

**Hemispheric Ministerial Process**

**ON THE ROAD TO GUATEMALA 2007**  
**“Working together” for the agriculture and rural life in the Americas**

*Ministerial process 2006-2007, a effort of 34 countries guided  
by Shared vision 2015, in order to continue constructing from  
today the agriculture and rural life of the 2015*

**September 2006**

**Ministerial Meetings “Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas”  
held within the context of the Summits of the Americas Process**



***“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 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**

## INTRODUCTION

Positioning agriculture and rural life on the national agenda and devising and implementing the measures needed to achieve their sustainable development are permanent challenges, challenges that all the actors of the agricultural sector must help tackle. Hence, the call to “work together” with all of them in realizing the 2015 Vision, taking into account the hemispheric political framework and our ministerial agreements.

At the Third Summit of the Americas (Quebec, 2001), the Heads of State and Government acknowledged the fundamental importance of agriculture and rural life for the development of countries, and pledged to undertake actions aimed at bringing about improvements in both. They reaffirmed this acknowledgement at the Summits held in Monterrey (2004) and Mar del Plata (2005), and took the decision to make the implementation of the **AGRO 2003-2015 Plan for Agriculture and Rural Life** a national commitment. This plan is the centerpiece of the Ministerial Process “Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas.

In response to the commitments assumed by the government leaders, the Ministerial Process is a hemispheric effort focusing on dialogue, consensus building and commitment, and encompassing a number of objectives and strategic actions the goal of which is the sustainable development of agriculture and the rural milieu.

At the meeting held in Guayaquil in 2005, the Ministers signed important Hemispheric

Ministerial Agreements that call for the continuation and reinforcement of the Ministerial Process in 2006-2007. This process will have another defining moment in Guatemala in 2007 when the **Fourth Ministerial Meeting “Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas”** in the context of the Summit process takes place. This meeting is the political and highest hemispheric forum of ministers of agriculture where they will share information on headway with the process and decide on the essence of the new stage of the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan, which will include strategic activities for agriculture in the Americas in the 2008-2009 biennium.

In essence, the 2006-2007 Ministerial Process, “working together,” offers the key actors responsible for the sustainable development of agriculture and rural life a mechanism and an opportunity to construct a renewed institutional framework and to beef up the joint activities and cooperation that will help us advance, swiftly and successfully, toward the Shared Vision of Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas for 2015.

The Ministerial Meeting is the political forum of the Ministers and the highest level body for reaching agreement by consensus on priorities and strategic actions for the sustainable development of agriculture and rural life. The IABA is the highest governing body of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA). There, the ministers of agriculture of the Americas will establish the strategic guidelines needed to ensure that IICA’s activities support the countries’ efforts to implement the Hemispheric Ministerial Agreements adopted at the Fourth Ministerial Meeting in support of the implementation and monitoring of the AGRO Plan.

Furthermore, the IABA will study the Director General's reports on the Institute's performance and the trends in agriculture and rural life in the Americas, make decisions regarding the Institute's proposed policies, programs and budget, and provide follow-up to the implementation of decisions adopted in previous meetings.

Given the great significance of this process for agriculture and rural life, it is an honor for the Government of Guatemala to host these important events. Therefore, the Government wishes to extend a cordial invitation to all its partners in this process to continue to work together for the agricultural and rural life of our countries.

Licenciado Bernardo López Figueroa  
Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Food

## GUATEMALA WILL HOST THE FOURTH MINISTERIAL MEETING “AGRICULTURE AND RURAL LIFE IN THE AMERICAS” IN 2007

With “Working together for the agriculture and rural life of the Americas” as our motto, we are making progress with the Ministerial Process “Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas.” A key point in the process will be reached during the last week of July 2007, in the city of Antigua Guatemala, Guatemala.

Parallel to the Fourth Ministerial Meeting, important activities related to agriculture and rural life will be held to promote the participation of the agricultural private sector of the Americas and other key stakeholders.

The Fourth Ministerial Meeting “AGRICULTURE AND RURAL LIFE IN THE AMERICAS” will mark the culmination of the 2006-2007 Ministerial Process, with the participants focusing on the implementation of the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan, identifying new agreements and reaffirming the continuity of the process.

As a result, the expected **results** of the Fourth Ministerial Meeting will be:

- A more thorough understanding of *strategic topics and critical issues* of the sustainable development of agriculture and the rural milieu, as the basis for making new decisions regarding implementation of the *AGRO 2003-2015 Plan*.
- The adoption of the Hemispheric Ministerial Agenda for the implementation of the *AGRO 2003-2015 Plan* in 2008-2009.
- A renewed commitment on the part of the countries to conclude the development and implementation of the information systems for following up on and evaluating the *AGRO 2003-2015 Plan* and its regional strategies.

- The strengthening of international cooperation within the framework of the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan

The key players in the Ministerial Process and its Fourth Ministerial Meeting are the Ministers of Agriculture and their Ministerial Delegates of Agriculture and Rural Life. They are called upon to lead the national dialogue in each country, the goal of which is to prepare, based on the **challenges** faced in implementing the AGRO Plan, the national proposals on **strategic actions** for updating the Plan.

The 2007 GRICA (the Hemispheric Forum of Ministerial Delegates) will provide an opportunity to discuss these challenges and strategic actions and to build consensus for the Hemispheric Ministerial Agreements of the Fourth Ministerial Meeting.

The 2006-2007 Ministerial Process “Agriculture and Rural Life” will focus on the implementation of the Ministerial Agreement of Guayaquil and two other Hemispheric Ministerial Agreements adopted at the Third Ministerial Meeting (Guayaquil 2005), which emphasize: (i) the formulation of state policies in the countries; (ii) the adjustment of regional strategies; and (iii) the development of an information system for following up on and evaluating the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan and its regional strategies.

In order to achieve the aforementioned **Results**, it is necessary to carry out the following **actions** in the 2006-2007 biennium:

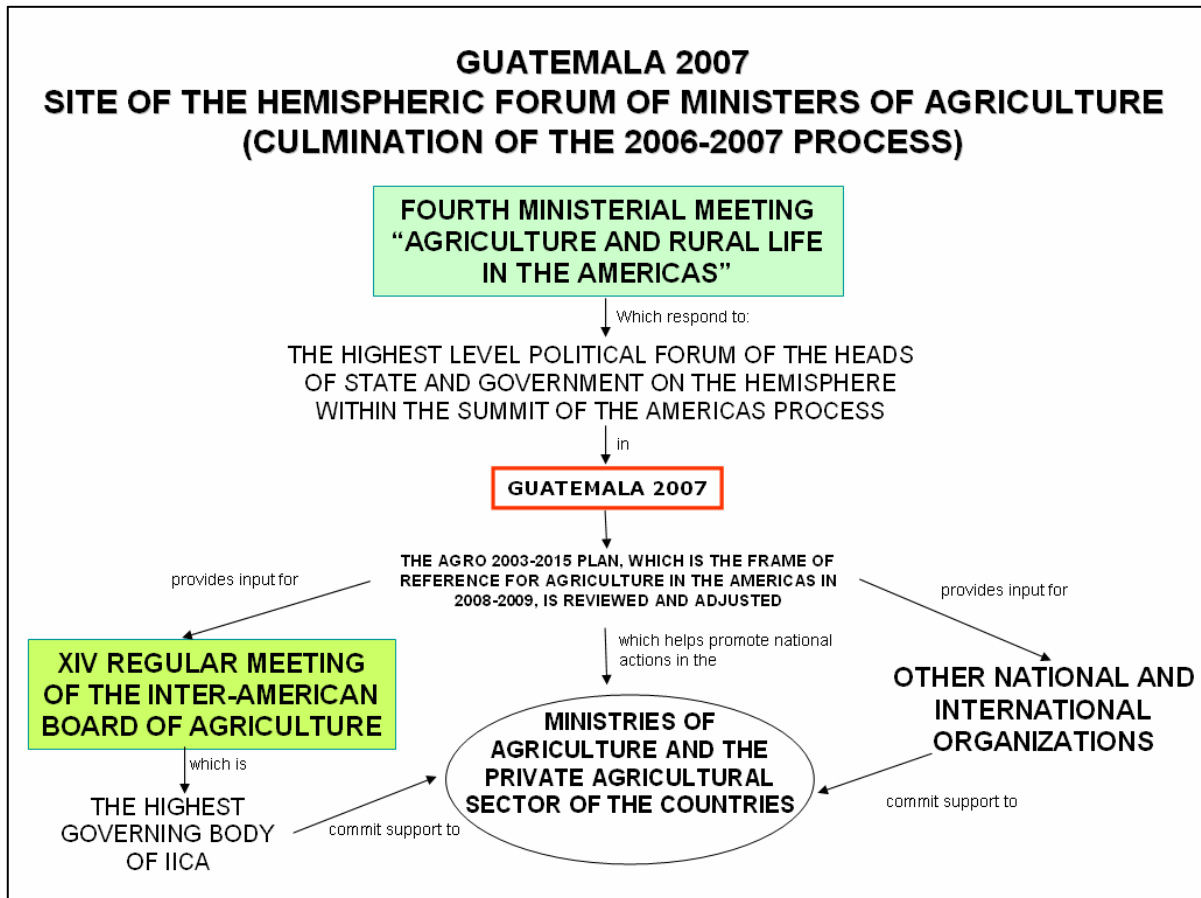
- The dissemination of the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan, as updated with the Ministerial Agreement of Guayaquil.
- The implementation of the Ministerial Agreement of Guayaquil 2005, specifically the strategic guidelines for the 2006-2007 Hemispheric Agenda and those related to its Implementation and Follow-up component.

- The preparation, in each country, of a **national progress report** on the implementation of the strategic guidelines for the 2006-2007 Hemispheric Agenda.
- The continuation of the dialogue, headed by the Ministers and their Delegates, on **strategic topics**, and the identification of **critical issues** for the improvement of agriculture and rural life.
- The identification of the principal **challenges** inherent to the sustainable development of agriculture and the rural milieu, and of progress toward the Shared Vision 2015 of the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan.
- The updating of the *AGRO 2003-2015 Plan* with **strategic actions** for the 2008-2009 Hemispheric Agenda, which will be agreed upon by the 2007 GRICA (via the electronic forum and at the meeting of

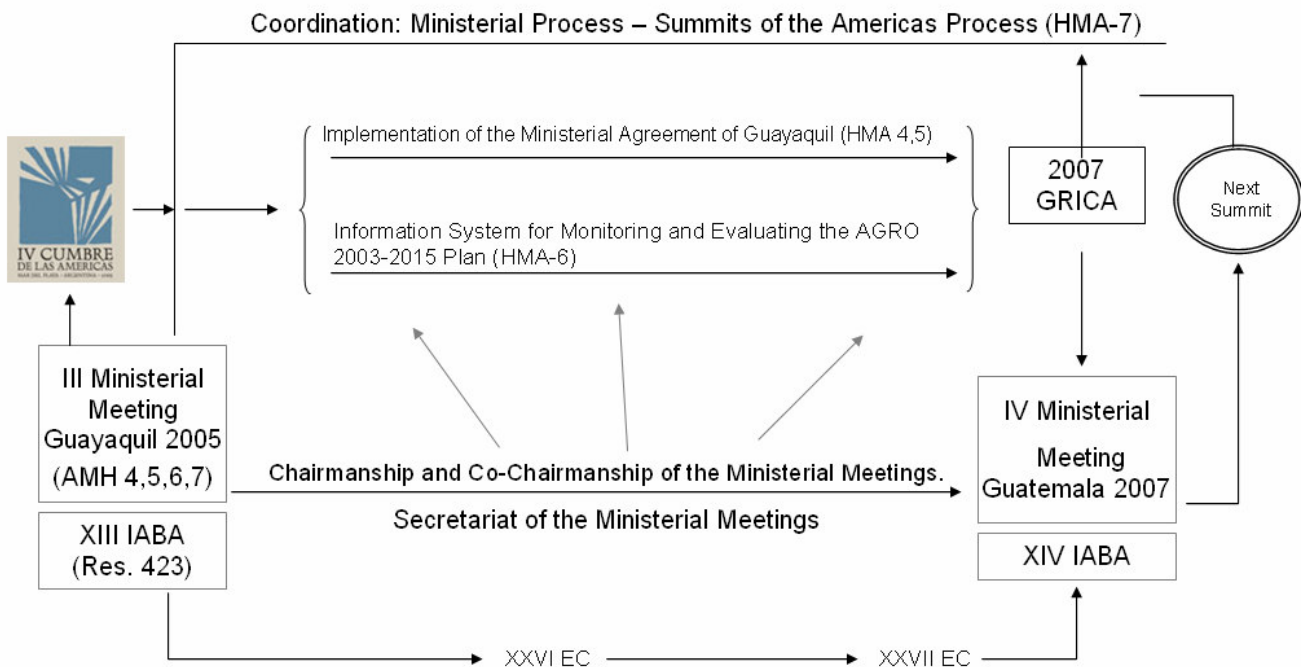
Ministerial Delegates).

- The development of an **information system** for following up on and evaluating the 2003-2015 AGRO Plan, and its regional strategies, which are currently being designed.
- The strengthening of joint actions and horizontal cooperation between countries.

To ensure the continuation of the Ministerial Process and strengthen its linkage to the Summit of the Americas process, it is essential to move forward in building a renewed institutional framework, strengthening joint action and promoting horizontal cooperation.



## Outline: 2006-2007 Ministerial Process: The Road to Guatemala 2007



### Notes

HMA4: Ministerial Agreement of Guayaquil (Second Stage of the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan)

HMA5: Ministerial Agreement on implementation and follow-up of the AGRO 2003 – 2015 Plan in preparation for the Fourth Ministerial Meeting.

HMA6: Ministerial Agreement on the Information System for Following up on the AGRO 2003 – 2015 Plan.

HMA7: Ministerial Agreement on the Ministerial Proposal on Agriculture and Rural Life for the Fourth Summit of the Americas.

GRICA: Group for the Implementation and Coordination of the Agreements on Agriculture and Rural Life (Hemispheric Forum of Ministerial Delegates)

EC: Executive Committee

## KEY PLAYERS IN THE 2006-2007 MINISTERIAL PROCESS

### Guatemala

Since Guatemala will be hosting the Fourth Ministerial Meeting in 2007, the country's Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food will be responsible for:

- Chairing the Fourth Ministerial Meeting.
- Conducting the 2006-2007 Ministerial Process and chairing the Hemispheric Forum of Ministerial Delegates (2007

- GRICA) and the Fourth Ministerial Meeting.

- Organizing and holding, with IICA, the Fourth Ministerial Meeting "Agriculture and Rural Life" and the Fourteenth Meeting of the IABA.

### Ecuador

Since Ecuador hosted the Third Ministerial Meeting, Guayaquil 2005, its Ministry of Agriculture will serve as the Joint Chair of the 2007 GRICA and assist Guatemala in conducting the Ministerial Process until 2007.

## **THE MINISTERIAL DELEGATES**

Based on the experience acquired with the previous ministerial processes, the role of the Ministerial Delegates in the 34 countries is crucial in the conduct of the 2006-2007 process. They are responsible for the following:

- Seeing to the implementation and follow-up of the Hemispheric Ministerial Agreements entrusted to them by the ministers at their previous ministerial meeting;
- Coordinating with their foreign ministries the circulation of information on the mandates on agriculture and rural life of the Summits and follow-up of those mandates;
- Leading the dialogue and building national consensus on national proposals for updating the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan of Action.
- Participating in the virtual dialogue and the meetings of GRICA 2007, while seeking to build hemispheric consensus on the agreements of the Fourth Ministerial Meeting.

A key element required for the success of the Ministerial Process is the leadership of the Ministerial Delegates in the dialogue with other development stakeholders and the close collaboration with the National Summit Coordinators of the respective ministries of foreign affairs.

## **Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)**

An institutional partner in the Summits of the Americas process since the Quebec Summit,

held in 2001. Since then, it has served as Technical Secretariat of the Ministerial Process "Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas."

Its contribution is aimed at facilitating the continuation of the Ministerial Process and its linkage to the Summit of the Americas process. It plays an important role in facilitating agreement on the monitoring and adjusting of the national and regional strategies and the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan. Through its Offices in the 34 Member States, its Directorates of Regional Operations and other units at Headquarters, it supports the national authorities of its Member States in the development of the 2006-2007 Ministerial Process and in the implementation of the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan.

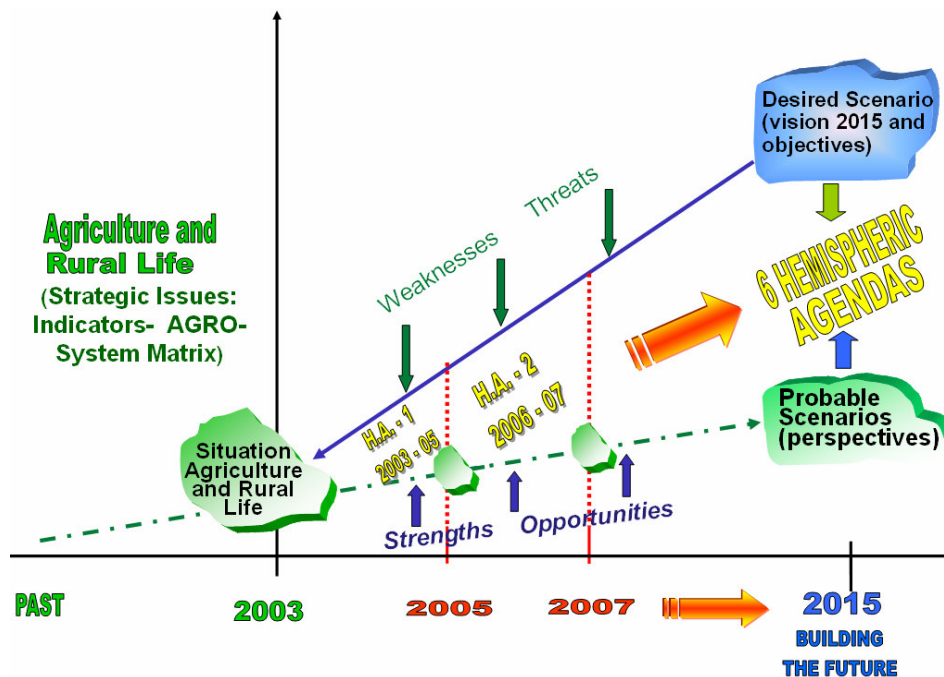
Also, IICA, together with other international organizations that have also received the mandate from the Heads of State and Government of the Americas in the Plan of Action of their Fourth Summit, in Mar del Plata, and the request from the Ministers of Agriculture in the Hemispheric Ministerial Agreement of Guayaquil, will continue supporting the development of an information system for following up on and evaluating the 2003-2015 AGRO Plan and its regional strategies.

IICA, through specialized units at Headquarters and its Office in Guatemala, will provide full support to the Guatemalan authorities in all tasks related to its role as host country of the most important hemispheric event for agriculture and rural life in the Americas.

## AGRO 2003-2015 PLAN

More than a ministerial document, it is a continuing joint process for learning and

consensus building, the adoption of commitments and the execution of strategic activities to move ahead towards the Shared Vision 2015 for agriculture and rural life in the Americas.



CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK FOR AGRO 2003-2015 PLAN: CATEGORIES, DIMENSIONS, PURPOSES FOR THE HEMISPHERIC AGENDA AND STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

CATEGORIES DIMENSIONS	Rural Territories	Agricultural Production- Trade Chains	National and International Context	STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES
Production - Trade	1. Promoting competitive rural enterprises	2. Integrating chains and strengthening their competitiveness	3. Promoting an environment conducive to competitive agriculture	→ Competitiveness
Ecological - Environmental	4. Being environmentally responsible in the rural areas	5. From farm to table: promoting integrated environmental management	6. Participating in building an institutional environmental framework	→ Sustainability
Sociocultural - human	7. Quality of life in rural communities: creating know-how and opportunity	8. Advancing learning and expertise in the chain	9. Promoting policies to create capabilities and opportunities for the rural communities	→ Equity
Political - institutional	10. Strengthening public and private sector participation and coordinated action between them in the territories	11. Strengthening dialogue and commitments among actors in the chain	12. Promoting national policies and regional and hemispheric cooperation for agriculture and rural life	→ Governance
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	Rural Prosperity + Food Security + International Positioning			SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL MILIEU



***“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**