



## Initiative for Latin America and the Caribbean without Hunger (ALCSH)

### Parliamentarians want to combat hunger



Parliamentarians from all over Latin America and the Caribbean met on 3 and 4 September 2009, in Panama City to establish the **Frente Parlamentario contra el Hambre (Parliamentary Front Against Hunger (FPH))**. This effort was supported by the FAO Regional Office that is trying to promote Nutritional and Food Security laws in addition to formalise the Right to Food initiative by means of legislative work.

The launch was held in the context of the Interparliamentary Conference on 'Right to Food Security', an event jointly organized by the Latin American Parliament (Parlatino) and the Initiative for Latin America and the Caribbean without Hunger (ALCSH).

Senator Jorge Pizarro, Parlatino's Chairman, attended the event and explained that: "The most important thing, from the parliaments' point of view, is to monitor fiscal issues, to supervise and to follow-up on public policies implementation as well as on National programmes oriented to fight against hunger and to ensure food security, among other issues. It seems to me that this is part of our responsibility. We are those who approve budgets and we are authorized to exert this control to executives' action. This is important because malnourishment and hunger have life-long physical consequences. A hungry child will never have the same quality of education like a non-hungry child".

The Front will have two cores of work: firstly, bringing together the efforts of parliamentarians and members of congress, and members of national legislatures, regional and inter-American to prioritize the eradication of hunger in the public agenda; and secondly, to provide legal, institutional and financial means to do so. The FPH is organized at national, regional and continental level.

The Initiative for Latin America and the Caribbean without Hunger is an effort by the countries of the Region to eradicate malnutrition by 2025. It is financially supported by the **Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo (AECID)** (The Spanish Agency of International Development Cooperation) and its technical secretariat is hosted by the FAO Regional Office.