



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



**FIRST PREPARATORY MEETING FOR THE
SECOND MEETING OF MINISTERS AND HIGH-LEVEL
AUTHORITIES ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
IN THE FRAMEWORK OF CIDI**

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

(Presented by the delegation of the Dominican Republic)

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 October 6-8, 2010, reaffirm our commitment to sustainable development,

2. RECOGNIZING the different levels of development, the vulnerability of the states of the Hemisphere, especially small island developing states (SIDS), the wealth of the ecosystems and biological and cultural diversity of the Hemisphere, and the need to work in a spirit of solidarity to ensure that economic, social, and environment policies are mutually supportive and conducive to sustainable development;

CONSIDERING:

3. The sustainable development commitments adopted in the framework of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 (Agenda 21 and Declaration of Rio de Janeiro on Environment and Development); the Summit of the Americas on Sustainable Development, held in Santa Cruz de la Sierra in 1996 (Declaration and its Plan of Action); the 2000 United Nations Millennium Summit and its Millennium Development Goals; the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Johannesburg in 2002 (Declaration and its Plan

of Implementation); the Declaration of Santa Cruz+10; and the Declaration of Commitment of Port of Spain, among others;

4. 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 Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities on Sustainable Development to be held in 2010, under the auspices of the OAS, with the collaboration of relevant international organizations and international financial and development institutions and with the participation of the academic community and other members of civil society;

5. That the Declaration of Commitment of Port of Spain calls for special attention to the most vulnerable areas; and

6. That the outcomes of consultations with civil society, the private sector, and other social actors, as well as the virtual forum, have provided valuable important inputs to this Declaration,

DECLARE THAT:

7. We reaffirm the commitments assumed at the First Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities on Sustainable Development, held in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, from December 4 to 5, 2006, regarding the sustainable development of water resources, disasters and sustainable forest management, sustainable agriculture, and sustainable tourism, as well as cross-cutting issues to sustainable development.

8. We recognize that population growth, urbanization, production and consumption patterns, and certain subsidies pose complex challenges for sustainable development and human wellbeing.

9. We recognize that the resilience and capacity of ecosystems is being affected by climate change and the occurrence of phenomena such as floods, drought, fires, ocean acidification, and sea level rise; as well as by changes in land use and over-exploitation of resources.

10. We recognize that the water resource of the Hemisphere is determined by both changes in water supply associated with increasing climate variability and changes in demand driven by socio-economic and environmental factors.
11. We recognize that deterioration of the goods and services provided by ecosystems has an impact on local economies and on the livelihoods of the communities that depend on them.
12. We affirm that, in order to guarantee an improved quality of life for present and future generations in the Americas, it is of the utmost importance to ensure efficient and equitable water management, as well as appropriate protection of this vital resource.
13. We affirm the importance of the commitment to achieve a significant reduction in the loss of biodiversity by 2020, as a contribution to the mitigation of poverty and to the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals.
14. We recognize the Convention for the Protection of Flora, Fauna and Natural Scenic Beauty of the Americas, signed in October 1940 within the framework of the Pan American Union, as a pioneering instrument for the establishment of national protected area systems in its member states, and, we commemorate in 2010 the seventieth anniversary of its signing and the International Year of Biodiversity.
15. We reiterate the need to conduct vulnerability assessments and to strengthen capacity to implement effective policies for coastal zone management and adaptation to climate change.
16. We reaffirm our commitment to progress toward the design of energy matrices with a higher clean energy components and to lower our dependence on fossil fuels in order to reduce the impact of climate change on the region.
17. We recognize the importance of dialogue and regional cooperation in order to promote and strengthen policies, legislation, and mechanisms that foster equal opportunities, public participation, and sound public administration as essential elements of sustainable development.

18. We recognize the need to devise indicators to measure progress toward achievement of the goals and commitments established in the area of sustainable development and adaptation to climate change.

19. We reiterate the importance of the inter-American networks established within the OAS framework for North-South, South-South, and triangular cooperation, as well as the exchange of experiences with respect to integrated water resource management, sustainable energy, biodiversity, natural phenomena risk management, and environmental law.

20. We recognize the links between poverty, different forms of inequity, environmental degradation, natural hazards, and increased adverse natural phenomena.

21. We reiterate the importance of the Inter-American Committee on Natural Disaster Reduction (ICNDR), the Inter-American Strategic Plan for Policies on Risk Reduction, Risk Management, and Disaster Response (IASP), and the Inter-American Network for Disaster Mitigation (INDM) as the principal mechanisms for regional cooperation and the sharing of experiences.

22. We affirm our commitment to strengthen policies and strategies for reducing the risk to adverse natural phenomena through an integrated approach within the sustainable development framework that takes into account the impacts of climate change.

23. We reiterate the importance of public-private partnerships for achieving sustainable development in the Hemisphere.

24. We recognize that land use planning is the fundamental and essential platform for sustainable economic, social, environmental and cultural development.

WE RESOLVE THE FOLLOWING INITIATIVES FOR ACTION:

25. To renew the Inter-American Program for Sustainable Development (PIDS) (2006-2009) for the 2010-2014 period.

26. 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 for the execution of plans, programs, and projects that advance implementation of the Inter-American Program for Sustainable Development (PIDS) (2006-2009) and the following initiatives that complement the PIDS:

I. FOLLOW-UP TO THE DECLARATION OF SANTA CRUZ + 10

27. To continue supporting the efforts of member states to implement the initiatives for action established in the Declaration of Santa Cruz + 10.

II. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTER-AMERICAN PROGRAM FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (PIDS):

28. To develop hemispheric strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of ecosystems and for building capacity to develop programs for the valuation and compensation of ecosystem services.

29. To support coordination in the management of migratory species, ecosystem connectivity, and ecosystem-based management of national parks and equivalent protected areas in border areas, using value added information, such as that generated by the Inter-American Biodiversity Information Network (IABIN), the Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative (WHMSI), and the Regional Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of High Andean Wetlands, as well as the establishment and development of biological corridors.

30. To promote in the member states activities to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the signing of the Convention for the Protection of Flora, Fauna and Natural Scenic Beauty of the Americas.

31. To foster valuation, conservation and coastal marine-coastal ecosystems restoration programs including through cost recovery mechanisms, such as conservation funds.

32. To support and promote initiatives for preventing illegal trafficking in species of flora, fauna, and wood and to encourage conservation and the sustainable use of biodiversity by developing ecosystem goods and services that provide alternative sources of income for local communities.
33. To foster energy interconnection systems to enhance regional energy security and independence.
34. To promote the use of means of transport and public transportation systems that are energy efficient or use alternative sources of energy.
35. To foster partnership for development in the promotion of renewable sources of energy and energy efficiency through the Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas (ECPA) and other initiatives.
36. To support the efforts of the member states to develop policies, legislation, and regulatory measures that encourage the use of sustainable energy and energy efficiency as mechanisms for addressing the challenges associated with economic growth and environmental degradation.
37. To collaborate with cooperation efforts designed to strengthen institutional capacity and legislation on sustainable development and the environment in order to ensure its effective enforcement.
38. To strengthen the exchange of information and experiences of member states regarding policies, strategies, and legal and institutional frameworks for sustainable development, through the Inter-American Forum on Environmental Law (FIDA).
39. To support the member states' efforts to meet the commitments taken on in regional and multilateral agreements and to incorporate the economic, social, environmental, and cultural dimensions in sustainable development decisions.
40. To promote 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).

III. VULNERABILITY IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

41. To consider, when developing plans, programs, and projects, that disorderly urban sprawl, poverty, and climate change exacerbate vulnerability in the Hemisphere.

42. To assist countries with analysis of vulnerabilities related to climate change and identify ways to strengthen the legal and institutional frameworks that help reduce such vulnerabilities.

43. To promote regional and subregional cooperation for development and the strengthening of community-centered early warning systems, especially those focusing on communities at high risk of floods, forest fires, hurricanes, earthquakes, mudslides, droughts, and tsunamis.

44. To foster the exchange of knowledge and coordination on forest ecosystems and the surface and groundwater water resources located in border areas in the Americas.

45. To take into account variations and trends in water demand and availability to satisfy the needs of the population, the productive sectors, and ecosystems.

46. To support the development of initiatives that permit identification and consideration of the systemic vulnerabilities of the countries of the Hemisphere in decision-making regarding sustainable development, in areas such as infrastructure, ecosystem goods and services, and institutionality.

IV. RISK MANAGEMENT IN PLANNING

47. To identify and foster the use of best practices in sustainable management of natural resources that also yield economic and social benefits.

48. To continue supporting the efforts of countries and pertinent organizations to quantify, monitor, and systematically observe water resources for planning purposes and for decision-making at the local, national, and regional levels.
49. To promote integrated water and forest resource management in a context of hydroclimatic variations as a fundamental tool for balanced, rational, and sustainable use of water, without harming future generations.
50. To foster sustainable production and consumption, *inter alia* through initiatives that reduce waste in productive processes and strengthen competitiveness.
51. To promote the use of innovative tools and mechanisms for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystem goods and services.
52. To foster investment in risk management and the incorporation of risk management strategies in the planning and execution of local and national development policies.
53. To support efforts by member states to incorporate land-use planning into their public policies.
54. To promote the incorporation of strategic environmental assessment and risk management in land-use planning.
55. To promote the adoption and enforcement of multiple-hazard construction standards and quality control mechanisms in the construction industry.
56. To promote the adoption of ecosystem rehabilitation and reconstruction practices that enhance the resiliency of communities and of economic infrastructure to withstand natural disasters.
57. To support member states' efforts to strengthen their legal and institutional frameworks for risk management and planning.

58. To promote a review of mutual assistance protocols and to disseminate in OAS member states the mechanisms established in the Inter-American Convention to Facilitate Disaster Assistance.

59. To strengthen the Inter-American Committee on Natural Disaster Reduction and to invite relevant subregional and intergovernmental organizations to join it, such as: the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), the Coordination Center for the Prevention of Natural Disasters in Central America (CEPREDENAC), the Andean Committee for Disaster Prevention and Relief (CAPRADE), the specialized meeting of MERCOSUR on Socio-Natural Disaster Risk Reduction and Humanitarian Assistance (REHU), and the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR).

V. INSTITUTIONAL AND MANAGEMENT ASPECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

60. To assist member states with the development of tools to facilitate or expedite the across-the-board incorporation of climate change mitigation and adaptation at the different levels of (national, subnational, and local) sustainable development planning, and with the strengthening of their institutions.

61. To assist member states, especially the small island developing states (SIDS), with the design and implementation of climate change adaptation plans and with identifying the costs and priorities associated with them, in view of the opportunities of assistance with fresh and additional financial resources for sustainable development and adaptation to climate change.

62. To generate and/or modify innovative financial instruments for reducing the risk of disasters and increasing resilience to climate change, especially for vulnerable communities living in extreme poverty.

63. To facilitate the exchange of information among member states regarding experiences, technologies, goods, and services that help mitigate, and adapt to, climate change.

64. To strengthen the exchange of information, knowledge, and experience of natural disaster risk reduction and adaptation to climate change through the Inter-American Network for Disaster Mitigation and its hemispheric encounters for sharing lessons learned and best practices.

65. To support countries' efforts to establish public private partnerships, create incentives, and channel financial resources to address the challenges of climate change in the Hemisphere.

VI. CROSSCUTTING ISSUES

66. To foster synergies among member states with respect to national compliance with and enforcement of global and regional environmental agreements.

67. To promote sound public administration, emphasizing access to information, accountability, and transparency at all levels of government and in all segments of society, by fostering public participation in accordance with the principles of the Inter-American Strategy for the Promotion of Public Participation in Decision-Making for Sustainable Development (ISP).

68. To foster cooperation with public, private, and civil society organizations in sustainable development initiatives.

69. To contribute to the mainstreaming of cultural values, gender equity, and the commitments undertaken with regard to the Millennium Development Goals in projects and programs for the sustainable development of the Hemisphere.

70. To foster cooperation in the area of sustainable development, especially among those member states that share resources, as a sign of fraternity in the Americas.

71. To promote a new culture of sustainable development through public awareness and education campaigns, particularly among children and youth, as a platform for promoting a change of attitude in the short term.

72. To establish a mechanism for measuring progress toward sustainable development in the region and to keep member states abreast of that progress through the Inter-American Committee on Sustainable Development (CIDS).

73. To promote inter-American dialogue on sustainable development and convene regular meetings of the Inter-American Committee on Sustainable Development in order to promote execution of the Inter-American Program for Sustainable Development, 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.

74. To underscore the importance of the upcoming XVI Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to be held in Cancun, Mexico, a country of this Hemisphere, and to express our utmost commitment to the consolidation of an inclusive process leading to a just, ambitious, and legally binding outcome aimed at establishing a new set of rules to govern climate issues on this planet.