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TEMPLATE – SIDE EVENTS SUMMARIES

TWO PAGES MAXIMUM

Impact of the "Sembrando Vida" (Sowing Life) Program on Poverty Reduction in Mexico and Central America Side Event Summary

30 Jan 2024, 13:15 to 14:30 New York Time

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Background on the event (one paragraph)

The "*Sembrando Vida*" (Sowing Life) Program of the Government of Mexico's Secretariat of Welfare has played a role in achieving SDGs. Through the creation of permanent jobs and in collaboration with local governments throughout the country, this program aims to rescue farming in the countryside, promote reforestation, reactivate the local economy, regenerate the community's social fabric, and build sustainable communities. Likewise, its implementation in Central America brings in a regional and cooperation perspective.

With the aim of promoting Central America's economic development, self-consumption, exporting of products and safeguarding of natural resources, the enrollment of growers and farmers began in Honduras in April 2021 through the Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation (AMEXCID).

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

- Undersecretary of Productive Inclusion and Rural Development, Raúl Paulín Hernandez, the *Sembrando Vida* Coordinator, explained how the program serves two main issues: rural poverty and environmental degradation, supported by a comprehensive vision including collective work, self-employment, sustainable production and food self-sufficiency as aims. The program benefits 441,466 growers in 24 states, who receive technical support and monitoring. This program positively impacts SDG 1 (No poverty), SDG 2 (Zero hunger), SDG 5 (Gender equality), SDG 8 (Decent work and economic growth), SDG 10 (Reduced Inequality), SDG 12 (Responsible consumption and production) and SDG 15 (Life on land).

- AMEXCID's Gloria Salas shared how, through the agency, Mexico's social projects are implemented in third countries with the aim of deepening international cooperation, and promoting social welfare initiatives. The program comprises Honduras and El Salvador, but research extends to Colombia, Venezuela, Guatemala, Cuba and Ecuador, and it has three components: economic support, specialized support for agricultural production with plants, supplies and tools, and technical support.

- Rodolfo Pastor, from Honduras' Government, thanked the Mexican president for collaborating with Central America and addressing the root causes for migration comprehensively. Collaboration in the region and focusing efforts on farms as an engine of development is very important for Honduras.
- Finally, representatives of Café Galti, shared their experience as beneficiaries of *Sembrando Vida*. They live in Tepehua, Hidalgo, Mexico and they grow coffee following the program's principles: promoting reforestation, reactivating the local economy, regenerating the community's social fabric, and building sustainable communities. They have also enabled partnerships with other states like Puebla, Chiapas and Veracruz to foster good practices.

Key recommendations for action (5 - 6 bullet points)

- The program aims to operate at the constitutional level to achieve national coverage, with laws that protect agro-ecology and respect for biodiversity.
- The objective at the regional level in Central America is for people to take ownership of the program and work closely with the governments. Furthermore, regarding international cooperation, Mexico seeks to create partnerships with other agencies to export this project to other countries.
- Three main factors are at the center if this program: community work, technical advice and support, and crops being chosen based on the community's agro-climate vocation.
- In order to complete one cycle and assure that the current beneficiaries will go out of poverty, this program needs to continue for two more years at least.
- Café Galti mentioned that their vision of the future includes strengthening regional cooperatives, fostering environmental protection, and reducing misinformation in the value chain.