

No. 19557

MULTILATERAL

**Convention on the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation
on Agriculture. Concluded at Washington on 6 March
1979**

Authentic texts: Spanish, English, Portuguese and French.

Registered by the Organization of American States on 17 February 1981.

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**Convention sur l'Institut interaméricain de coopération
pour l'agriculture. Conclue à Washington le 6 mars
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Enregistrée par l'Organisation des États américains le 17 février 1981.

CONVENTION¹ ON THE INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR COOPERATION ON AGRICULTURE. OPENED FOR SIGNATURE AT THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES ON MARCH 6, 1979

The American States, members of the Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences,

With the intention of strengthening and broadening the action of the Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences as an organization specialized in agriculture, an Institute established in compliance with the pertinent resolution adopted by the Eighth American Scientific Congress, held in Washington, D.C., in 1940, and in accordance with the terms of the Convention opened to signature by the American republics at the Pan American Union on January 15, 1944,²

Have agreed on the following:

CONVENTION ON THE INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR COOPERATION ON AGRICULTURE

Chapter I. NATURE AND PURPOSES

Article 1. The Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences, established by the Convention opened to signature by the American republics on January 15, 1944, shall be called "The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture" (hereinafter the Institute), and shall be governed by the present Convention.

Article 2. The Institute shall be of inter-American scope, shall have international juridical personality, and shall be specialized in agriculture.

¹ Came into force for the following States on 8 December 1980, i.e., when two thirds of the States parties to the 1944 Convention on the Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences had deposited their respective instruments of ratification or accession with the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States, in accordance with article 34:

<i>State</i>	<i>Date of deposit of the instrument of ratification</i>	<i>State</i>	<i>Date of deposit of the instrument of ratification</i>
Barbados	24 October 1979	Honduras	27 February 1980
Brazil	2 October 1980	Jamaica	13 May 1980
Canada	11 July 1979	Mexico	6 March 1980
Chile	14 February 1980	Panama	13 August 1980
Colombia	6 March 1980	Paraguay	12 May 1980
Costa Rica	8 December 1980	Peru	17 July 1980
El Salvador	10 July 1980	Trinidad and Tobago	5 December 1980
Guatemala	27 May 1980	United States of America	23 October 1980
Guyana	1 July 1980	Uruguay	15 November 1979
Haiti	26 March 1980		

Subsequently, the Convention came into force for the following State on the date of deposit of its instrument of ratification or accession with the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States, in accordance with article 34:

<i>State</i>	<i>Date of deposit of the instrument of ratification</i>
Grenada	22 December 1980

(With effect from 22 December 1980.)

² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 161, p. 281.

Article 3. The purposes of the Institute are to encourage, promote, and support the efforts of the Member States to achieve their agricultural development and rural welfare.

Article 4. To achieve its purposes, the Institute shall have the following functions:

- a.* To promote the strengthening of national education, research, and rural development institutions, in order to give impetus to the advancement and the dissemination of science and technology applied to rural progress;
- b.* To formulate and execute plans, programs, projects, and activities, in accordance with the needs of the governments of the Member States, to contribute to the achievement of the objectives of their agricultural development and rural welfare policies and programs;
- c.* To establish and maintain relations of cooperation and coordination with the Organization of American States and with other agencies or programs, and with governmental and nongovernmental entities that pursue similar objectives;
- d.* To act as an organ for consultation, technical execution, and administration of programs and projects in the agricultural sector, through agreements with the Organization of American States, or with national, inter-American, or international agencies and entities.

Chapter II. MEMBERS

Article 5. The Member States of the Institute shall be:

- a.* The Member States of the Organization of American States or of the Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences that ratify this Convention;
- b.* Other American states whose admission has been accepted by the affirmative vote of two thirds of the Member States on the Inter-American Board of Agriculture, and which accede to the present Convention.

Chapter III. THE ORGANS

Article 6. The Institute shall have the following organs:

- a.* The Inter-American Board of Agriculture;
- b.* The Executive Committee; and
- c.* The General Directorate.

Chapter IV. THE INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

Article 7. The Inter-American Board of Agriculture (hereinafter the Board) is the highest organ of the Institute, and shall be composed of all the Member States. The Government of each Member State shall appoint one representative, who shall preferably be connected with agricultural and rural development. Each Government may also appoint alternate representatives and advisers.

Article 8. The Board shall have the following functions:

- a.* To adopt measures related to the policy and action of the Institute, taking into account the proposals of the Member States and the recommendations of the General Assembly and the Councils of the Organization of American States;

- b. To approve the biennial program-budget and to determine the annual quotas of the Member States, by the affirmative vote of two thirds of its members;
- c. To serve as a forum for the exchange of ideas, information, and experience related to the improvement of agriculture and rural life;
- d. To decide on the admission of Member States, in accordance with Article 5, subparagraph (b);
- e. To elect the Member States that will compose the Executive Committee, in accordance with the principles of partial rotation and equitable geographic distribution;
- f. To elect the Director General and set his remuneration; to remove him by the vote of two thirds of the Member States, whenever the proper functioning of the Institute so demands;
- g. To consider the reports of the Executive Committee and of the Director General;
- h. To encourage cooperation between the Institute and other organizations, agencies, and entities that pursue analogous purposes; and
- i. To adopt its rules of procedure and the agenda for its meetings, and also the rules of procedure of the Executive Committee and the regulations of the General Directorate.

Article 9. The Board shall meet regularly every two years during the period determined by its rules of procedure and at a place selected in accordance with the principle of rotation. At each regular session the date and place of the next regular session shall be determined, in accordance with the rules of procedure. If no site is offered or the regular session cannot be held at the place chosen, the session shall be held at the headquarters of the Institute. However, if one of the Member States should make a timely offer of a site in its territory, the Executive Committee, whether in session, or acting through consultation of its members by correspondence, may agree, by the vote of a majority of its members, that the session be held at that place.

Article 10. In special circumstances, and at the request of one or more Member States, or of the Executive Committee, the Board may hold special sessions, for the convocation of which approval by the affirmative vote of two thirds of the Member States shall be required. In case the Board is not in session, the Director General shall consult the Member States by correspondence, concerning the request and shall convoke the Board if not less than two thirds of them are in agreement.

Article 11. The presence of the representatives of a majority of the Member States shall constitute a quorum. Each Member State is entitled to one vote.

Article 12. Decisions of the Board shall be taken by the vote of a majority of the representatives present, except as provided in Article 19, in which case the vote of a majority of the Member States is required, and also as provided in Articles 5 (b); 8 (b) and (f); 10; and 35, in which cases the vote of two thirds of the Member States is required.

Chapter V. THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Article 13. The Executive Committee (hereinafter the Committee) shall be composed of twelve Member States elected in accordance with Article 8, sub-

paragraph (e), for a two-year term. The Government of each elected State shall designate one representative, preferably connected with agricultural and rural development; it may also designate alternate representatives and advisers.

The Board shall determine, in its rules of procedure, the manner of designating the Member States whose representatives shall make up the Committee. A Member State that has concluded its term may not resume membership on the Committee before a period of two years has elapsed.

Article 14. The Committee shall have the following functions:

- a. To perform the functions that may be assigned to it by the Board;
- b. To examine the proposed biennial program-budget that the Director General submits to the Board and to make such observations and recommendations as it deems appropriate;
- c. To authorize the use of resources of the Working Capital Fund for special purposes;
- d. To act as the preparatory committee of the Board;
- e. To study and formulate comments and recommendations to the Board and to the General Directorate on matters of interest to the Institute;
- f. To recommend to the Board draft rules of procedure to govern its meetings and those of the Committee, as well as the draft regulations of the General Directorate; and
- g. To watch over the observance of the standards of the General Directorate.

Article 15. The Committee shall hold one regular meeting each year, at the headquarters of the Institute or at the place agreed upon at the preceding meeting. It may hold special meetings at the initiative of any Member State or at the request of the Director General, provided the proposal is approved by a majority of the Board, if it is in session, or by two thirds of the Committee, whose members may be consulted by correspondence.

Article 16. The Institute shall defray the travel expenses of one representative of each State that is a member of the Committee to participate in its regular meetings.

Article 17. The presence of the representatives of a majority of the States Members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum. The Committee shall take its decisions by the vote of a majority of its members, except as provided in Article 15. Each member is entitled to one vote.

Chapter VI. THE GENERAL DIRECTORATE

Article 18. The General Directorate shall exercise the functions established in this Convention and those assigned to it by the Board, and shall also perform the tasks entrusted to it by the Board and the Committee.

Article 19. The General Directorate shall be under the responsibility of the Director General, who shall be a national of one of the Member States, elected by the Board by the vote of a majority of the Member States, for a four-year term. He may be reelected only once and may not be succeeded by a person of the same nationality.

Article 20. The Director General, under the supervision of the Board, shall have the legal representation of the Institute, and the responsibility to administer the activities of the General Directorate in order to carry out its functions and obligations. The Director General shall have the following specific functions, which shall be performed in accordance with the standards and regulations of the Institute and the corresponding budgetary provisions:

- a. To administer the financial resources of the Institute, in accordance with the decisions of the Board;
- b. To determine the number of staff members; to regulate their powers, rights, and duties; to fix their remuneration; and to appoint and remove them, in accordance with the standards established by the Board or the Committee;
- c. To prepare the proposed biennial program-budget and to submit it to the Committee, and, with the observations and recommendations of the latter, to the Board;
- d. To present to the Board, or to the Committee in the years in which the Board does not meet, an annual report on the activities and financial condition of the Institute;
- e. To establish the relations for cooperation and coordination provided for in Article 4 (c) of this Convention; and
- f. To participate in the meetings of the Board and the Committee with voice but without vote.

Article 21. In selecting the personnel of the Institute, first consideration shall be given to efficiency, competence, and integrity; but at the same time, in the recruitment of international personnel of all ranks, importance shall be given to the necessity of obtaining as wide a geographic representation as possible.

Article 22. In the performance of their duties, the Director General and the personnel of the Institute shall not seek or receive instructions from any government or from any authority outside the Institute, and shall refrain from any action incompatible with their position as officers of an international organization, responsible only to the Institute.

Chapter VII. FINANCIAL RESOURCES

Article 23. The Member States shall contribute to the maintenance of the Institute through annual quotas established by the Board, in accordance with the system for calculating quotas of the Organization of American States.

Article 24. A Member State that is in arrears in the payment of its quotas for more than two complete fiscal years shall have its right to vote suspended in the Board and the Committee. However, the Board or the Committee may permit the Member State to vote if it considers that the failure to pay is due to circumstances beyond the control of that state.

Article 25. The Institute, *ad referendum* to the Committee, and through the Director General, may accept special contributions, legacies, bequests, or grants, provided that they are compatible with the nature, purposes, and standards of the Institute.

Chapter VIII. LEGAL CAPACITY, PRIVILEGES, AND IMMUNITIES

Article 26. The Institute shall enjoy, in the territory of each of its Member States, the legal capacity, privileges, and immunities necessary for the exercise of its functions and the accomplishment of its purposes.

Article 27. The representatives of the Member States at the meetings of the Board and of the Committee, as well as the Director General, shall enjoy the privileges and immunities corresponding to their positions and necessary for the independent performance of their duties.

Article 28. The juridical status of the Institute and the privileges and immunities that should be granted to it and to its personnel shall be determined in accordance with a multilateral agreement to be concluded among the Member States of the Organization of American States, or, when it is deemed necessary, in agreements concluded on a bilateral basis by the Institute with its Member States.

Article 29. In order to carry out its purposes, and in accordance with the laws in force in the Member States, the Institute may enter into and carry out contracts or agreements; hold funds, real property, movable property, and livestock; and purchase, sell, lease, improve, or operate any goods or property.

Chapter IX. HEADQUARTERS AND LANGUAGES

Article 30. The Institute shall have its headquarters in San José, Costa Rica, and may establish offices for purposes of technical cooperation in the Member States. The central office of the General Directorate shall be located in the headquarters of the Institute.

Article 31. The official languages of the Institute shall be English, French, Portuguese, and Spanish.

Chapter X. RATIFICATION AND ENTRY INTO FORCE

Article 32. This convention shall remain open for signature by the Member States of the Organization of American States or of the Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences. Any other American State may accede to it, in accordance with the provision set forth in Article 5, subparagraph (b), of this Convention.

Article 33. This Convention shall be ratified by the Signatory States in accordance with their respective constitutional procedures. This Convention as well as the instruments of ratification shall be delivered for deposit in the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States. The General Secretariat shall transmit certified copies of this Convention to the governments of the Signatory States and to the General Directorate of the Institute, and shall notify them of the deposit of each instrument of ratification or accession.

Article 34. This Convention shall enter into force among the States that ratify it when two thirds of the States Parties to the 1944 Convention on the Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences have deposited their respective instruments of ratification. It shall enter into force with respect to the remaining States when they deposit their respective instruments of ratification or accession.

Article 35. Amendments to this Convention shall be proposed to the Board, and for their approval, the affirmative vote of two thirds of the Member States shall be required. The approved amendments shall enter into force among the

ratifying States when two thirds of the Member States have deposited their respective instruments of ratification. They shall enter into force with respect to the remaining States when they deposit their respective instruments of ratification or accession.

Article 36. This Convention is of a permanent nature and shall remain in force for an indefinite period of time, but it may be denounced by any Member State by means of a notice delivered to the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States. The denunciation shall become effective one year after the corresponding notice and the Convention shall cease to be in force with respect to the denouncing State; however, it has to fulfill the obligations that arose from this Convention while it was in force with respect to said State.

Article 37. This Convention, the English, French, Portuguese, and Spanish texts of which are equally authentic, shall be registered with the Secretariat of the United Nations, in accordance with Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations, through the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States. The General Secretariat of the Organization of American States shall notify the Secretariat of the United Nations of the signatures, ratifications, accessions, amendments, or denunciations concerning the Convention.

Chapter XI. TRANSITORY PROVISIONS

Article 38. The rights and benefits, as well as the privileges and immunities that have been granted to the Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences and its personnel shall be extended to the Institute and its personnel. The Institute shall take possession of the assets and property belonging to the Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences and shall assume all the obligations the Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences has contracted.

Article 39. The Convention on the Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences, opened to signature by the American States on January 15, 1944, shall cease to be in force with respect to the States among which this Convention enters into force, but they shall remain committed to the fulfillment of any pending obligations that arose from the 1944 Convention. The 1944 Convention shall remain in force with respect to the remaining Member States of the Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences until they ratify this Convention.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned Plenipotentiaries, their full powers having been found in due and proper form, sign this Convention, which is in English, French, Portuguese, and Spanish, in Washington, D.C., United States of America, in representation of their respective States on the dates indicated next to their signatures.

Por la República Argentina:
For the Argentine Republic:
Pela República Argentina:
Pour la République argentine :

[JULIO CÉSAR CARASALES]¹
Marzo 6, 1979

Por Barbados:
For Barbados:
Por Barbados:
Pour la Barbade :

[OLIVER HAMLET JACKMAN]
March 6, 1979

Por Bolivia:
For Bolivia:
Pela Bolívia:
Pour la Bolivie :

[GONZALO ROMERO]
Marzo 6, 1979

Por Brasil:
For Brazil:
Pelo Brasil:
Pour le Brésil :

[ALARICO SILVEIRA JUNIOR]
6 de março de 1979

Por Canadá:
For Canada:
Pelo Canadá:
Pour le Canada :

[GAÉTAN LUSSIER]
March 6, 1979

Por Colombia:
For Colombia:
Pela Colômbia:
Pour la Colombie :

[CARLOS BERNAL TÉLLEZ]
Marzo 6, 1979

¹ The names of signatories appearing between brackets were not legible and have been supplied by the Organization of American States. — Les noms des signataires donnés entre crochets étaient illisibles et ont été fournis par l'Organisation des Etats américains.

Por Costa Rica:
For Costa Rica:
Por Costa Rica:
Pour Costa Rica :

[JOSÉ RAFAEL ECHEVERRÍA VILAFRANCA]
Marzo 6, 1979

Por Chile:
For Chile:
Pelo Chile:
Pour le Chili :

[PEDRO DAZA VALENZUELA]
Marzo 6, 1979

Por Ecuador:
For Ecuador:
Pelo Equador:
Pour l'Équateur :

[GALO LEORO]
Marzo 14, 1979

Por El Salvador:
For El Salvador:
Por El Salvador:
Pour El Salvador :

[SIDNEY MAZZINI VILLACORTA]
Marzo 6, 1979

Por los Estados Unidos de América:
For the United States of America:
Pelos Estados Unidos da América:
Pour les Etats-Unis d'Amérique :

[GALE W. MCGEE]
March 6, 1979

Por Granada:
For Grenada:¹
Por Grenada:
Pour la Grenade¹ :

Signature affixed on 21 November 1980 by Dessima Williams — Signature apposée le 21 novembre 1980 par Dessima Williams.

Por Guatemala:
For Guatemala:
Pela Guatemala:
Pour le Guatemala :

[ALFREDO GIL SPILLARI]
Marzo 6, 1979

Por Guyana:
For Guyana:
Pela Guiana:
Pour la Guyane :

[DENNIS H. GOUVEIA]
March 6, 1979

Por Haití:
For Haiti:
Pelo Haiti:
Pour Haïti :

[GEORGES SALOMON]
7 mars 1979

Por Honduras:
For Honduras:
Por Honduras:
Pour le Honduras :

[ANTONIO BERMÚDEZ-MILLA]
Marzo 6, 1979

Por Jamaica:
For Jamaica:
Pela Jamaica:
Pour la Jamaïque :

[ALFRED A. RATTRAY]
March 6, 1979

Por México:
For Mexico:
Pelo México:
Pour le Mexique :

ad referendum
[MARCELO VARGAS]
Marzo 6, 1979

Por Nicaragua:
For Nicaragua:
Pela Nicarágua:
Pour le Nicaragua :

[GUILLERMO SEVILLA SACASA]
Marzo 6, 1979

Por Panamá:
For Panama:
Pelo Panamá:
Pour Panama :

[JUAN ANTONIO TACK]
Marzo 6, 1979

Por Paraguay:
For Paraguay:
Pelo Paraguai:
Pour le Paraguay :

[MARIO LÓPEZ ESCOBAR]
Abril 4 de 1979

Por Perú:
For Peru:
Pelo Peru:
Pour le Pérou :

[LUIS MARCHAND STENS]
Marzo 6, 1979

Por la República Dominicana:
For the Dominican Republic:
Pela República Dominicana:
Pour la République dominicaine :

[ELADIO KNIPPING-VICTORIA]
Marzo 6, 1979

Por Suriname:
For Suriname:
Pelo Suriname:
Pour le Suriname :

Por Trinidad y Tobago:
For Trinidad and Tobago:
Por Trinidad e Tobago:
Pour la Trinité et Tobago :

[VICTOR CHRYSOSTOM MCINTYRE]
May 2, 1979

Por Uruguay:
For Uruguay:
Pelo Uruguai:
Pour l'Uruguay :

[FRANCISCO BUSTILLO]
Marzo 6, 1979

Por Venezuela:
For Venezuela:
Pela Venezuela:
Pour le Venezuela :

[JOSÉ MARÍA MACHÍN]
Marzo 6, 1979
