



Organización de las
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SIN HAMBRE

LEGISLATORS PLEDGE TO FIGHT HUNGER FIRST PREPARATORY MEETING OF THE PARLAMENTARY FRONT

Santiago, 02 of July 2009. Legislators from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Peru and Venezuela, responding to an invitation from the **Hunger Free Latin America and the Caribbean Initiative (HFLAC)**, met on the 25th and 26th of June in FAO's Regional Office, for the first preparatory meeting for the **Parliamentary Front Against Hunger**.

Accompanied by José Graziano, FAO's Regional Representative for Latin America and the Caribbean, Margarita Flores, FAO's Representative in Chile and Juan Carlos García Cebolla, the HFLAC Initiative Coordinator, the participants agreed on the outlines of what will be a continental effort to eradicate hunger.

The parliamentarians agreed on a Proposal of Statutes and a Plan of Action, and signed a declaration in which they confirm their commitment with the task of building a Parliamentary Front against Hunger.

"An important advance has been made in the description and goals of the Front, as well as in the level of commitment of the legislators. Since it is in within the national Congress where the budget and scope of many food security and nutrition programs is defined, this commitment has a profound importance", stated Juan Carlos Garcia Cebolla after the meeting.

José Graziano da Silva, FAO's Regional Representative said that: "This is one more sign that Latin America is a the forefront of the efforts to promote the Right to Food. But this is a global effort: in November of 2009, in Rome, FAO is preparing a meeting with members of Parliaments from all over the world, were we will share the lessons we have learnt building the Regional Parliamentary Front against Hunger".

After the first meeting in Santiago, a second one will be held in Panama City, the 13th and 14th of July, that will include legislators from Central America and the Caribbean. During said meeting, the proposals from the first reunion in Santiago will be enriched, and the official launch of the Front will follow.

The Parliamentary Front against Hunger is an effort to promote Food and Nutritional Security laws, and to implement the Right to Food through legislative initiatives. In the case of countries that already have these sorts of legislations, the efforts are focused on strengthening them and guaranteeing and sufficient resources for programs that fight against hunger.

The Parliamentary Front against Hunger (PFH) has two objectives: first, build upon the efforts of members of parliament and congresspersons of national, regional and inter-American legislative bodies in order to boost hunger eradication efforts and ensure that this goal is positioned in the public agendas; and second, give this effort the legal, institutional and financial structure necessary for its success.

To read the declaration of the first meeting and access more information, please visit:
<http://www.rlc.fao.org/frente/> (spanish only)

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