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Instituto Nacional de Carnes

STATEMENT

Montevideo, 18th de February 2021

To whom it may concern:

In recent days, during an interview by a renowned media outlet, entrepreneur Bill Gates stated that meat production is the cause of a 'climate disaster that causes global warming and will leave more deaths than the Covid-19 pandemic', at the same time promoting his enterprises of lab-made substitutes.

We reject this statement for being reckless and unfounded, since there is no scientific evidence that proves such fact. Neither is it acceptable that things can be generalized or the cattle industry be pointed out as the source of such effects, while calculations of the meat sector's greenhouse gas emissions have been adjusted downwards as stricter research results have been published.

Bill Gates's technologycal enterprises hire a number of law firms around the globe in order to control, in their own right, the payment of user licenses, in defense of intellectual property and against piracy.

However, at the same time, he promotes the products of lab companies that imitate meat, and of which he is a shareholder, pretending to gain the benefits and attributes of a millenary industry, but insulting it by unjustifiably associating it with an environmental damage.

This is a deliberate scam to consumers by naming 'meat' a product that must not be named as such, and it is for this reason that INAC, respecting the number one instruction of its Strategic Plan that prompts the defense of the meat chains before the public opinion, submitted to the Executive Power the proposal that the parliament passed as law.

We are not against this product, or consider these initiatives a threat. We respect consumers that choose that option, but we will defend ourselves from unfounded attacks and will claim the right to demand that names be respected, rejecting any attempt at generic appropriation with the trickery of a false benefit.

Name it as you wish, but it is not meat!

We share part of the statements of Mr. Gates regarding the concern with the sustainability of production processes in the cattle industry, and we appreciate the recent support received through the purchase of carbon credits from an Australian ranch that uses rotational grazing systems.

To these effects, we will invite Bill Gates to visit Uruguay, a country with over 400 years of experience in the cattle industry based on natural pastures, and wich is an example of sustainability. A sector cannot be accused in general, without respecting tens of thousands of farmers who, generation after generation, have received and taught a lifestyle based in the legacy of taking care of the natural resources that nature gives us, and that we must pass on to next generations in the best possible way.

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