

PARLIAMENTARY FRONT AGAINST HUNGER



WHAT IS THE PARLIAMENTARY FRONT AGAINST HUNGER?

Within the objectives of the HFLAC Initiative, working with Congresses and Legislative Assemblies is a key element in providing an institutional framework for the fight against hunger. Legislators are fundamental in creating laws to fight hunger and in allocating the financial resources for the programs generated by such laws.

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.

The PFH is organized at national, regional and interamerican levels, and has two working approaches:

- a) **Promote laws that guarantee the Right to Food:** support the establishment of legal frameworks that recognize the Right to Food and institutionalize the fight against hunger making food security a reality for every citizen.
- b) **Increased funding in the fight to prevent hunger:** help ensure that national budgets focus on the fight against child malnutrition and that the funding is relative to the severity of hunger in each country.

initiative
HUNGER-FREE
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

WHAT IS THE INITIATIVE?

The **Hunger-Free Latin America and Caribbean Initiative** is a joint effort of countries, organizations, socially responsible businesses and societies working to completely eradicate hunger and malnutrition and guarantee food security in the region within one generation. It is an ambitious but reachable goal.

At the countries' request, the HFLAC Initiative is supported and coordinated by FAO.

Proposed in 2005 by the President of Brazil, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, and the former President of Guatemala, Óscar Berger, the HFLAC Initiative was defined in 2006 as a priority for FAO's action in the Region. In December 2008, the leaders of all Latin American and Caribbean countries decided, in their first ever regional summit, to **"combine efforts in support of the Latin America and the Caribbean without Hunger 2025 Initiative"**.

Hunger is a tragedy that has a solution, and this Initiative attempts to assure that no one dies from hunger in Latin America and the Caribbean

Today, Latin America and the Caribbean are at the forefront of the development of the Right to Food, placing the fight against hunger within a legal and sustainable institutional framework and in the context of the Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

A PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE PARLIAMENTARY FRONT AGAINST HUNGER IN LATIN-AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

LEGAL ASPECTS

- Support the development, debate and sanction of Food and Nutritional Security Laws and/or Right to Food laws in the countries of the Region.
- Promote the endorsement of the “Voluntary Guidelines to support the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security”¹.
- Broaden the debate regarding the Right to Food and the importance of the International **Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)** and its optional **Protocol** that allows for the litigation of this right in international courts.

FINANCIAL ASPECTS

- Promote an adequate budget allocation for programs designed to fight hunger and to eradicate chronic child malnutrition, especially in areas with a high density of hungry people.
- Track and monitor the funding assigned to Food Security, to confirm that it is being spent in accordance with the goals of the programme.
- Propose innovative funding systems which would guarantee a predictable and considerable flow of resources beyond the national budget allocated to the fight against hunger².

INSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS

- Each congress, through its institutional contacts and the presence of its parliamentary members in other events, can promote the inclusion of the Parliamentary Front against Hunger in other national and regional parliaments and international forums such as:

- a) Parlatino, Parlacen, Andean Parliament and Mercosur Parliament.**
- b) EuroLatinAmerican Parliamentary Assembly³**
- c) IberoAmerican Parliamentary Forum**
- d) Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas⁴**
- e) Interparliamentary Forum of the Americas⁵**

¹ The voluntary Guidelines were approved with unanimity by the countries in FAO's Council of November 2004: <http://www.fao.org/docrep/meeting/009/y9825e/y9825e00.htm>

² Among others, the document “Debt for food swap” prepared by the Hunger-Free Latin America and the Caribbean Initiative: <http://www.rlc.fao.org/iniciativa/librocda.htm>

³ http://www.europarl.europa.eu/intcoop/eurolat/default_es.htm

⁴ The Executive Secretary is in Mexico and the Health and Social Development Commission is in Quebec. This institution is linked to the Organization of American States. <http://www.copa.gc.ca/esp/index.html>

⁵ This forum receives support of the BID. The Parliamentary Centre (Ottawa) hosts the secretary of the Interparliamentary Forum of the Americas. <http://efipa.org/index2.htm>

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