

# **GUAYAQUIL 2005: THIRD MINISTERIAL MEETING**

## ■ **Foreword**

## ■ **The 2005 Hemispheric Ministerial Agreements**

AGRO 2003-2015 Plan. Ministerial Agreement of Guayaquil on Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas

Implementation and Follow-up of the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan in preparation for the Fourth Ministerial Meeting

Information System for Following up on the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan

Ministerial Proposal on Agriculture and Rural Life for the Fourth Summit of the Americas



*“Creating Jobs to Fight Poverty  
and Strengthen Democratic Governance”*

*The Heads of State and Government of the Americas advocated growth through job creation, proposed a renewed institutional framework and supported implementation of the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan*

*We are committed to building a more solid and inclusive e institutional framework, based on the coordination of economic, labor, and social public policies to contribute to the generation of decent work, which must comprise:*

*A comprehensive framework for rural and agricultural development, to promote investment, job creation, and rural Prosperity*

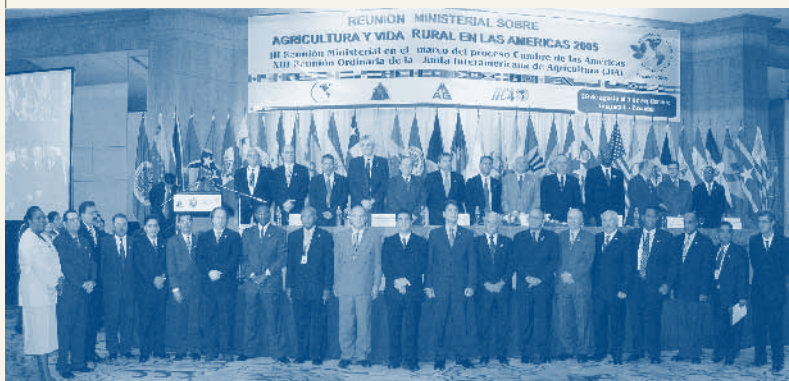
**Fourth Summit of the Americas, 2005  
Paragraph 55 g), Declaration of Mar del Plata**

To carry out the above, the Heads of the State and Government defined as a national commitment:

*To support the implementation of the Ministerial Agreement of Guayaquil in 2005, Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas (AGRO 2003-2015 Plan).*

**Fourth Summit of the Americas, 2005  
Paragraph 35, Plan of Action**

## Third Ministerial Meeting - 2005



At the Third Ministerial Meeting “Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas” in the context of the Summit of the Americas process, the Ministers updated the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan of Action by approving the *Ministerial Agreement of Guayaquil for Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas*. They also approved other hemispheric agreements related to the implementation and monitoring of the Plan and to the ministerial proposal to be presented to the Fourth Summit of the Americas.



*“Creating Jobs to Fight Poverty and Strengthen Democratic Governance”*

*The Heads of State and Government asked international organizations to continue their support of the implementation and monitoring of the mandates and commitments of the Summits*

*We instruct the members of the Joint Summit Working Group, comprised of the OAS, IDB, Economic Commission for Latin América and the Caribbean (ECLAC), PAHO, Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI), the World Bank, ILO, International Organization for Migration (OIM), Institute for Connectivity in the Americas (ICA), Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), and the Andean Development Corporation (CAF), under the coordination of the OAS, to continue, through their respective activities and programs, to support the follow-up and implementation of the Declarations and Plans of Action of the Summits of the Americas, and of the Declaration and Plan of Action of Mar del Plata, as well as to assist in the preparations for future summits.*

**Fourth Summit of the Americas, 2005  
Paragraph 75, Declaration of Mar del Plata**

*To request Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and ECLAC to continue with their efforts to develop an information system for the follow-up and evaluation of the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan, and the other members of the Joint Summit Working Group to join in those efforts as a contribution to defining goals and indicators for the mandates of the Summit of the Americas.*

**Fourth Summit of the Americas, 2005  
Paragraph 43, Plan of Action**

## Foreword

The Third Ministerial Meeting “Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas”, which took place 30-31 August 2005 in Guayaquil, marked another milestone in the renewal of agriculture and rural life, edging the region closer to the Shared Vision for 2015 approved in the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan. At the third meeting of their hemispheric forum, the ministers of agriculture renewed their commitment to the mandates issued by the Heads of State and Government at the last two Summits of the Americas (Quebec 2001 and Monterrey 2004) and provided input for the Fourth Summit of the Americas (Mar del Plata 2005).

In the *Ministerial Agreement of Guayaquil for Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas*, the ministers reaffirmed and renewed their commitment to the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan and its components: the Shared Vision 2015 and the Strategic Objectives. Signed during the Third Ministerial Meeting “Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas”, the Ministerial Agreement of Guayaquil updates the AGRO Plan, incorporating complementary strategic actions for the 2006-2007 biennium along with measures for implementing them and providing follow-up.

This important accomplishment on the part of the ministers has a positive impact on the highest level political forum in the hemisphere. The Heads of State and Government of the Americas, gathered at the Fourth Summit of the Americas, the theme of which was “Creating jobs to fight poverty and strengthening democratic governance,” committed their countries to supporting implementation of the Ministerial Agreement of Guayaquil as a concrete step toward growth with job creation.

The Hemispheric Ministerial Agreements (HMAs) presented in this publication are a sovereign expression of the political will of the countries. They were arrived at through a broad, transparent process of hemispheric

dialogue in which the Ministerial Delegates and their hemispheric forum played a leading role (Group for the Implementation and Coordination of the Agreements on Agriculture and Rural Life - GRICA).

Under the chairmanship of Ecuador, the GRICA held several sessions in 2005, in San Jose, Costa Rica (7-8 July) and Guayaquil (29 August). The Ministerial Delegates reached consensus on important issues and strategic actions that were subsequently included in the agreements of the Third Ministerial Meeting, which complement and give continuity to the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan. The ministerial process "Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas" got under way in May 2001, immediately after the Third Summit of the Americas. Two important milestones followed: the First Ministerial Meeting (Bavaro 2001), where the ministers adopted the Ministerial Declaration of Bavaro, and the Second Ministerial Meeting (Panama 2003), where they signed the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan.

The purpose of this publication is to make available all the hemispheric ministerial agreements on agriculture and rural life adopted within the framework of the Summit of the Americas process. Therefore, in addition to the agreements adopted in Guayaquil 2005, it contains those approved in Panama 2003 and Bavaro 2001.

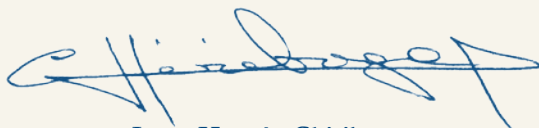
We expect this set of agreements to pave the way for a renewed institutional framework and strengthen joint action and inter- American cooperation. The mandates issued at the Summits and in the Hemispheric Ministerial Agreements are necessary but insufficient to realize the Shared Vision of 2015. With a decade to go until 2015, let us make these mandates and agreements a political and technical resource for the design of National policies, the promotion of investments and the creation of an enabling environment for the sustainable development of agriculture and the rural milieu, food security and rural prosperity in the countries of the Americas by 2015.

As an institutional partner in the Summit of the Americas process and the Secretariat of the Ministerial Meetings, IICA will continue to support the ministerial process for the improvement of agriculture and rural communities and help coordinate it even more closely with the overarching objectives of the mandates of the Summits of the Americas, and with the actions and mechanisms used to implement and monitor them.



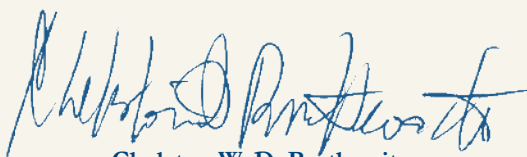
**Pablo Rizzo Pastor**

*Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of Ecuador  
Chairman of the Third Ministerial Meeting  
“Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas”*



**Jorge Hernán Chiriboga**

*Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of Ecuador  
Chairman of the 2005 GRICA*



**Chelston W. D. Brathwaite**

*Director General  
Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture  
Secretariat of the Ministerial Meeting*

## THE 2005 HEMISPHERIC MINISTERIAL AGREEMENTS

The Ministerial Meeting, based on the consensus reached by the 2005 GRICA, adopted the following four Hemispheric Ministerial Agreements. They complement those approved in 2001 and 2003, in particular the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan. The following are the principal definitions from the four 2005 HMAs.

### AGRO 2003-2015 PLAN. MINISTERIAL AGREEMENT OF GUAYAQUIL FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL LIFE IN THE AMERICAS

In the Ministerial Agreement of Guayaquil, the Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan and its components: the Shared Vision 2015, the Strategic Objectives, the Hemispheric Agenda and the implementation and follow-up measures.

Thus, the 2006-2007 Hemispheric Agenda, whose motto is *“Promoting state policies for agriculture and rural life,”* establishes complementary strategic actions for the following 11 strategic issues:

- Areas of local economic development
- Quality management and certification
- Development of products based on the biotechnologies
- Generation of energy from alternative sources
- Policies for agroindustry
- Environmental services and environmentally sound practices
- Market opportunities for goods and services produced in an environmentally sustainable manner
- Social responsibility in rural enterprises
- Integral development of rural territories
- National policies
- Interinstitutional and multisectoral work

The ministers approved a series of measures related to the implementation of, and follow-up to, the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan. As well as updating the Plan, they called for the regional mechanisms and strategies for the improvement of agriculture and rural life to be strengthened, for international organizations to support the ministerial process for the implementation of the Plan and joint, coordinated action, and for the development of an information system on agriculture and rural life to provide follow-up to, and evaluate, the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan.

### **Ministerial Agreement on the Implementation of and Follow-up to the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan in Preparation of the Fourth Ministerial Meeting**

In this agreement, the ministers: (i) entrusted the Ministerial Delegates and the Secretariat of the Ministerial Meeting with the task of disseminating the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan, updated with the Ministerial Agreement of Guayaquil; (ii) instructed the Ministerial Delegates to prepare, with the Secretariat's help, the national progress reports on the Plan and the challenges that lie ahead, and the GRICA to update the Plan for the 2008-2009 biennium; and, (iii) asked the Secretariat to prepare a report on the status of the AGRO Plan and the actions carried out to coordinate the ministerial process with the Summit of the Americas Process.

### **Ministerial Agreement on the Information System for Following up on the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan**

The Ministers asked the international organizations that supported the initial effort to develop an information system for providing follow-up and evaluating the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan to continue with this effort, with a view to completing it before the Fourth Ministerial Meeting, in 2007. They also urged other international organizations to take part in this initiative and asked the Secretariat to present this experience to the Joint Summit Working Group.

**Ministerial Agreement on the Ministerial Proposal  
on Agriculture and Rural Life for the Fourth Summit  
of the Americas**

The Ministers asked the Chair and the Secretariat of the Ministerial Meeting to submit the two paragraphs of the proposal to the Summit Implementation and Review Group (SIRG), comprising the National Summit Coordinators of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, for possible inclusion in the Draft Declaration and Plan of Action of the Fourth Summit of the Americas, Mar del Plata 2005.

MM3/HMA4-2005  
August 31, 2005

**AGRO 2003-2015 PLAN**  
**MINISTERIAL AGREEMENT OF GUAYAQUIL ON**  
**AGRICULTURE AND RURAL LIFE IN THE AMERICAS**

We, the Ministers and Secretaries of Agriculture of the Americas, assembled in Guayaquil, Republic of Ecuador (August 30-31, 2005) at the Third Ministerial Meeting “Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas” within the framework of the Summit of the Americas process, in fulfillment of the mandates on agriculture and rural life issued by the Heads of State and Government at the Third Summit of the Americas (Quebec 2001) and the Special Summit (Monterrey 2004), and in follow-up to the AGRO 2015 Plan for Agriculture and Rural Life of the Americas adopted at the Second Ministerial, reaffirm our commitment to the Plan and its components: Shared Vision 2015, Strategic Objectives, Hemispheric Agenda and Implementation and Follow-up.

Accordingly, pursuant to the ministerial agreements on implementation and follow-up of the Plan adopted in 2003, the national progress reports and the challenges identified in implementing the AGRO 2015 Plan, presented by our respective ministries, we hereby update the Hemispheric Agenda, for implementation in the 2006-2007 biennium, and adopt the measures necessary for implementation and follow up.

## 2006-2007 Hemispheric Agenda

### *Promoting national policies on agriculture and rural life*

The process of updating the Hemispheric Agenda, for implementation in 2006-2007, is comprised of two components: the continued validity of the strategic actions adopted in 2003, and the new, complementary strategic actions identified by the countries in 2005. In order to move towards the Shared Vision for 2015 and the achievement of the Strategic Objectives, we express our wish to continue the efforts which began in 2003, and besides, to promote, together with stakeholders of the agri-food sector and the rural milieu and others linked to the development of agriculture and rural life, the following complementary strategic actions:

#### **I. Promoting competitive rural enterprises**

(Rural territories – production/trade dimension)

Areas of local economic development

1. To further promote local economic development with support from public and private investment based on an integrated approach aimed at improving the productivity, competitiveness and managerial capabilities of rural enterprises, with a view to generating employment and improving living conditions in rural territories.

#### **II. Integrating chains and strengthening their competitiveness**

(Agricultural production-trade chains – production/trade dimension)

Quality management and certification

2. To promote quality integrated management in the agricultural production chains by, inter alia, developing agricultural health and food safety systems, including certification mechanisms. Information related to existing quality management tools shall be disseminated to facilitate the expansion of production and trade.

## Development of products based on biotechnologies

3. To develop new products based on the application of biotechnologies, within the framework of national policies on innovation considering biosafety mechanisms, with the coordinated participation of public and private sectors in compliance with existing regional and international agreements.

### **III. Promoting an environment conducive to competitive agriculture**

(National and international context – production/trade dimension)

#### Generation of energy from alternative sources

4. To promote policies that will encourage the generation of energy from alternative sources based on agricultural and agroindustrial activities, sustainable use of renewable natural resources and modern biotechnology.

#### Policies for agroindustry

5. Impulsar la adopción de políticas de desarrollo de la agroindustria, los agronegocios y actividades rurales no agrícolas orientadas al mercado.

### **IV. Being environmentally responsible in the rural areas**

(Rural Territories – ecological/environmental dimension)

No complementary strategic actions have been added to those contained in the Hemispheric Agenda approved in 2003.

### **V. From farm to table: promoting integrated environmental management**

(Agricultural production-trade chains – ecological/environmental dimension)

No complementary strategic actions have been added to those contained in the Hemispheric Agenda approved in 2003.

## **VI. Participating in building an institutional environmental framework**

(National and international context - ecological/environmental dimension)

Environmental services and environmentally sound practices

6. To encourage the development of various approaches and mechanisms that recognize the value of the environmental services offered by the rural milieu and environmentally sound practices. Market opportunities for goods and services produced in an environmentally sustainable manner
7. To improve institutional frameworks and consolidate the progress reached in the production and marketing of sustainable agricultural products.

## **VII. Quality of life in rural communities: creating knowhow and opportunity**

(Rural Territories - sociocultural/human dimension)

No complementary strategic actions have been added to those contained in the Hemispheric Agenda approved in 2003.

## **VIII. Advancing learning and expertise in the chain**

(Agricultural production-trade chains – sociocultural/human dimension)

No complementary strategic actions have been added to those contained in the Hemispheric Agenda approved in 2003.

## **IX. Promoting policies to create capabilities and opportunities for the rural communities**

(National and international context - sociocultural/human dimension)

Social responsibility in rural enterprises

8. To promote the concept of social responsibility in rural enterprises; fostering the creation of jobs and the principle of decent work as reflected in international conventions.

## **X. Strengthening public and private sector participation and coordinated action between them in the territories**

(Rural Territories – political/institutional dimension)

Integral development of rural territories

9. To foster integrated rural development based on a multisectoral and participatory approach, and strengthened public-private coordination.

## **XI. Strengthening dialogue and commitments among actors in the chain**

(Agricultural production-trade chains – political/institutional dimension)

No complementary strategic actions have been added to those contained in the Hemispheric Agenda approved in 2003.

## **XII. Promoting National policies and regional and hemispheric cooperation for agriculture and rural life**

(National and international context – political/institutional dimension)

National policies

10. To promote long-term national policies for the development of the agri-food sector and the rural milieu, taking into consideration existing international frameworks.

Interinstitutional and multisectoral work

11. To strengthen sectoral and multisectoral coordination to facilitate the implementation of long-term national policies, for improving agriculture and the quality of life in rural communities.

## Implementation and Follow-up

### *Strengthening regional integration and international cooperation*

The AGRO 2015 Plan reflects the intention of member countries to work towards the shared vision with the understanding that national governments have the main responsibility for implementing the shared agenda and the execution of the Action Plan in compliance with international commitments and agreements.

### Updating of the biennial agendas

12. The 2006-2007 Hemispheric Agenda is the second of six two-year agendas by means of which the AGRO 2015 Plan is implemented. National governments will deliver reports on their progress in implementing each two-year agenda to the Ministerial Meeting “Agricultural and Rural Life in the Americas” which takes place at the end of that two-year period, and use these reports to update the agenda for the next period.

### Regional mechanisms and strategies

13. To strengthen regional meetings of ministers of agriculture, mechanisms for the regional integration of agriculture, for consultation, identification of priorities, coordination of actions and adoption of regional policies on matters of common interest, in support of the implementation of the national strategies aimed at improving agriculture and the quality of life in rural communities.

### Support for international organizations and interagency agendas

14. To recognize and thank international organizations for their efforts in support of the ministerial process for the implementation of AGRO 2015 Plan. We ask them to continue these efforts, avoiding duplication of actions and strengthening the inter-institutional and multisectoral work. We recall our call, as we did in 2001 and 2003, to international financial institutions and other regional cooperation agencies and cooperating governments to engage in this institutional effort, strengthening joint actions, in accordance with national and regional strategies, aimed at implementing and following up on the shared agenda of the AGRO 2015 Plan..

Information system for agriculture and rural life

15. To support the development of an agriculture and rural life information system for the AGRO 2015 Plan follow-up and evaluation. In this regard, we acknowledge the initial efforts made by ECLAC, IICA, PAHO, FAO and UNESCO in the identification of indicators for the AGRO 2015 Plan. We applaud the recent incorporation of the ILO into this initiative. We request their continued support, and call other international organizations associated with agriculture and rural life to join this initiative by providing information, resources and technical support in order to implement the system in 2007.
16. Recognizing the importance of developing appropriate measurement and assessment mechanisms for the progress of the AGRO 2015 Plan, we will work along side international organizations in collecting national data for input into the information system for follow-up to the AGRO 2015 Plan. Moreover, efforts will continue to define appropriate measurements to evaluate the progress of the Plan.

*Signed in the city of Guayaquil, Republic of Ecuador,  
on the thirty-first of August of the year two thousand and five.*

Antigua and Barbuda  
Charlesworth T. Samuel

Argentina  
Miguel Santiago Campos

Bahamas  
V. Alfred Gray

Barbados  
Erskine Griffith

Belize  
Jaime David Burgos

Bolivia  
Guillermo Ribera Cuellar

Brazil  
Roberto Rodrigues Rodrigues

Canada  
Wayne Easter

Chile  
Arturo Barrera Miranda

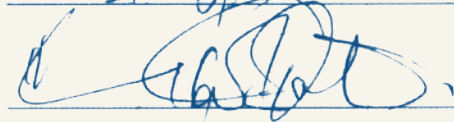
Colombia  
Fernando Arbeláez Soto

The image displays a series of handwritten signatures in blue ink, corresponding to the names and countries listed on the left. The signatures are written on a white background with horizontal lines. The signatures are: Charlesworth T. Samuel (Antigua and Barbuda), Miguel Santiago Campos (Argentina), V. Alfred Gray (Bahamas), Erskine Griffith (Barbados), Jaime David Burgos (Belize), Guillermo Ribera Cuellar (Bolivia), Roberto Rodrigues Rodrigues (Brazil), Wayne Easter (Canada), Arturo Barrera Miranda (Chile), and Fernando Arbeláez Soto (Colombia).

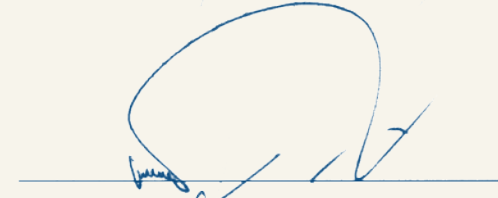
Costa Rica  
Rodolfo Coto Pacheco



Dominica  
Randolph Cato



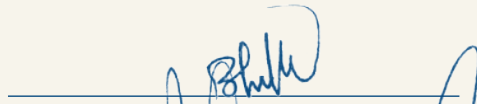
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Amilcar Romero Portuond




El Salvador  
Mariano Ernesto Salaverria



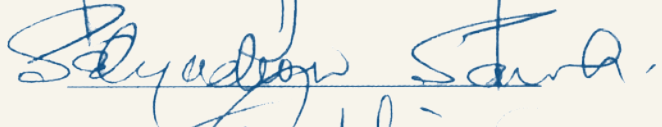
Grenada  
Roland Bhola



Guatemala  
Bernardo López Figueroa



Guyana  
Satyadeow Sawh



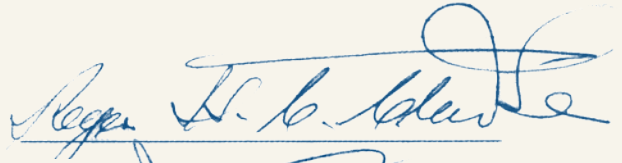
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Philippe Mathieu



Honduras  
Roberto Villeda Toledo



Jamaica  
Roger Clarke



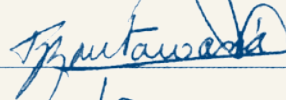
Mexico  
Víctor Manuel Villalobos



Nicaragua  
José Augusto Navarro




Panama  
Erick Fidel Santamaría



Paraguay  
Gustavo N. Ruíz Díaz Roa



Peru  
Manuel Manrique Ugarte




Saint Vincent  
and the Grenadines  
Girlyn Miguel



Saint Lucia  
Ignatius Jean



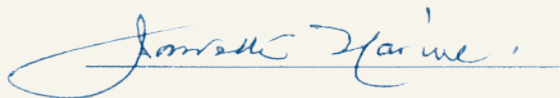
Saint Kitts and Nevis  
Cedric Roy Liburd



Suriname  
Gerrit Arno Breinburg



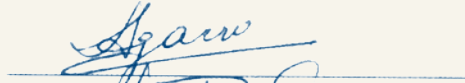
Trinidad and Tobago  
Jarrette Narine



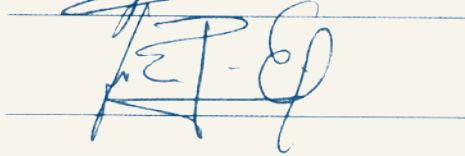
United States of America  
William L. Brant



Uruguay  
Ernesto Agazzi



Venezuela  
Freddy Escalona



**Pablo Rizzo Pastor**  
*Minister of Agriculture and Livestock  
Chairperson of the Third Ministerial Meeting*

***Honorary Witnesses***



**Alfredo Palacio**  
*President of the Republic of Ecuador*



**Chelston W. D. Brathwaite**  
*Director General  
Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture*

MM3/HMA5-2005  
August 31, 2005

HEMISPHERIC MINISTERIAL AGREEMENT  
**IMPLEMENTATION AND FOLLOW-UP**  
OF THE **AGRO 2003-2015 PLAN IN PREPARATION**  
FOR THE **FOURTH MINISTERIAL MEETING**

The Third Ministerial Meeting “Agriculture and Rural Life” within the context of the Summit of the Americas,

**Having seen:**

The report of the Secretariat on the ministerial process “Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas,” entitled “Building today the Agriculture and Rural Life of 2015: Opportunity for a renewed institutional framework, joint action and cooperation,”

The “Ministerial Agreement of Guayaquil on Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas,” adopted by this the Third Ministerial Meeting,

The Declaration of Nuevo Leon, issued at the Special Summit of the Americas (Monterrey 2004), specifically mandate 43, on agriculture and rural life, and mandate 72, on coordination among and support from international organizations and partner institutions in the Summit process in implementing and following up on the mandates of the Summits;

**Considering:**

That the Ministerial Meeting “Agriculture and Rural Life” within the context of the Summit of the Americas plays an important role in the implementation of the mandates and in contributing inputs for decision making by the Heads of State and Government;

That the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan is a hemispheric ministerial agreement that can be viewed as a mandate from the Summit process, and constitutes the shared agenda

and the strategic framework for the development of national and regional strategies for improving agriculture and rural life;

That the Ministerial Delegates, in their respective countries, have been playing a coordinating role in the implementation of the Hemispheric Agenda and in the preparation of the progress reports;

That the Group for the Implementation and Coordination of the Agreements on Agriculture and Rural Life of the Summits Process (GRICA), which is the Hemispheric Forum of Ministerial Delegates, played a major role in building consensus for preparation of the Plan and updating same;

That IICA, as Secretariat of the Ministerial Meeting, provides support to the Group for the Implementation and Coordination of the Agreements on Agriculture and Rural Life of the Summits Process (GRICA) and to the Ministerial Meetings “Agriculture and Rural Life,”

**Agrees:**

1. To entrust the Ministerial Delegates and the Secretariat of the Ministerial Meeting with disseminating the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan, updated with the “Ministerial Agreement of Guayaquil on Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas.”
2. To charge the Ministerial Delegates, with support from the Secretariat of the Ministerial Meeting, and in advance of the Fourth Ministerial Meeting, with preparing the national reports on compliance with the 2006-2007 Hemispheric Agenda of the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan, and on the challenges encountered in implementing the Plan.
3. To charge the Hemispheric Forum of Ministerial Delegates (GRICA) with updating the Hemispheric Agenda, for application in 2008-2009 to be presented at the Fourth Ministerial Meeting.
4. To charge the Secretariat of the Ministerial Meeting, drawing on the reports of the Ministerial Delegates, with preparing a report on compliance with the Hemispheric Agenda and on the actions it carries out to ensure coordination of the ministerial process with the Summit of the Americas process to be presented at the Fourth Ministerial Meeting.

MM3/HMA6-2005  
August 31, 2005

HEMISPHERIC MINISTERIAL AGREEMENT  
**INFORMATION SYSTEM FOR FOLLOWING UP**  
**ON THE AGRO 2003-2015 PLAN**

The Third Ministerial Meeting “Agriculture and Rural Life” within the context of the Summit of the Americas,

**Having seen:**

The “Ministerial Agreement of Guayaquil on Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas,” adopted by this the Third Ministerial Meeting, specifically as regards the development of an information system on agriculture and rural life for following up on the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan,

The report from the Secretariat on the ministerial process “Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas,” entitled “Building today the Agriculture and Rural Life of 2015: Opportunity for a renewed institutional framework, joint action and cooperation,”

The presentation by the Secretariat on an information system for following up on the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan, and progress achieved thanks to joint action among ECLAC, IICA, FAO, PAHO, UNESCO and ILO,

### **Considering:**

That the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan is implemented via biennial Hemispheric Agendas;

That it is necessary to monitor and evaluate efforts being made, by means of an information system that covers compliance with the agreements, the impact of same on the improvement of agriculture and rural life, and the opinions and expectations of leaders,

### **Agrees:**

1. To ask those international organizations that have supported the initial effort to develop an information system for follow up and evaluation of the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan, and the Secretariat of the Ministerial Meeting, to continue said effort, coordinating actions aimed at further developing the system with a view to the Fourth Ministerial Meeting, in 2007. Also, to encourage other international organizations to join in this initiative.
2. To ask the Secretariat of the Ministerial Meeting to present this experience, along with the organizations that have participated in this initiative, at the Meeting of the Joint Summit Working Group, as a contribution in defining goals and indicators for the mandates of the Summits of the Americas.

MM3/HMA7-2005  
August 31, 2005

HEMISPHERIC MINISTERIAL AGREEMENT  
**MINISTERIAL PROPOSAL ON AGRICULTURE AND RURAL  
LIFE FOR THE FOURTH SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS**

The Third Ministerial Meeting “Agriculture and Rural Life” within the context of the Summit of the Americas,

**Having seen:**

The presentation by Mr. Luis Alberto Rodriguez, Director of the Summits of the Americas Secretariat of the OAS,

The consensus reached on the Ministerial Proposal on Agriculture and Rural Life for the Fourth Summit of the Americas,

**Considering:**

That the dialogue on and efforts to reach consensus on the Declaration of Mar del Plata and its Plan of Action will continue at the SIRG Meeting (September 7-9) and subsequent meetings;

That we believe it is imperative to consolidate the positioning achieved for agriculture and rural life in earlier summits, as a contribution to the implementation of the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan,

## Agrees:

1. To entrust the Chair of the Third Ministerial Meeting and the Secretariat with forwarding to the Chair of the SIRG (the following Ministerial Proposal on Agriculture and Rural Life:

### Declaration of Mar del Plata

A comprehensive framework for rural and agricultural development, to promote investment, job creation and rural prosperity, as a contribution to the objectives defined in paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of this Declaration.

### Plan of Action

We shall promote comprehensive national policies and strategies for agriculture that will encourage agricultural trade, investments in the rural milieu to contribute to its sustainable development, the creation of jobs and the improvement of living conditions in rural communities, and agricultural production based on principles of agricultural health and food safety.

