

**III WORLD SUMMIT OF REGIONS ON
SECURITY AND FOOD SOVEREIGNTY
CUENCA, APRIL 27-28, 2018**

FINAL DECLARATION - "LETTER FROM CUENCA"

Poverty, inequality, climate change, which cause hunger, are interrelated problems and represent great challenges for humanity; Despite certain advances registered in recent years, food security and sovereignty remain outstanding rights for millions of human beings in the world. The regions and their governments, together with civil society and the private sector, have a responsibility and a role in facing these challenges.

Continuing with the summits of Dakar (2010) and Medellin (2012), which promoted the role of regional-scale actors and territorial food systems, regional governments have fostered a space for reflection, debate and intervention with broad participation of representatives of national governments, subnational governments, international community and civil society, in the III World Summit of Regions on Food Security and Sovereignty "Zero Hunger", meeting in Cuenca, Ecuador, between April 27 and 28, 2018. After intense days of reflection, dialogue and exchange of learning about agro-food systems and the role of intermediate governments to contribute to achieving the Goal of Sustainable Development of Zero Hunger, declare:

1. To highlight the efforts of the international community in the area of the right to food in terms of food security and sovereignty, as well as the magnitude of the challenge of reaching 2030 to eradicate poverty and hunger, which are not compatible with the current production, transformation and consumption models.
2. To consider all people as subjects of right to adequate food, which must be guaranteed by the States, without territorial, ethnic, age or gender exclusions, whose overcoming requires differentiated policies and programs that overcome these inequalities
3. To understand that hunger, poverty and inequality are structural and closely related phenomena, which must be addressed and resolved comprehensively, based on a dialogue and co-responsible action that involves all actors in the territories.
4. To demand from national and local governments the implementation of measures that guarantee the eradication of all forms of violence, and the promotion of an equal social status of women, especially indigenous women, peasants, as well as economic autonomy, access to land, health, education, which contributes to equitable development for food security and sovereignty.
5. To recognize that inequality gaps between territories and access to resources aggravate the problems of poverty, hunger and malnutrition, so comprehensive interventions are required, appropriate to the environmental, social, cultural and economic conditions of each territory.

6. To express concern about the evolution of the double burden of malnutrition, both chronic malnutrition and the growth of overweight and obesity, with the health problems arising from both, which cause the death of millions of human beings, especially in the poorest regions of the world.
7. To raise awareness of the food security situation of populations in conflict zones, or displaced by humanitarian crises, and call for international solidarity to meet their needs and promote peace.
8. To Demand effective actions to reduce the loss of food throughout the chain of production and consumption, such as the establishment of food banks, short chains, promotion of good agricultural and industrial practices, production of alternative energy or responsible consumption.
9. Ratify the need to promote sustainable agro-food systems, promoting agro ecological practices that respect the limits of nature in the recovery of their resources, stimulating the participation of young people as essential actors for the new rurality.
10. Emphasize the importance of family farming, associativity and cooperativism for food security and sovereignty, the protection of the environment, biodiversity and cultural diversity, as well as the generation of jobs and income and their contribution to the wealth of the nations; and, therefore, to propose the need to design and implement differentiated and integral policies for their promotion and protection.
11. Promote the responsible consumption of food, sustainable diets, healthier living habits and a food culture that encourages the proper use and diversification of regional agro-food heritage, with territorial identity, giving adequate information and voice to citizens regarding the quality of the food.
12. To emphasize the importance of the local in the creation of solutions to the problems of food insecurity, malnutrition and poverty, which contribute to the formation of a global knowledge from the territorial, understood as a system of urban-rural, human settlement links and nature.
13. Urge regional and national governments to promote programs for the provision of marketing, water, irrigation and sanitation infrastructures in the territories; food assistance to vulnerable populations in emergencies; direct public purchases of food from farmers' organizations; and, policies of access of small producers to land, water, seeds, technologies, financing, infrastructures, and markets with inclusive relationships.
14. Strengthen the role of the regions in the generation of information, in applied innovation, inclusive marketing and transformation schemes, diversification of rural income, and strategies to eliminate gaps between rural urban sectors, with a logic of territorial development integral.
15. Generate actions to protect ecosystems and ensure the diversity of flora and fauna, the conservation of water sources and face the impacts of climate change

on food production, implementing mitigation, adaptation and strengthening of resilience in the territories.

16. Commit the regions to assume the formation of participatory governance spaces around food security and sovereignty, involving all the territorial actors of agro-food systems in the broadest and most inclusive manner, promoting the articulation of policies and of the central, regional and local government levels.
17. Promote the conceptual and practical exchange of public policies, learning and capacity building around initiatives in favor of food security and sovereignty from the regions, establishing partnerships with the academy and research centers, as well as with international organizations, cooperation agencies and NGOs, to facilitate the management of knowledge on the subject.
18. Express the understanding that the challenges of security and food sovereignty require a global and multidimensional effort, involving mutual cooperation at the international level, the establishment of alliances between public, private and civil society actors, as well as synergistic coordination between national, regional and local levels of government, from a territorial approach.
19. To ratify the commitment and efforts of the regions for the fulfillment of the 2030 agenda, especially for the objectives of eradicating poverty and hunger, as well as the related objectives and goals.
20. Create an international horizontal and decentralized cooperation platform that articulates food security and sovereignty initiatives in the regions of the world, and that elaborates an action plan based on the guidelines of the III World Summit of Regions of Food Security and Sovereignty "Zero Hunger", between the representations of the regions and the United Nations system.
21. Deliver this Declaration of Basin to the United Nations System so that it incorporates the proposed actions into its Food Security and Sovereignty agenda and that it be implemented through policies, actions, programs and concrete projects for the benefit of territorial development.

Finally, to express the gratitude for the preparation of the event and its hospitality, to the Provincial Government of Azuay, to the Consortium of Autonomous Decentralized Provincial Governments of Ecuador CONGOPE, to the Organizations of the United Regions ORU FOGAR and to the platform of organizations that contributed to the realization of the 3rd World Summit of Regions on Food Security and Sovereignty "Zero Hunger".

Cuenca, April 28, 2018