THE AGRICULTURAL TRADE SITUATION – GLOBALLY AND IN THE HEMISPHERE

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

HAVING SEEN:

The document "Hemispheric Partnership for Food Security and Sustainable Development in the Americas: Concept Note on the Agricultural Trade Situation – Globally and in the Hemisphere",

CONSIDERING:

That the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), in Resolution IICA/JIA/Res. 545 (XXII-O/23), acknowledged that international and regional trade strengthens sustainable development and food security, and urged the countries to undertake joint efforts to safeguard against the introduction of rules, regulations and actions with the potential to restrict the agrifood trade of the countries of the region, and to assist in increasing intraregional trade;

That international trade is extremely important for global food security, as it helps to create a balance between food deficits and food surpluses among countries; redistributes food production; increases the variety of available food; improves the affordability of food; facilitates the consumption of safe food; and creates opportunities to improve agricultural productivity and boost the income of farmers, while ensuring the efficient allocation of global resources, including natural resources;

That the Americas, despite being the major net food exporting region of agrifood products, is home to both net food exporting and net food importing countries, such as the Caribbean nations;

That, in the current international trade climate, the countries of the Americas must insist on the need to foster free, open, transparent trade that is governed by science-based rules, as a means of improving market access and consolidating the role of trade in ensuring global food security;

That, even while pursuing legitimate objectives to protect the environment, some countries are introducing measures that could potentially restrict trade; and

That, during this Executive Committee meeting, the Member States of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) have engaged in productive discussion, exchanging ideas on the policy actions needed to enhance the strategic role of agrifood trade of the Americas in food security and sustainable development,

- 1. To support the collective actions of the Hemispheric Partnership for Food Security and Sustainable Development in the area of international trade, aimed at strengthening the contribution of agrifood trade in the Americas to sustainable development and regional and global food security.
- 2. To urge the governments of IICA Member States to foster more transparent, open, science-based, equitable and sustainable trade within the framework of the World Trade Organization (WTO), by increasing the participation of the ministries of agriculture in decision-making within the multilateral trade system and fostering inter-ministerial cooperation to promote the adoption of joint positions on issues of common interest.
- 3. To instruct the Institute to continue to advocate for actions that facilitate intraregional trade and the leveraging of trade opportunities arising from existing trade agreements to benefit all the stakeholders in the agrifood sector.
- 4. To request that IICA work with its Member States to spearhead actions that will showcase successful efforts by agriculture in the region to improve sustainability and strengthen coordinated action to overcome barriers to international trade imposed for environmental reasons, as well as to increase participation in international and regional markets by capitalizing on the productive competitiveness the region has achieved through efficient and environmentally sustainable practices.

THE ROLE OF ANIMAL HEALTH SERVICES OF THE AMERICAS IN GLOBAL AND REGIONAL FOOD SECURITY

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

HAVING SEEN:

The document "Hemispheric Partnership for Food Security and Sustainable Development in the Americas: Concept Note on Strengthening the Role of the Americas' Animal Health Services in Global and Regional Food Security",

CONSIDERING:

That the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), via Resolution IICA/JIA/Res. 550 (XXII-O/23), acknowledged that "pests and diseases pose a permanent threat that affects or stands to affect the countries of the Americas" and that "agricultural health plays a key role in guaranteeing 'safe and healthy food' for everyone and particularly in strengthening food and nutrition security, by ensuring the ideal balance, quantity and quality of food of both animal and plant origin";

That, pursuant to that resolution, the international seminar "Animal Health and its Contribution to the Transformation of Food Systems in the Americas" was held on 11 April 2024 in Asuncion, Paraguay, with the support of the Government of that country, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)";

That ministers and senior agricultural authorities from countries in the Americas, directors of official health services and representatives of multilateral organizations participating in the seminar agreed on the need to quickly shore up animal health surveillance systems against new threats, with a view to consolidating the position of the region as a major global producer and exporter of protein;

That modernizing and strengthening official animal health services is vital to ensuring hemispheric and global food and nutrition security, which will depend in great measure on the operationalization of the One Health approach;

That, currently, animal health services are facing various challenges, among them: a) the avian influenza health emergency that poses a serious threat to the global poultry industry; b) African swine fever, a disease of animal origin that, although not a threat to human health, is devastating for poultry production and negatively impacts the economies of the countries; and c) the re-emergence of the New World screwworm in Central America for the first time in almost 25 years;

That IICA, in coordination with national authorities and in partnership with other international and regional organizations involved in animal health, has been carrying out actions to prevent and combat these threats; and

That the Member States of the Institute have held fruitful discussions at this Executive Committee Meeting, exchanging ideas on the need to bolster the strategic role of animal health in the countries of the Americas, to ensure food security and sustainable development, and to reinforce actions to tackle the three aforementioned threats,

- 1. To emphasize the importance of strengthening official animal health services, by incorporating new strategies, tools and procedures to improve the accuracy of risk assessment, enable the early detection of these risks and facilitate the efficient use of public and private resources to address them.
- 2. To increase support for the official veterinary services of countries in the Americas, including by undertaking new technical cooperation actions for the prevention, control and eradication of avian influenza (AI), African swine fever (ASF) and the New World screwworm (NWS), particularly through institutional modernization, digitalization and the strengthening of surveillance, intelligence and rapid response systems.
- 3. To coordinate and implement, together with other competent international organizations, regional and hemispheric efforts geared towards building capacities to prevent and respond to emergencies caused by AI, ASF and NWS, based on collaboration with the public and private sectors to introduce the required regulations, policies and measures.
- 4. To create forums that enable ministers to discuss, keep abreast of and increase awareness of issues related to cross-border diseases, including AI, ASF and NWS, and that support preventive actions, by strengthening surveillance and preparedness to provide animal health solutions in the IICA Member States.
- 5. To support intersectoral coordination (agriculture, the environment and public health) and cooperation between competent international organizations, as well as public and private entities at the hemispheric, national and local levels, given the critical importance of both factors for the implementation of a One Health approach in rural communities, involving producers, local governments and other stakeholders, as well as for the formulation and execution of integrated and effective public policies on this issue.
- 6. To thank and commend the Government of Paraguay for successfully organizing the international seminar "Animal Health and its Contribution to the Transformation of Food Systems in the Americas".

DIALOGUES ON THE FUTURE OF AGRICULTURE

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

CONSIDERING:

That anticipating the types of changes that lie ahead is essential to develop strategies and policies to enable agriculture and agrifood systems of the Americas to overcome their challenges;

That, due to the eruption of digital technologies, agriculture and rural life are undergoing a transformation, whose sheer scale and potential implications make it necessary to establish a public policy framework to guide and shape these changes;

That there are new challenges affecting food security, human health and nutrition, such as access to healthy diets, changes in consumer habits, and a greater share of processed and ultra-processed foods in diets, among others, and that it is therefore necessary to identify the nutritional and health trends that are influencing food demands and, consequently, food security;

That climate change is one of the most pressing challenges throughout the world because, on the one hand, global warming is altering production conditions in different ecological zones and, on the other, extreme climate events are on the rise and having a negative impact on agricultural output, and that the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions has become one of the objectives of various economic activities, including agriculture;

That a series of "externalities" have impacted food production and global agricultural trade, such as the economic slowdown, increased armed conflicts, the weakening multilateral trade system and the implementation of increasingly protectionist economic strategies;

That it is necessary to monitor the evolution of agricultural structures and the composition of the labor force, as a result of population, migratory and urbanistic processes, as well as its potential implications for agricultural production and living conditions in rural areas;

That it is important to determine the role of scientific knowledge, technology and innovation in boosting agricultural production, bearing in mind the limited available arable land and new market demands, as well as to foresee disruptive developments in different areas of innovation and technology and what their impact will be; That most countries of the Americas are faced with inadequate investment in and funding of research and development (R+D) for agriculture, as well as a growing involvement of the private sector in the development of cutting-edge technologies, and that it is therefore crucial to anticipate how investment will evolve and how the necessary financing for investment in agricultural R+D will be obtained;

That the bioeconomy plays a significant role in transforming societies and that, given the wealth and diversity of natural resources in the region, it holds great potential for agrifood systems; and

That the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) proposes to organize a series of technical dialogues to exchange ideas on the future of agriculture of the Americas and its main drivers, to inform the development of consensus strategies at the regional level and the formulation of new national policies,

- 1. To support the initiative by IICA to host a series of forums on the future of agriculture in the second half of 2024, with the participation of specialists in each of the topics to be addressed and at least two ministers of IICA Member States in each forum.
- 2. To urge the member countries of IICA to actively participate in this initiative to continue strengthening collective actions within the framework of the Hemispheric Partnership for Food Security and Sustainable Development.

ADVISORY COUNCIL OF THE PRIVATE AGRIFOOD SECTOR

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

HAVING SEEN:

The reports of the meeting on partnerships with the private sector (April 2024) and of the meeting with producers' associations (July 2024) organized by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA),

CONSIDERING:

That IICA is an open, flexible and innovative organization, which enables it to continuously adapt to changes in the international context, particularly in the agrifood sector, such as the growing number of non-state international stakeholders that establish relations and carry out activities that complement international cooperation;

That, in several countries, the relationship between the public and private sectors has evolved, providing private initiatives and civil society with more opportunities to participate in national development projects and that, in addition, many companies have incorporated into their agendas a vision for the future that is based on economic and environmental sustainability, as well as social responsibility;

That these conditions open a window of opportunity for collaboration between the Institute and the private sector, within the framework of a well-defined strategy supported by the countries, for the benefit of the various social stakeholders involved in agricultural and rural development;

That Article 4, subparagraph c of the Convention on IICA states that, to achieve its purposes, the Institute may "establish and maintain relations of cooperation and coordination with (...) governmental and nongovernmental entities that pursue similar objectives", and Article 20, subparagraph e, instructs the Director General of IICA to establish these relations for cooperation and coordination;

That, in fulfillment of the current Medium-term Plan, the Director General has been fostering closer collaboration with various stakeholders from agrifood system production sectors, through strategic partnerships that have benefited the Institute and its Member States; and That IICA considers it necessary to institutionalize the participation of these production sectors, so that they may contribute to strengthening the cooperation that the Institute provides to its member countries, and so that they may share their perspectives on agricultural development and rural well-being agendas with IICA's governing bodies,

- 1. To underscore the importance of all agrifood system stakeholders of countries of the Americas taking part in achieving more productive, sustainable and inclusive agriculture.
- 2. To entrust the Director General of the Institute with establishing the Advisory Council of the Private Agrifood Sector, to enable IICA to develop cooperation and collaboration initiatives with this sector, which, in turn, could establish communication channels with the governing bodies of the Institute.
- 3. To request that the Director General present, at the next meeting of the Executive Committee, a report on the fulfillment of this task.

HEMISPHERIC FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL RESILIENCE AND SUSTAINABILITY IN THE AMERICAS

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

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/CE/Doc. 762 (24), "Proposal for the Hemispheric Fund for Agricultural Resilience and Sustainability in the Americas",

CONSIDERING:

That, via Resolution IICA/JIA/Res. 545 (XXII-O/23), the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) resolved "to wholeheartedly endorse the building of a Hemispheric Partnership for Food Security and Sustainable Development and instruct the Director General of the Institute to expand and intensify any actions needed for its consolidation, in consultation and coordination with the Member States, and including the widest possible cross-section of stakeholders in the agrifood sector";

That, in the annex to the abovementioned resolution, it proposed "creating a Hemispheric Fund for Agricultural Resilience and Sustainability in the Americas, which will seek to facilitate the participation of smaller countries with less economic clout in collective actions";

That, in fulfillment of that resolution, the Director General of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) has developed a proposal that establishes that the objectives of the Fund are to: a) mobilize, manage and execute new financial resources to improve the institutional, technical and administrative capacities needed to execute programs and projects to build the resilience and adaptive capacity of the agricultural systems of the Americas; and b) serve as a bridge to assist in urgently addressing high-impact events, such as health and environmental emergencies; and

That, for the operation of this new financial instrument, IICA possesses the necessary experience managing external resources, as well as the trust of its Member States and observer countries in its technical cooperation actions, which has strengthened its financial base to carry out operations of increasing impact,

- 1. To support the proposal presented by the Director General of IICA to create the Hemispheric Fund for Agricultural Resilience and Sustainability in the Americas as a multilateral cooperation mechanism designed to benefit agrifood systems of the Americas at the national and multinational levels, pursuant to the terms set out in working document IICA/CE/Doc.762 (24).
- 2. To urge the Member States, Associates and Permanent Observers, as well as other international organizations, to join the Institute in its efforts to identify, negotiate and approve resources that can add to this Fund, channeling them towards the development of projects that can foster resilience and sustainability in the Americas in the short term.
- 3. To request that IICA effectively manage these new financial resources through intelligent and strategic investments, to ensure that the Fund optimizes the use of its financial assets, capitalizes on its resources and guarantees their steady flow, in order to undertake cooperation activities of a broader technical and geographical scope.
- 4. To request that the Institute prioritize, among the initial actions of the Fund, the recovery of the agricultural production systems of countries affected by the catastrophic climate events that have occurred in recent weeks.
- 5. To instruct the Director General to present, at the regular meetings of the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues (SACMI), the Executive Committee and the IABA, an annual report on the status of the Fund and the monitoring of all its sub-accounts.

PARTICIPATION OF IICA IN THE TWENTY-NINTH CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES (COP29) TO THE UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE (UNFCCC)

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

HAVING SEEN:

The document "IICA's participation in the Twenty-ninth Conference of the Parties (Azerbaijan, November 2024)",

CONSIDERING:

That, at the Conference of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas 2023, the Member States of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) agreed that agrifood systems are part of the solution to climate change and that it is therefore necessary to ensure that the contributions of these systems to overcoming this global challenge be taken into account at all forums and negotiations held by the international community on this matter;

That driving climate action and funding in agriculture, given the sector's capacity to respond positively to such challenges, is a priority strategy of the Hemispheric Partnership for Food Security and Sustainable Development and that, in that regard, it is crucial for the agrifood sector of the Americas to be present at the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP);

That COP is an essential forum to advocate for the agriculture sector; demonstrate its contributions and potential in terms of climate change mitigation and adaptation and risk reduction; and highlight the actions of the Member States of the Institute to build a more resilient, low carbon sector;

That, pursuant to Resolution IICA/CE/Res.687 (XLII-O/22) of the Executive Committee, IICA participated in the Twenty-seventh Conference of the Parties (COP27), held in Egypt in 2022, where it installed the "Home of Sustainable Agriculture of the Americas" pavilion;

That, in fulfillment of Resolution IICA/JIA/Res. 547 (XXII-O/23) of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), the Director General of the Institute supported the participation of the ministries and secretariats of Agriculture of countries of the Americas, as well as of IICA, in the Twenty-eighth Conference of the Parties (COP28), held in Dubai in 2023, where it installed a pavilion;

That the continued participation of the ministries and secretariats of Agriculture of the Americas in matters related to climate change and sustainable development is imperative, leading up to the Twenty-ninth Conference of the Parties (COP29), to be held in Baku, Azerbaijan, from 11 to 22 November 2024; and

That this is an important forum for highlighting relevant issues for the agriculture sector and the situations that climate change is causing in our regions, such as an expected earlier start to the hurricane season in countries of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), a shortage of water for agriculture and the impacts of rising temperatures on this sector,

- 1. To underscore the importance of promoting and implementing effective climate change mitigation and adaptation measures in countries of the Americas, in keeping with the regulatory frameworks, institutional structures and public policies currently in place in each of the countries.
- 2. To urge the Institute and its Member States to continue fostering dialogue on matters related to climate change at the regional and global levels, placing special emphasis on the role of agriculture in driving sustainable and resilient development and supporting collective action and the adoption of joint positions.
- 3. To entrust the Director General with supporting the participation of the ministries and secretariats of Agriculture of countries of the Americas, as well as of IICA, at COP29 (Baku, 2024), and with installing a pavilion related to agriculture at the conference venue.
- 4. To generate forums to discuss key issues—such as increased climate vulnerability in Caribbean islands—to be included in the COP29 agenda and considered in initiatives arising from the event.

PROPOSAL FOR PARTIALLY RECOVERING THE FINANCIAL CAPACITY OF MEMBER STATES' QUOTA CONTRIBUTIONS

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

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/CE Doc. DT 771, "Proposal for partially recovering the financial capacity of Member States' quota contributions, given the decrease in purchasing power due to inflation 1995-2023",

CONSIDERING:

That Article 8.b of the Convention on the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) establishes that the Inter-American Board of Agriculture is empowered to "approve the biennial Program Budget and to determine the annual quotas of the Member States" and Article 23 states 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 the IABA, via Resolution IICA/JIA/Res. 552 (XXII-O/23), approved "the overall allocation of USD 33,074,100 per year from the Institute's Regular Fund for the 2024-2025 Program Budget, financed by: (i) USD 29,574,100 in annual quota contributions from the Member States, as indicated in the scale attached hereto as Annex A, which includes the assessed quotas computed in accordance with the percentages established in the quota scale approved by the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS) for that year";

That any change in the amount of the budget and the quota scale could therefore not be applied until the 2026-2027 Program Budget is approved;

That the IABA, via Resolution IICA/JIA/Res. 553 (XXII-O/23), resolved to "advise the Director General to prepare a study on increasing Member State quotas to offset inflationary losses during the period 2016-2023";

That, pursuant to that resolution, the Director General presented the requested study to the Executive Committee, which concludes that "the freezing of the required quota contributions of the Institute's Member States as of 1995 had a negative impact on the financial capacity of cooperation actions" and that "despite the 6.57% increase in the level of quotas since 2016, the progressive loss of the purchasing power of these resources has reduced the real value of quota contributions to the Institute during the 1995-2023 period by 37.9%, a percentage similar to 38.4% in 2015, which was the reference year for the increase made"; and

That the same study indicates that "the accelerated increase in costs for staff and other objects of expenditure, essential for undertaking cooperation actions, has considerably limited the organization's operational and response capacity to address growing and diversified demands for cooperation services in the Member States in a timely manner",

- 1. To accept the "Proposal for partially recovering the financial capacity of Member States' quota contributions, given the decrease in purchasing power due to inflation 1995-2023", which was presented by the Director General, pursuant to IABA Resolution IICA/JIA/Res. 553 (XXII-O/23).
- 2. To instruct the Director General to present the proposal for the consideration of the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues (SACMI), the Forty-fifth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee and the Twenty-third Regular Meeting of the IABA, for subsequent approval in the 2026-2027 Program Budget.

2023 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR COOPERATION ON AGRICULTURE (IICA), REPORT OF THE EXTERNAL AUDITORS AND THIRTIETH REPORT OF THE AUDIT REVIEW COMMITTEE (ARC)

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

HAVING SEEN:

Documents IICA/CE/Doc. 765 (24), "2023 Financial Statements of IICA and Report of the External Auditors", and IICA/CE/Doc. 766 (24), "Thirtieth Report of the Audit Review Committee (ARC)",

CONSIDERING:

That Article 4.d of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee establishes that it is the responsibility of this governing body of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) to "examine the financial status of the Institute, and upon the Board's request or when a decision by the Board is required under the Convention, to send the corresponding report and recommendations to the Board";

That, at its Seventh Regular Meeting, the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), by way of Resolution IICA/JIA/Res. 231 (VII-O/93), created the ARC and approved its Statute;

That, pursuant to Article 3.k of its Rules of Procedure, the Executive Committee is responsible for receiving and approving the ARC's reports and making a determination on their recommendations; and

That, in its Thirtieth Report, the ARC states that it examined the report of the external auditors on IICA's financial statements for the 2023 fiscal year and found the work performed to be satisfactory and in accordance with the rules of the Institute and international auditing standards,

- 1. To accept the 2023 financial statements of the Institute and the report of the external auditors, and to instruct the Director General of IICA to submit them to the Twenty-third Regular Meeting of the IABA for its information.
- 2. To approve the Thirtieth Report of the ARC and instruct the Director General to implement the recommendations contained therein.
- 3. To thank the members of the ARC for the work accomplished.
- 4. To recognize the efforts undertaken by the Institute to maintain financial records with a clean opinion and to urge the Director General to continue implementing his policy of transparency.

REPORT ON THE COLLECTION OF QUOTAS

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

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/CE/Doc. 764 (24), "Status of the Collection of Quota Contributions",

CONSIDERING:

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

That the timely payment of quota contributions and the collection of arrears from previous years facilitate the implementation of the programs and projects included in the cooperation strategies established at the national, regional and hemispheric levels in the 2022-2026 Medium-term Plan (MTP) of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA); and

That the payment of quotas by the member countries must be accelerated to enable the Institute to continue fulfilling its mission to encourage, promote and support agricultural and rural development in the countries,

- 1. To thank the ministers of Agriculture and Foreign Affairs, as well as other highlevel government officials in IICA's Member States, for the efforts they have been making to honor their annual quota payments to the Institute.
- 2. To instruct the Director General of the Institute to: a) continue efforts to collect the quotas for 2024 and those owed for previous years; and b) keep IICA's member countries informed of progress in this area.
- 3. To urge the Member States to remain current with the payment of their quotas to the Institute, and those that are in arrears, to follow through with the plans agreed upon to meet their financial obligations to IICA, which are key actions to enable the Institute to remain a strong institution that effectively carries out its mission to support its member countries.

AMENDMENTS TO THE REGULATIONS OF THE GENERAL DIRECTORATE

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

HAVING SEEN:

Documents IICA/CE Doc. DT 767 numbers 1-6,

CONSIDERING:

That, during the regular meeting of the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues (SACMI) held in April 2023, it was announced that a study was being launched to review the regulations of the General Directorate of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) governing human talent and financial operations, as an integral part of the institutional transformation process;

That the aim of the study has been to propose modifications to the current rules for the consideration and approval of the Institute's governing bodies, ensuring that they account for technological developments, better address IICA's needs, and reflect the changes that have taken place in administrative practices at the Institute since the rules were established in 1983;

That, among the regulations to be amended are the Rules of Procedure of the General Directorate (RPGD), the Staff Rules, the System for the Determination of Remuneration for IICA Personnel and the Financial Rules;

That, pursuant to Article 8(i) of the Convention on IICA, only the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) can modify the RPGD, which includes general rules speaking to the categories, rights and obligations of Institute staff, as well as to the financial management of the organization;

That both the Executive Committee, via Resolution IICA/CE/Res. 709, and the IABA, via Resolution IICA/JIA/Res. 555 (XXII-O/23), expressed their support for the study, and the IABA resolved to "authorize the Executive Committee, at its next regular meeting, to: a) adopt the modifications to regulations that are within its competence; and b) adopt and put into effect the necessary modifications to the RPGD, subject to the approval of the IABA at its 2025 Regular Meeting";

That, based on the result of the study, the Director General of the Institute has proposed that the draft Staff Rules presented in Document IICA Doc. 767 No. 5 be adopted, incorporating the current rules of the System for the Determination of Remuneration for IICA Personnel and the provisions set out in Chapter III of the RPGD, except for articles 40 and 69, regarding compensation for the Director General of the Institute, which will become articles 14 and 15, respectively, of Chapter II of the RPGD;

That in response to the SACMI's request for observations, the Government of Mexico submitted its suggestions to the General Directorate, which is recommending that they be included in the draft Staff Rules as set out in Document DT 767 No. 6; and

That the General Directorate has determined that the adoption of the draft Staff Rules would not involve or require any adjustment to or increase in the Institute's budget,

- To repeal the current Staff Rules and adopt, in its place, the draft Staff Rules proposed in Document IICA Doc. DT 767 No. 5, with the modifications set out in document DT 767 No. 6.
- 2. To repeal Chapter III "Personnel" of the RPGD, except for articles 40 and 69.
- 3. To repeal the System for the Determination of Remuneration for IICA Personnel, given that its regulatory content has been incorporated into the Staff Rules adopted via this resolution.
- 4. To authorize the transfer of articles 40 and 69 of current Chapter III of the RPGD to Chapter II "The Director General" of those rules as articles 14 and 15, and to adjust the numbering of subsequent chapters and articles to reflect the repeal of Chapter III.
- 5. To establish that the operative paragraphs of this resolution shall enter into effect immediately, subject to the approval of the IABA at its next regular meeting, to be held in 2025, and to recommend that the IABA ratify them at that meeting.

REPORT OF THE TROPICAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND HIGHER EDUCATION CENTER (CATIE) FOR 2023

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

HAVING SEEN:

The Report of the Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE) for 2023 and the Report on Joint Collaboration Activities between the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and CATIE,

CONSIDERING:

That, by means of Resolution IICA/JIA/Res. 441 (XIV-O/07), the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) delegated to the Executive Committee responsibility for receiving and analyzing the reports and plans of CATIE and requested that, in future, the Director General of this Center forward directly to the General Directorate of IICA the report and plans of CATIE for acceptance by the Executive Committee,

- 1. To accept CATIE's Report for 2023.
- 2. To urge IICA and CATIE to continue to strengthen their links and mechanisms for implementing joint activities in support of the efforts of the Member States of both organizations to achieve competitive, sustainable and inclusive agricultural development.

REPORT OF THE CARIBBEAN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE (CARDI) FOR 2023

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

HAVING SEEN:

The report on the work program of the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) for 2023,

CONSIDERING:

That, under the terms of the agreement currently in force between the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and CARDI, the latter organization must submit an annual report on its activities; and

That, by means of Resolution IICA/JIA/Res. 440 (XIV-O/07), the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) delegated to the Executive Committee responsibility for receiving and analyzing CARDI's reports and plans and requested that, in the future, the Executive Director of that Institute forward directly to the General Directorate of IICA the report and plans of CARDI for acceptance by the Executive Committee,

- 1. To accept CARDI's report on the implementation of its work program for 2023 and express appreciation for its presentation.
- 2. To urge IICA and CARDI to continue to strengthen their technical linkages and mechanisms for executing joint activities in support of efforts to achieve agricultural development and rural well-being in the Caribbean countries.

2023 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR COOPERATION ON AGRICULTURE (IICA)

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

HAVING SEEN:

Information document No. 8, "2023 Annual Report of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)",

CONSIDERING:

That Article 4.f of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee establishes that this governing body of IICA is to receive, analyze and approve the annual report on the activities of the General Directorate of the Institute and take appropriate action;

That the General Directorate prepared and published the 2023 Annual Report of IICA, which was presented to the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (OAS) in due time and form;

That the report describes the cooperation activities carried out by the Institute in 2023 for the purpose of implementing its cooperation agendas at the national, regional and hemispheric levels, within the framework of its 2022-2026 Medium-term Plan (MTP);

That the Representative of IICA in each of its 34 member countries presented to the national authorities the respective report on the cooperation that the Institute provided to the country in 2023; and

That the 2023 Annual Report of IICA is available for consultation in digital format on the Institute's website (www.iica.int),

RESOLVES:

To approve the 2023 Annual Report of IICA.

REPORT OF THE 2024 REGULAR MEETING OF THE SPECIAL ADVISORY COMMISSION ON MANAGEMENT ISSUES (SACMI)

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

HAVING SEEN:

Information document No. 9, "Report of the 2024 Regular Meeting of the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues (SACMI)",

CONSIDERING:

That the purpose of the SACMI, as a standing commission of the Executive Committee, is to advise the Director General of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), and to facilitate more regular discussion with the Member States on administrative, financial and strategic issues, in order to enhance the process of reaching consensus in the Executive Committee and in the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA);

That, via Resolution IICA/CE/Res. 580 (XXXIII-O/13), the Executive Committee established that the meetings of the SACMI should preferably be held online, so that sessions may be held as frequently as necessary, and to generate savings for the Institute;

That, via Resolution IICA/CE/Res. 660 (XL-O/20), the Executive Committee instructed the SACMI to serve as an extended permanent working group aimed at supporting, analyzing and developing a proposal for the Institute's comprehensive transformation, and that pursuant to that resolution the SACMI held a regular meeting on 9 May 2024; and

That the above-referenced report of the SACMI contains recommendations for consideration by the Director General and the Executive Committee,

RESOLVES:

To accept the Report of the 2024 Regular Meeting of the SACMI.

STATUS OF THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE FORTY-THIRD REGULAR MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND THE TWENTY-SECOND REGULAR MEETING OF THE INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (IABA)

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

HAVING SEEN:

Documents IICA/CE/Doc. 768 (24), "Status of the Resolutions of the Forty-third Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee", and IICA/CE/Doc. 769 (24), "Status of the Resolutions of the Twenty-second Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA)",

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 Forty-third Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee and at the Twenty-second Regular Meeting of the IABA,

RESOLVES:

To accept the reports "Status of the Resolutions of the Forty-third Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee" and "Status of the Resolutions of the Twenty-second Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA)".

DATE AND VENUE OF THE FORTY-FIFTH REGULAR MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/CE/Doc. 770 (24), "Date and Venue of the Forty-fifth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee",

CONSIDERING:

That, pursuant to Article 22 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee, this governing body of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) is required to hold one regular meeting each year. Therefore, a date and venue for the Forty-fifth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee in 2025 must be set;

That, in accordance with Article 25 of said Rules of Procedure, in the event that no Member State of the Institute offers to host the regular meeting of the Executive Committee in that country, the meeting will be held at IICA's Headquarters in San Jose, Costa Rica; and

That the Director General of the Institute reports that he has received no formal offer from a Member State to host the next regular meeting of the Executive Committee,

- 1. To hold the Forty-fifth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee at IICA Headquarters in San Jose, Costa Rica, during the second half of 2025.
- 2. To instruct the Director General to issue the convocation, in due course, to the Member States to participate in said meeting, in accordance with the procedures outlined in the rules currently in effect.

DATE AND VENUE OF THE FORTY-FIFTH REGULAR MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/CE/Doc. 770 (24), "Date and Venue of the Forty-fifth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee",

CONSIDERING:

That, in accordance with Article 22 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee, that governing body of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) is required to hold one regular meeting each year. Therefore, the date and venue of the Forty-fifth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee in 2025 must be set;

That Article 23 of said Rules of Procedure states that governments of Member States of the Institute interested in hosting a regular meeting of the Executive Committee shall so inform the Director General of IICA in writing, before the deadline set by the Executive Committee for presentation of offers;

That Article 24 of said Rules of Procedure stipulates that the Executive Committee shall examine the offers to host a meeting in accordance with the principle of rotation and geographical distribution; and

That the Government of _____wrote to the Director General offering to host the Forty-fifth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee,

- 1. To sincerely thank the Government of ______ for its kind offer to host the Forty-fifth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee in that country.
- 2. To establish that said meeting shall be held in (country) in the second half of 2025.
- 3. To instruct the Director General to issue the convocation to the Member States to participate in said meeting of the Executive Committee, in accordance with the procedures outlined in the rules currently in effect.