

**BAVARO 2001:
FIRST
MINISTERIAL MEETING**

- **Declaration of Bavaro for the Improvement of Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas**

Our Governments,

Recognizing the fundamental importance of agriculture as a way of life for millions of rural families of the Hemisphere as well as the role it plays in the creation of prosperity as a strategic sector in our socio-economic system and taking note of the importance of developing its potential in a manner compatible with sustainable development that would ensure adequate treatment and attention to the rural sector, will:

- *Promote dialogue involving government ministers, parliamentarians and civil society, in particular organizations linked to rural areas as well as the scientific and academic communities, with the objective of promoting medium and long-term national strategies toward sustainable improvement in agriculture and rural life.*
- *Instruct the Ministers of Agriculture to promote, in cooperation with the Inter-American Institute for*
- *Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), joint action by all the actors of the agricultural sector to work towards the improvement of agriculture and rural life that enables the implementation of the Plans of Action of the Summits of the Americas.*

**Third Summit of the Americas, 2001
Section 10, Plan of Action**

First Ministerial Meeting – 2001



At the First Ministerial Meeting “Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas” held within the context of the Summits of the Americas Process, the Ministers of Agriculture adopted the *Declaration of Bavaro for the Improvement of Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas*. (Dominican Republic, November 26-27, 2001).

In the Declaration of Bavaro, the Ministers of Agriculture committed themselves to the mandate of the Third Summit of the Americas which calls for promoting joint actions involving all the stakeholders in agriculture aimed at improving agriculture and rural life. They identified the critical issues that must be addressed immediately and stated their conviction of the need for, and willingness to promote, a shared agenda that would enable their countries to tackle these issues.

The Ministers of Agriculture called particular attention to the need for significant progress in the areas of:

- **sustainable development of agriculture and the rural milieu**
- **food security; and**
- **the reduction of rural poverty,**

by means of ten types of strategic actions:

- i. further liberalization of agricultural trade;
- ii. the strengthening of dialogue and consensus building on strategies;
- iii. the development of an institutional framework conducive to the sustainable development of agriculture and the rural milieu;
- iv. support for rural organizations and communities, with a view to enhancing their capabilities;
- v. the elimination of anti-agricultural biases in policies, and the recognition in such policies of the broad contribution of agriculture to the well-being of all members of society;
- vi. promotion of environmentally friendly agriculture;
- vii. prevention and mitigation of natural disasters and sanitary and phytosanitary emergencies;
- viii. greater investment in the development of human capital;
- ix. reduction of knowledge, information and technology gaps; and
- x. the modernization of agriculture and the strengthening of services in support of agri-food production and trade.

Furthermore, they urged the international institutions that provide cooperation and funding for development, and cooperating governments, to coordinate the strategies they adopt for providing support and to harmonize the technical and financial cooperation they provide in connection with the implementation of the Declaration.

DECLARATION OF BAVARO FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL LIFE IN THE AMERICAS

1. We, the Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas, meeting as the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), in Bavaro, Dominican Republic, reaffirm our steadfast commitment to the mandate issued at the Third Summit of the Americas calling for concerted action with all those involved in agriculture, aimed at the improvement of agriculture and rural life.

Cognizant that:

2. There has been a renewed commitment to the integration of the Hemisphere, economic well-being, security of our peoples, strengthening of democracy, generation of prosperity, environmental protection and the development of human potential. Agriculture is recognized as the livelihood of millions of rural families in the hemisphere, for its contribution to food security as well as for its strategic importance in the socioeconomic system.
3. As a result of consultations with other leaders of the Agriculture and Rural Life Communities in our countries, we have reached national consensus and a spirit of collaboration and support regarding the need to implement medium- and long-term strategies aimed at sustainable improvement of agriculture and rural life.

We consider it essential:

4. To move forward in the achievement of the objectives of agricultural trade liberalization, the elimination of subsidies and unfair commercial practices within the multilateral trade negotiations of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and in other hemispheric and subregional fora, and to support the creation of free trade areas and integration agreements in the Americas.

5. To assign high priority to food security, food safety and food quality in national policies.
6. To create and strengthen institutional opportunities for dialogue among all levels of government, business and agricultural organizations and civil society, with a view to reaching agreement on strategies and commitments related to the management of agriculture and rural development, within a framework of transparency and accountability.
7. To renew the national and international institutional frameworks in such a way that they contribute to the sustainable development of agriculture and the rural milieu, based on the objectives of greater competitiveness, equity, sustainable management of natural resources and democratic governance.
8. To strengthen or develop institutional mechanisms intended to support organizations of the civil society and rural communities in the improvement of their capabilities and living conditions, because they are one of the pillars of democratic principles and social harmony.
9. To design and implement macroeconomic policies which eliminate the bias against agriculture, and foster the increased contribution of the agricultural sector to the improvement of the quality of rural life.
10. To promote processes aimed at the transformation and modernization of agriculture for the purpose of increasing production, productivity, profitability, and improving competitiveness in global markets, with special emphasis on the creation and revitalization of small- and medium-scale production units and the integration of agri-food chains.
11. To ensure that agriculture generates economic growth with equity and provides alternatives to the production of illicit crops, prevents the degradation of natural resources, and creates employment opportunities for vulnerable groups in accordance with the legislation of each country.
12. To reduce the knowledge, information and technological gaps, both within and among countries of the Hemisphere, in order to obtain increased competitiveness and more equitable economic development.

13. To adopt strategies, policies and programs intended to reduce the growing incidence of rural poverty, which, aside from affecting the poor, contributes to the degradation of natural resources; fosters violence; encourages the production and marketing of illicit crops; creates insecurity with respect to land tenure; and weakens democratic governance.
14. To reduce the detrimental effects of natural phenomena and external factors through policies for the prevention and mitigation of natural disasters and sanitary and phytosanitary emergencies, promoting support programs, special considerations related to investment, trade, technical assistance and other forms of support, especially to smaller economies.
15. To implement differentiated strategies and programs that enhance the possibilities for development in agriculture through increased investments in the development of human capital, particularly for vulnerable groups.
16. To redouble efforts focusing on the use of environmentally friendly agricultural practices, and to provide economic incentives for such efforts through mechanisms that do not distort trade.
17. To strengthen and expand services in support of agri-food production and trade, with special emphasis on rural financing, agricultural health, and technology innovation and transfer, through the adoption and implementation of policies, strategies and action programs that will contribute to guaranteeing investments aimed at agricultural and agroindustrial production.

Therefore, in keeping with the mandate received from the Heads of State and Government in their efforts to combat poverty, generate greater prosperity, increase economic opportunities, foster social justice and develop human potential,

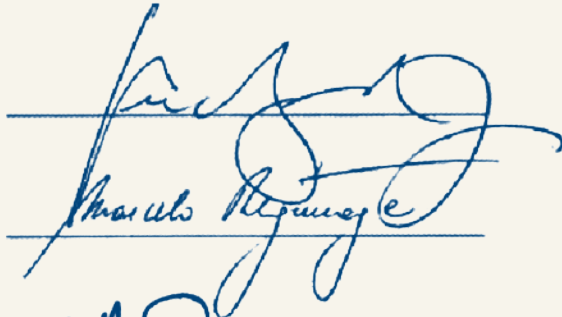
We declare our intention to:

18. Lead and facilitate the process of implementing this Declaration, and reaching consensus on the strategic guidelines for a shared agenda, to be used by our countries in developing future national and regional plans of action.

19. Adopt policies, strategies and programs that will encourage harmonious,
20. Equitable development, as well as improve the quality of life in rural areas; thereby discouraging rural-urban migration.
21. Call on the institutions associated with the Inter-American Summit process, the international financial institutions and the cooperating governments to coordinate their strategies and to support the actions aimed at improving agriculture and rural life. In addition, to call on the international cooperation organizations that make up the Interagency Group on Rural Development in Latin America and the Caribbean to harmonize their technical and financial cooperation efforts in support of this Declaration and future national and regional plans of action that are consistent with same.

*Signed in Bavaro, in the Province of Altagracia of the Dominican Republic,
on the twenty-seventh of November of the year two thousand and one.*

Antigua and Barbuda
Vere C. Bird Jr.

A highly stylized, cursive handwritten signature in blue ink, written over two horizontal lines. The signature is difficult to decipher but appears to be 'Vere C. Bird Jr.'.

Argentina
Marcelo Regúnaga

A cursive handwritten signature in blue ink, written over two horizontal lines. The signature is 'Marcelo Regúnaga'.

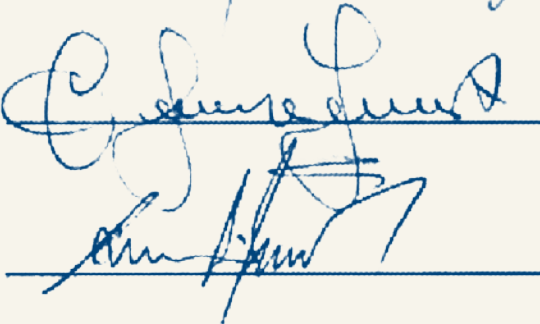
Bahamas
Valerie Outten

A cursive handwritten signature in blue ink, written over two horizontal lines. The signature is 'Valerie Outten'.

Barbados
Antony P. Wood

A cursive handwritten signature in blue ink, written over two horizontal lines. The signature is 'Antony P. Wood'.

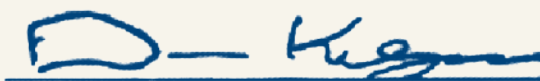
Belize
Daniel Silva

A cursive handwritten signature in blue ink, written over two horizontal lines. The signature is 'Daniel Silva'.

Bolivia
Jorge Monje

A cursive handwritten signature in blue ink, written over two horizontal lines. The signature is 'Jorge Monje'.

Brazil
Marcus Vinicius
Pratini de Moraes

A cursive handwritten signature in blue ink, written over two horizontal lines. The signature is 'Marcus Vinicius Pratini de Moraes'.

Canada
David Kilgour

Chile
Jaime Campos Quiroga

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Colombia
Rodrigo Villalba Mosquera

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Rodrigo Villalba Mosquera', written over a horizontal line.

Costa Rica
Alfredo Robert Polini

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Alfredo Robert Polini', written over a horizontal line.

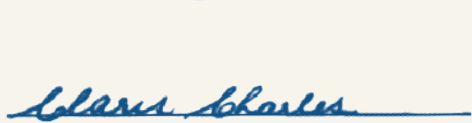
Dominica
Vince Henderson

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Ecuador
Galo Plaza Pallares

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Galo Plaza Pallares', written over a horizontal line.

El Salvador
Armando Servellón

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Armando Servellón', written over a horizontal line.

Grenada
Claris Charles

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Claris Charles', written over a horizontal line.

Guatemala
Jorge Rolando Escoto
Marroquín

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jorge Rolando Escoto Marroquín', written over a horizontal line.

Guyana
Navin Chandarpal



Haiti
Sébastien Hilaire



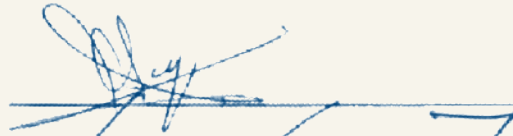
Honduras
Guillermo Alvarado Downing



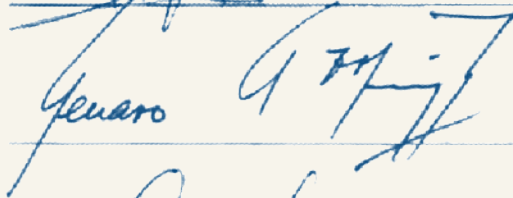
Jamaica
Roger Clarke



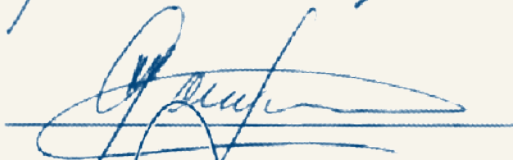
Mexico
Javier Usabiaga



Nicaragua
Genaro A. Muñiz Bermúdez



Panama
Pedro Adán Gordón S.



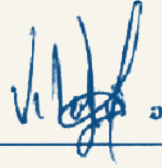
Paraguay
Carmelo Peralta



Peru
Alvaro Quijandria



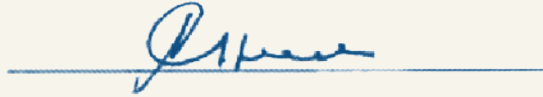
Saint Lucia
Eustace Vitalis



Saint Kitts and Nevis
Rafael Adonis Archibald



Saint Vincent
and the Grenadines
Simeon Greene



Suriname
Geetapersad Gangaram
Panday




Trinidad and Tobago
Swallow Mohammed



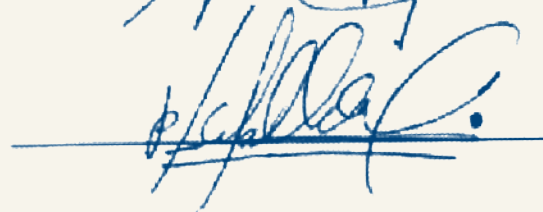
United States of America
Thomas Hunt Shipman




Uruguay
Gonzalo E. González



Venezuela
Efrén Andrade



A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several horizontal strokes and a vertical line, positioned above a horizontal line.

Eligio Jáquez

*Secretary of State for Agriculture of the Dominican
Republic and Chairman of the Eleventh Regular Meeting
of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture*

Honorary Witnesses

A handwritten signature in blue ink, featuring a large, stylized initial 'H' and a long, sweeping tail, positioned above a horizontal line.

Hipólito Mejía

Constitutional President of the Dominican Republic

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, vertical loop and a smaller loop below it, positioned above a horizontal line.

Carlos E. Aquino

*Director General
Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture*

