



**ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES**  
Inter-American Council for Integral Development  
(CIDI)



**SECOND MEETING OF MINISTERS AND HIGH  
AUTHORITIES ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT  
IN THE CIDI FRAMEWORK**

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**DECLARATION OF SANTO DOMINGO FOR  
THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE AMERICAS**

(Adopted during the eighth plenary session held on November 19, 2010 and  
subject to review by the Style Committee)

1. WE, THE MINISTERS AND HIGH-LEVEL AUTHORITIES RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE AMERICAS, gathered in the city of Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, from November 17-19, 2010, on the occasion of the Second Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities on Sustainable Development in the framework of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI), reaffirm our commitment to sustainable development,

2. RECOGNIZING that human beings are at the center of concerns for sustainable development, that they are entitled to a healthy and productive life in harmony with nature, and that poverty eradication is an integral part of sustainable development;

2bis. RECOGNIZING ALSO that Mother Earth is a common expression for the planet earth in a number of countries and regions, which reflects the interdependence that exists among human beings, other living species and the planet we all inhabit;

2ter. RECOGNIZING that the constitutional legislative principles and jurisprudence of the member states reflect the view of each country on the relationship between human beings and nature;

3. RECOGNIZING the different levels of development and economic, social and environmental vulnerability of the states of the Hemisphere, the wealth of their ecosystems and their biological and cultural diversity, as well as the need to work in a spirit of solidarity to ensure that strategies, policies, plans, and programs are mutually supportive and contribute to sustainable development, to the eradication of hunger and poverty and to peace and democracy in the Americas;

4. NOTING the economic, social, and environmental benefits from the sustainable management of natural resources, including those arising from access the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge;

4bis. WELCOMING the decision of the United Nations General Assembly to organize a United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio +20), to be held in Rio de Janeiro, in 2012, and reiterating the full support and commitment of all the countries in the region to the success of the Conference, with a view to achieving a focused political document and to encouraging high level participation;

4ter. RECOGNIZING that tackling sustainable development challenges calls for comprehensive approaches to strengthen public-private partnerships, within our countries and at a regional level, on key issues such as sustainable production and consumption and social responsibility, to address the economic, social, and environmental aspects in a balanced manner;

CONSIDERING:

5. The regional, subregional, and international commitments adopted by member states related to sustainable development,<sup>1/</sup> as well as those adopted by member states during the 2000 United Nations Millennium Summit;

5bis. That to eradicate hunger and poverty, especially extreme poverty, create dignified and decent work, and raise the standard of living of all our people, we must promote sustainable economic development and socially- and environmentally-responsible business practices, through equity, social inclusion, and active participation of all sectors, ensuring the creation and strengthening of capacity-building of the population;

5ter. That the positive contribution of trade among our nations to the promotion of growth, employment and development depends on the continued insistence on an open, transparent and rules-based multilateral trading system; we further recognize the need for all our peoples to benefit from the increased opportunities and welfare gains that the multilateral trading system generates;<sup>2/</sup>

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1. The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 (Agenda 21 and the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development); the Summit of the Americas on Sustainable Development, held in Santa Cruz de la Sierra in 1996 (Declaration and Plan of Action); the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Johannesburg in 2002 (Declaration and its Plan of Implementation); the First Meeting of Ministers of Sustainable Development in the framework of CIDI, held in Santa Cruz de la Sierra in 2006 (Declaration of Santa Cruz + 10 and the Inter-American Program for Sustainable Development (PIDS) (2006-2009)); the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, held in Kobe, Hyogo in 2005 (Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015); the Fifth Summit of the Americas, held in Port of Spain in 2009 (Declaration of Commitment of Port of Spain); Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, among others, as applicable.

2. The Delegation of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela does not support this paragraph as they believe that market liberalization in its current form does not speak to the interests of the peoples of the world, and widens the inequality and social inclusion divides. We propose a reorientation of the international trading system towards a multilateral trading system that is more just and equitable and incorporates the principles of solidarity, cooperation, complementarity, and respect for the sovereignty of peoples.

6. That the Heads of State and Government of the Americas, gathered in Port of Spain during the Fifth Summit of the Americas, renewed their support for the Inter-American Program for Sustainable Development (PIDS) (2006-2009) and gave instructions for the Second Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities on Sustainable Development to be held in 2010, under the auspices of the Organization of American States (OAS), with the collaboration of relevant international organizations and financial and development institutions and with the participation of the academic community and other members of civil society, in order to assess the achievements of the PIDS to date and renew or modify the it, as necessary;

7. That the Convention on Nature Protection and Wildlife Preservation in the Western Hemisphere, signed in October 1940, within the framework of the Pan-American Union, has been a pioneering instrument in the establishment of national protected area systems in its State Parties, and that we commemorate in 2010 the seventieth anniversary of its signing and the International Year of Biodiversity 2010;

8. That the Heads of State and Government of the Americas, gathered in Port of Spain during the Fifth Summit of the Americas, instructed the relevant ministers or pertinent high-level authorities, in collaboration with the specialized national, regional, and international disaster-management organizations, to strengthen cooperation within the Americas in the areas of disaster risk reduction and management. The General Secretariat has also been instructed to collaborate with member states to implement the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015; and

9. That the Heads of State and Government of the Americas, gathered in Port of Spain during the Fifth Summit of the Americas, reaffirmed their commitment to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its objectives,

DECLARE THAT:

10. Unsustainable production and consumption patterns result in complex challenges to sustainable development and human well being; and also, the deterioration of the goods and services provided by ecosystems has an impact on economies and on the livelihoods of the communities that depend on them and affects their capacity for resilience.<sup>3/4/</sup>

11. Poverty eradication is a fundamental goal of sustainable development, given the links between vulnerability, poverty, inequity, environmental degradation, and disasters.

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3. The Eastern Republic of Uruguay, the Republic of Guatemala, and the Republic of Colombia believe that soil degradation is recognized as one of the major challenges to the environment and sustainable development worldwide for the twenty-first century and, in particular, for countries of the Americas whose economies are based on agricultural production.

4. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela places on record its reservation to the inclusion of the term “*goods and services*” in paragraphs 10 and 26, and to paragraph 44, subparagraph b, which reads “developing environmental, social, and cultural valuation programs and payment or recognition for ecosystem services,” as it believes that their intent is to make nature and the environment market objects and tradable goods.

12. The importance of the commitment to reduce the loss of biodiversity in accordance with the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Millennium Development Goals and the International Year of Biodiversity 2010.

13. The integrated management of ecosystems is vital for climate change adaptation and for the social and economic well-being of all countries. Particularly of those with low-lying coastal areas such as Small Island Developing States, those of the tropical isthmus, as well as of those with fragile mountainous ecosystems or with risk of desertification and prolonged droughts

14. Member states recognize that water is fundamental for life and basic for socioeconomic development and environmental sustainability; and that integrated water management and non-discriminatory and equitable access of the population to potable water and sanitation services, contributes to the full enjoyment of life and human rights.

14bis. Member states, commit to continue working to guarantee the access to potable water and sanitation services for present and future generations, based on their national realities. ***(Paragraph to be placed after current paragraph 29)***

15. Energy is essential for improving the standard of living of our peoples and that access to energy is of fundamental importance to economic growth with equity and social inclusion.

16. That deep cuts in emissions of greenhouse gases and measuring progress in mitigation is necessary in order to achieve, in the context of the negotiation process of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the ultimate goal and principles of that Convention, to protect the climate system for the benefit of present and future generations of humankind, on the basis of equity and in accordance with our common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.

17. The Inter-American networks established within the framework of the OAS are of great relevance as tools to promote cooperation, and the exchange of experiences with respect to integrated water resources management, renewable energy, biodiversity information, disaster risk management, climate change adaptation, and environmental law and to promote synergies with other pertinent sub regional mechanisms.

**\*[Current paragraph 19bis to be placed here.]**

18. It is important to encourage dialogue and regional cooperation, as well as public-private partnerships, *inter alia*, in order to consolidate the existing hemispheric mechanisms for the promotion and strengthening of policies, legislation, institutional transparency, and other mechanisms that foster equity, equal rights and opportunities, social inclusion, public participation, and sound public administration.

19. The need to measure progress in the achievement of the sustainable development goals and commitments established in the context of the OAS.

19bis. The need to incorporate comprehensive disaster risk management into the public agenda of the states and to promote international and regional coordination to respond, in a coordinated, effective, and efficient manner, to emergency situations. *(Paragraph to be placed after current paragraph 17)*

WE ADOPT THE FOLLOWING ACTION INITIATIVES:

20. To extend the Inter-American Program for Sustainable Development (PIDS) for the period 2010-2014 and to urge the Inter-American Committee on Sustainable Development (CIDS) to initiate a process for its revision and update, taking into consideration the assessment of PIDS presented to member states and the recommendations and directions provided by this Declaration.

21. To entrust the General Secretariat of the OAS, within the framework of its mandates, and in coordination with other entities and international organizations, with promoting the mobilization of resources and facilitating technical assistance to advance effective implementation of this Declaration, the Inter-American Program for Sustainable Development (PIDS), and the Declaration of Santa Cruz + 10.

22. To promote inter-American dialogue on sustainable development and convene regular meetings of the Inter-American Committee on Sustainable Development (CIDS) in order to support and evaluate the execution of the Inter-American Program for Sustainable Development (PIDS), as well as to follow up on the various decisions arising out of the Summit of the Americas and this ministerial process on sustainable development.

23. To entrust the CIDS with identifying options for measuring progress made in the advancements of sustainable development processes in a comparative manner at a hemispheric level taking into account available sources of data, avoiding duplication and promoting synergies with the existing mechanisms that address this issue, as appropriate.

24. To promote sustainable development of all productive sectors in the Hemisphere.<sup>5/</sup>

25. To reinvigorate support for State Parties to the Convention on Nature Protection and Wildlife Preservation in the Western Hemisphere in the implementation of this Convention.

26. To promote strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of water resources and border ecosystems and the ecosystem goods and services they provide as a contribution to sustainable development.<sup>6/</sup>

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5. The Eastern Republic of Uruguay believes that integrated land use approaches that incorporate a conservation perspective and sustainable use of biodiversity into the process of land use and soil management planning should be promoted.

6. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela places on record its reservation to the inclusion of the term “*goods and services*” in paragraphs 10 and 26, and to paragraph 44, subparagraph b, which reads “developing environmental, social, and cultural valuation programs and payment or recognition for ecosystem services,” as it believes that their intent is to make nature and the environment market objects and tradable goods.

26bis. To identify and develop strategies, based on an approach to ecosystems and landscapes, at different scales to build partnerships and synergies within as well as between and among countries and to make science accessible to decision makers and those who promote integrated policies for conservation and sustainable use of natural resources and climate change adaptation.

27. To promote the sustainable use of natural resources, including cooperation and the exchange of experiences and lessons learned, promoting adaptation practices that consider the increase in hydrological and climate variability to meet the needs of the population, the productive sectors, and ecosystems.

28. To foster and implement regional initiatives to promote the strengthening of capacities for the development of effective integrated management ecosystem policies and their adaptation to climate change. Particularly, of those with low-lying coastal area such as Small Island Developing States, those of the tropical isthmus, as well as those with fragile mountainous ecosystems or with risk of desertification and prolonged droughts.

29. To promote integrated water resource, soil, and forest management, in the context of increased hydrological and climatic variability as a fundamental tool to enable a rational and sustainable use of these resources in the agriculture and forest sectors, as well as risk reduction.

**\*[Current paragraph 14bis to be placed here.]**

30. To support the efforts of member states and pertinent organizations to quantify, monitor, and systematically observe water resources for planning and decision-making purposes at the local, national, and regional levels.

31. To foster improved environmental performance of productive sectors in countries of the Hemisphere, promoting sustainable production and consumption patterns, through, among others, the establishment of public-private partnerships and the use of appropriate incentives to this end.

32. To encourage efforts toward developing cleaner, more affordable, and renewable and sustainable energy systems to promote access to energy and energy efficient technologies and practices in households and in the public and private sectors.

33. To foster partnership in the promotion of the use of cleaner, more efficient, renewable and non-renewable energy sources, energy efficiency, and energy interconnection schemes, *inter alia*, through the Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas (ECPA), Petrocaribe, the Central American Electrical Interconnection System (SIEPAC), the Mesoamerican Energy initiative, and the Initiative for the Integration of Regional Infrastructure in South America (IIRSA), considering the needs and particular priorities of each of our countries.

33.bis. Promote the use of means and systems of transport that make sustainable and efficient use of energy.

34. To strengthen the capacity of member states to integrate strategic environmental assessment, risk management and vulnerability assessment in land use planning for development planning and mitigation and adaptation to climate change, contributing to the resilience of cities, communities, and ecosystems.

**\*[Current paragraph 39 to be placed here.]**

35. To promote regional and subregional cooperation and institutional capacity-building and strengthening, and adoption at the national level of multi-hazard early warning systems, including community-centered early warning systems, making use of available information and data, knowledge, and appropriate technologies.

36. To encourage and support member states in implementing the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, to comply with the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015 guidelines, oriented to reduce vulnerabilities and strengthening the resilience of communities, especially by incorporating risk reduction in public investment, the strengthening of legal and institutional frameworks, and the creation, strengthening, and national enforcement of multiple hazards building codes when appropriate.

36bis. To promote the adoption of relevant policies and practices and capacity building programs for the rehabilitation of ecosystems and the reconstruction of infrastructure that enhance communities' resilience to disasters.

36ter. To encourage the work of the working group of OAS member states on the coordination of actions for disaster prevention, preparedness, response and rehabilitation, as well as facilitation of standards necessary to enable timely, effective, efficient and responsive delivery of humanitarian assistance and instruct the CIDS to collect and track the results of that working group. It is also proposed to strengthen the Inter-American Committee on Natural Disaster Reduction (IACNDR).

37. **[Paragraph deleted]**

38. **[Paragraph deleted]**

38bis. To strengthen synergies, coordination, and cooperation among the regional, subregional, and international humanitarian assistance mechanisms and initiatives, in order to optimize resources and increase our disaster management and response capabilities.

39. To support member states, as requested, in institutional strengthening and in the design and implementation of strategies, plans, and tools for mitigation and adaptation to climate change in regional, national, sub-national, and local, as applicable, and ecosystem levels of planning for sustainable development, as well as in identifying its costs and scale of priorities including related cost evaluation and priority setting. *(Paragraph to be placed after the current paragraph 34)*

40. To support further dialogue and cooperation leading up to and at the XVI Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 16) and the VI Conference of Parties as Meeting of Parties of the Kyoto Protocol, to be held in the Hemisphere, in Cancun, Mexico and to support the Government of Mexico as incoming Chair of the Conferences,

and express our utmost commitment to strengthen cooperation in order to reach an ambitious, inclusive, balanced, and transparent outcome under the UNFCCC pursuant to the 2007 Bali Action Plan.

41. To encourage the further development of efficient, transparent and accountable channels for delivery and mobilization of financing from public and private sources, including when appropriate, and keeping with applicable constitutional principles and national legislation, carbon markets or other modalities for the implementation of effective mitigation and adaptation actions.<sup>7/</sup>

42. To continue strengthening cooperation between Member States on matters relating to the sustainable and comprehensive management of forests, emphasizing, among others, enhanced action under the UNFCCC.

43. To continue to strengthen the exchange of information, experiences, best practices and lessons learned in member states on integrated water resources management, sustainable energy, biodiversity, sustainable land management, disaster risk management, climate change adaptation, and policies, strategies and legal and institutional frameworks on sustainable development, through inter-American networks established in the framework of the OAS on these issues

44. To continue to promote sustainable development through partnerships for development in accordance with applicable constitutional principles, national legislation and international law, in the areas of human and institutional capacity building, transfer, on mutually-agreed terms, of environmentally sound technologies, and effective mobilization of all appropriate financial resources, including new and additional resources, as appropriate, for, among others:

- a. **[deleted]**
- b. Developing environmental, social, and cultural valuation programs and payment or recognition for ecosystem services in the national context, when appropriate.<sup>8/</sup>
- c. promoting initiatives for the prevention of illegal trafficking of species of flora and fauna, the conservation of migratory species, and efforts to minimize the impact of invasive alien species;
- d. **[deleted]**

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7. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela expresses its reservation to the contents of paragraph 41 and, accordingly, issues the following explanation: Carbon markets are not part of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and we therefore categorically reject the attempt by some countries to use carbon markets, thus distorting the spirit of the Convention in order to provide, furthermore, sources of financing for mitigation and adaptation efforts of developing countries, since funding commitments are from states and must therefore come from public funds. Our national position, and that of a number of developing countries, has been that markets cannot be created under the Convention as said legal instrument has no provision for them.

8. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela places on record its reservation to the inclusion of the term “*goods and services*” in paragraphs 10 and 26, and to paragraph 44, subparagraph b, which reads “developing environmental, social, and cultural valuation programs and payment or recognition for ecosystem services,” as it believes that their intent is to make nature and the environment market objects and tradable goods.

- e. strengthening the management and mechanisms to exchange information on best practices for the sound management of chemicals, pollutants and waste, including the introduction of programs of public awareness;
- f. **[deleted]**
- g. **[deleted]**
- h. **[deleted]**
- i. **[deleted]**
- j. implementing multilateral environmental agreements under a synergy framework, as well as bilateral and regional agreements; and
- k. other initiatives included in the present Declaration, when appropriate.

45. To promote the strengthening and effective application and enforcement of national environmental laws, taking into account international law and our sustainable development priorities

46. To promote citizen and public participation as a key element in the sustainable development policy decision-making process and to support member states' efforts to implement the Inter-American Strategy for the Promotion of Public Participation in Decision-Making for Sustainable Development (ISP).

47. To contribute to the mainstreaming of respect for cultural values, gender equality and equity, and commitment to the Millennium Development Goals in projects and programs for sustainable development in the Hemisphere.

48. To promote a new culture of sustainable development based on the harmony between economic, social, and environmental issues through awareness campaigns and education of the population, with emphasis on children and youth.

48bis. To promote the participation of communities, in accordance with national legislation and realities, to foster greater social, economic, and environmental well being by facilitating financing for programs, projects, and initiatives that generate alternative sources of work and income.

49. To recognize that the results of the virtual forum and consultations with civil society and other social actors that took place in Saint Lucia, Argentina, Costa Rica, and the Dominican Republic, as well as consultations with the private sector, have been important contributions to this Declaration

50. To express our appreciation for the hospitality and warm welcome of the people and the Government of the Dominican Republic on the occasion of the Second Meeting of Ministers and High Level Authorities on Sustainable Development in the framework of CIDI and for the excellent leadership and organization of the meeting.

51. We, the Ministers and High Level Authorities on Sustainable Development of the Americas, hereby approve the contents of this "Declaration of Santo Domingo for the Sustainable Development of the Americas", on November 19, 2010.