87); in 1991 by Resolution IICA/JIA/Res. 205 (VI-O/91); in 1993 by Resolution IICA/JIA/Res. 238 (VII-O/93); in 1997 by Resolution IICA/CE/Res. 278 (XVII-O/97); and in 2003 by Resolution IICA/JIA/Res. 396 (XII-O/03);

That the table establishing membership on the Executive Committee covers only the 2004-2018 period and, as a result, a new table must be approved; and,

That the Executive Committee, through Resolution IICA/CE/Res. 627 (XXXVII-O/17), recommended that the IABA approve the table presented in the annex indicating the Member States on the Executive Committee for 2019-2033,

RESOLVES:

To approve the attached new table for the 2019-2033 period, which includes the 34 Member States of the Institute.

ANNEX

**ROTATION OF MEMBER STATES ON THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
FOR THE PERIOD 2019-2033**

COUNTRY GROUP	PARTICIPATION PERIODS														
	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33
GROUP I															
United States of America		■	■			■	■			■	■			■	■
Argentina		■	■			■	■			■	■			■	■
Mexico			■	■			■	■			■	■			■
Canada	■			■	■			■	■			■	■		
Brazil	■			■	■			■	■			■	■		
Venezuela	■	■				■	■			■	■			■	■
GROUP II															
Colombia				■	■			■	■				■	■	
Chile	■			■	■				■	■				■	■
Peru	■				■	■					■	■		■	■
Uruguay	■	■				■	■			■	■				■
Bolivia		■	■				■	■			■	■			
Paraguay		■	■				■	■				■	■		
Ecuador			■	■				■	■			■	■		
GROUP III															
Costa Rica	■	■				■	■				■	■			
Panama	■	■					■	■				■	■		
Nicaragua		■	■				■	■					■	■	
Honduras	■		■	■				■	■						■
Guatemala			■	■					■	■				■	■
El Salvador				■	■				■	■			■	■	
Dominican Republic					■	■				■	■				■
Belize					■	■					■	■			
GROUP IV															
Haiti		■	■							■	■				

IICA/JIA/Res. 516 (XIX-O/17)

26 October 2017

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 516**STATUS OF THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE EIGHTEENTH REGULAR
MEETING OF THE INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE
AND THE THIRTY-SIXTH AND THIRTY-SEVENTH REGULAR
MEETINGS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

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

HAVING SEEN:

Documents IICA/JIA/Doc. 389 (17), “Status of the Resolutions of the Eighteenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA)”, and IICA/JIA/Doc. 390 (17), “Status of the Resolutions of the Thirty-sixth and Thirty-seventh Regular Meetings of the Executive Committee,”

CONSIDERING:

That the abovementioned status reports demonstrate that the General Directorate of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) has complied with the resolutions adopted at the Eighteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA, and has carried out satisfactorily the tasks required to comply with the resolutions adopted at the Thirty-sixth and Thirty-seventh Regular Meetings of the Executive Committee,

RESOLVES:

To accept the reports “Status of the Resolutions of the Eighteenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA)” and “Status of the Resolutions of the Thirty-sixth and Thirty-seventh Regular Meetings of the Executive Committee”.

IICA/JIA/Res. 517 (XIX-O/17)
26 October 2017
Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 517

**DATE AND VENUE OF THE TWENTIETH REGULAR MEETING
OF THE INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

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

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/JIA/Doc. 391 (17), “Date and Venue of the Twentieth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA),”

CONSIDERING:

That, in accordance with Article 16 of the Rules of Procedure of the IABA, regular meetings of this governing body of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) are to be held every two years and, therefore, it is necessary to establish the date and venue of the Twentieth Regular Meeting of the IABA in 2019; and,

That, in accordance with Article 18 of said Rules of Procedure, if no Member State offers to host the regular meeting of the IABA, the meeting is to be held at the Headquarters of the Institute, in San Jose, Costa Rica,

RESOLVES:

To hold the Twentieth Regular Meeting of the IABA at IICA Headquarters, in San Jose, Costa Rica, in the second half of 2019, without prejudice to the possibility of the Executive Committee accepting an invitation to hold the meeting at another site, pursuant to Article 18 of the Rules of Procedure of the IABA.

SIGNING OF THE REPORT

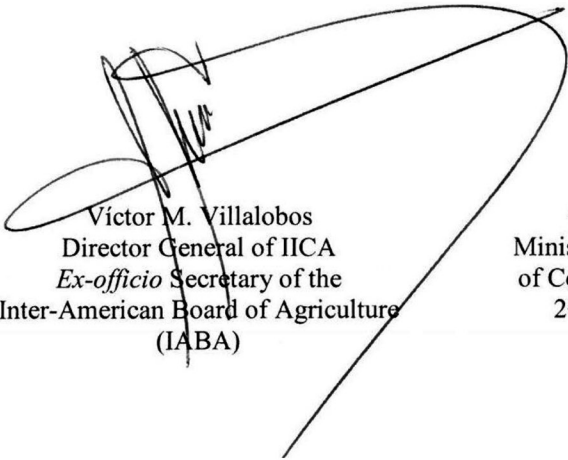
**SIGNING OF THE REPORT OF THE NINETEENTH REGULAR
MEETING OF THE INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

Pursuant to Article 85 of the Rules of Procedure of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), the Report of the Nineteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA is hereby signed at 17:00 hrs. on the twenty-sixth day of October of the year two thousand and seventeen, in San Jose, Costa Rica.

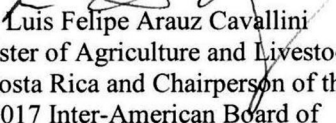
This report will be edited by the Technical Secretariat of the meeting. It will then be published in the four official languages of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) in the Official Documents Series, all versions being equally authentic and valid.

The Secretariat shall file the original texts in the archives of the Institute, and send copies of the official version of this report to the governments of the Member States, the Associate Countries, the Permanent Observers of the Institute and other participants in the meeting, and will make a digital version of the document available via the IICA website.

San Jose, Costa Rica.



Victor M. Villalobos
Director General of IICA
Ex-officio Secretary of the
Inter-American Board of Agriculture
(IABA)



Luis Felipe Arauz Cavallini
Minister of Agriculture and Livestock
of Costa Rica and Chairperson of the
2017 Inter-American Board of
Agriculture

ANNEXES

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

IICA/JIA/Doc. 380 (17)

- 1. Provisional Schedule of the Meeting** IICA/JIA/Doc. 379 (17)

- 2. Report to the Member States**
 - 2.1. Report by the Director General on management during the periods 2010-2013 and 2014-2017 No document

- 3. IICA Strategic Alliances**
 - 3.1. Progress made in strengthening strategic partnerships with other institutions No document
 - 3.2. The Outlook for agriculture and rural development in the Americas: A perspective on Latin America and the Caribbean 2017-2018 Unnumbered

- 4. Financial and programmatic-budgetary situation of IICA**
 - 4.1. Report on the Collection of Quotas IICA/JIA/Doc. 381 (17)
 - 4.2. Financial Statements of IICA for 2015 and 2016 and Reports of the External Auditors IICA/JIA/Doc. 382 (17)
 - 4.3. Twenty-second and Twenty-third Reports of the Audit Review Committee (ARC) IICA/JIA/Doc. 383 (17)
 - 4.4. 2018-2019 Program-Budget IICA/JIA/Doc. 384 (17)

- 4.5. Report on Resolution No. 615 approved by the Executive Committee “Progress made in drafting proposals for the financial strengthening and strategic restructuring of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)” IICA/JIA/Doc. 385 (17)

5. Matters pertaining to the Governing Bodies of IICA

- 5.1. Election of the Director General of IICA for the period 2018-2022 No document
- 5.2. General Power of Attorney to the Director General-elect for the 2018-2022 term IICA/JIA/Doc. 386 (17)
- 5.3. Report of the Representative of the IABA to the Governing Council of CATIE for the period 2015-2017 Information Document No. 01 (17)
- 5.4. Tenth anniversary of the establishment of the Inter-American Commission on Organic Agriculture (ICOA) No document
- 5.5. Report on Resolution No. 500 approved by the IABA “Extension of the contract signed between the Government of Costa Rica and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) on the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE)” IICA/JIA/Doc. 387 (17)
- 5.6. Rotation of Member States on the Executive Committee for the period 2019-2033 IICA/JIA/Doc. 388 (17)
- 5.7. Report on the Status of Resolutions of the Eighteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA IICA/JIA/Doc. 389 (17)

- 5.8. Report on the Status of Resolutions of the Thirty-sixth and Thirty-seventh Regular Meetings of the Executive Committee IICA/JIA/Doc. 390 (17)
- 5.9. Date and Venue of the Twentieth Regular Meeting of the IABA IICA/JIA/Doc. 391 (17)

6. Other Business

ANNEX 2: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

MEMBER STATES

Antigua and Barbuda

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Doreen Preston	Coordinator of the Language Unit
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ANNEX 3: MEETING STAFF

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Evelyn Vargas
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Michel Chartier

Services for delegates

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