

**Report by Mr. Donovan Stanberry, Chair of the GRICA 2009,  
on Consensus Reached at the Ministerial Delegates' Meeting**

Thank you very much Minister

Ladies and Gentlemen, Honorable Minister of Foreign Affairs and Deputy Prime Minister of Jamaica Dr. Kenneth Baugh, and Dr. Chelston Brathwaite, Director General of IICA, Ministers and Heads of Delegations.

As it is well known, the AGRO Plan 2003-2005 was first formulated and adopted in Panama in 2003. Every other year, at every Ministerial Meeting, a new chapter of the AGRO Plan is developed and negotiated by the Ministerial Delegates in a forum that we call the GRICA. The last such addition was in fact in Guatemala in 2007. The IICA has a mechanism whereby countries report on the progress of their implementation of that AGRO Plan and the issues and challenges that they faced during its implementation. This year was no different, so in preparation for this particular Ministerial Meeting, the Ministerial Delegates, 29 of them, did in fact submit reports to the IICA. I'm told by the Secretariat that it is a record level of response, 29 of the 34 countries, and I think we can give ourselves a big applause.

And so, based on those updates, the Secretariat of IICA drafted a text of the agreements that served as the basis for our negotiations at the GRICA, during Monday and Tuesday. That particular draft has fifteen new strategic actions for implementation by the Hemisphere in the biennium 2010 -2011. During our deliberations, we were able to arrive at consensus on all fifteen, and at the instance of Jamaica we added a new strategic action that has to do with access to land by small farmers and land titling, which turned out to be a very, very important issue for most of our countries, where there is a predominance of small holders. And so, ladies and gentlemen, we have a new negotiated agreement by the GRICA.

By and large, we had good cooperation, we had full consensus, there are only two instances in which delegates proposed language that we could not find consensus, but then we agreed that the Secretariat will take on board those particular issues and they will be reflected in the final report.

So I think today we have an agreement that our political heads and bosses can sign out on, and finally I just like to say that there was a particular accent on implementation, and there are provisions in the agreement that we'll ask the IICA, as an Institution, to coordinate the implementation and to engage our private sector partners.

On the matter of private sector partners, that dialogue, as you know, was conducted in parallel to the GRICA meeting itself. However, fortuitously, the issues that were represented here by the private sector yesterday happen to be the same issues that we were concerned about in the GRICA. So there is a happy coincidence and I think the Agreement will by and large take in those concerns of the private sector.

I want to thank the IICA Secretariat for their hard work and all the distinguished Ministerial Delegates who worked so hard and tirelessly so that we could come up with a new chapter of the AGRO Plan.

Thank you very much.