



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**

(Document redrafted by the Chair and the Technical Secretariat based on the comments received from the delegations during the First Preparatory Meeting and submitted to the Secretariat as of August 9, 2010)

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 3-5, 2010, on the occasion of the Second Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities on Sustainable Development in the Framework of CIDI, reaffirm our commitment to sustainable development;

2. REITERATING 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;

3. RECOGNIZING the different levels of development, the 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 and to peace and democracy in the Americas;

4. NOTING that the economic, social, and environmental benefits from the sustainable management of natural resources, including those arising from the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, can contribute to the reduction of poverty and inequities;

CONSIDERING:

5. The commitments adopted by member states in the field of sustainable development;
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 Inter-American 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 international financial and development institutions and with the participation of the academic community and other members of civil society;
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.
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 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),

DECLARE THAT:

10. We recognize that current production and consumption patterns result in complex challenges to sustainable development and human well being. We also recognize that deterioration of the goods and services provided by ecosystems and of their resilience has an impact on local economies and on the livelihoods of the communities that depend on them.

11. We recognize the links between poverty, inequity of income and assets, environmental degradation, and disasters.

12. We affirm the importance of the commitment to achieve a significant reduction in the loss of biodiversity in the framework of the Millennium Development Goals.

13. We recognize that the integrated management of coastal and marine ecosystems is vital for climate change adaptation and for the social and economic well-being of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and of those who live near or otherwise depend on the sea.

14. We recognize that the water resources of the Hemisphere are affected by both variations in climate and in demand driven by socio-economic and environmental factors. Hence, 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 the integrated management of water, the nondiscriminatory access of the population to safe drinking water and sanitation, as well as the appropriate protection of this vital resource.

15. We recognize that energy is an essential resource for improving the standard of living of our peoples and that access to energy is of paramount importance to economic growth with equity and social inclusion.

16. We recognize that deep cuts in greenhouse gas emissions are required to achieve the ultimate objective of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), respecting its principles, notably that that we should protect the climate system for the benefit of the

present and future generations of humankind, on the basis of equity, and in accordance with our common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.

17. We recognize the importance of public-private partnerships and of the inter-American networks established within the framework of the Organization of American States (OAS) for cooperation, as well as for the exchange of experiences with respect to integrated water resources management, sustainable energy, biodiversity, disaster risk management, climate change adaptation, and environmental law.

18. We recognize the importance of encouraging dialogue and regional cooperation considering, inter alia, existing hemispheric mechanisms in order to promote and strengthen policies, legislation, institutional transparency, and other mechanisms that foster equity, equal opportunities, social inclusion, public participation, and sound public administration as essential elements of sustainable development.

19. We recognize the need to measure progress in achieving the goals and commitments established in the area of sustainable development, taking into account existing mechanisms. We also recognize that it is necessary to measure progress in adaptation to climate change.

WE ADOPT THE FOLLOWING ACTION INITIATIVES:

20. To extend the Inter-American Program for Sustainable Development (PIDS) for the period 2010-2014 and to request the Inter-American Committee on Sustainable Development (CIDS) to initiate a process for its revision.

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 the execution of plans, programs, and projects, bearing in mind that the availability of these resources is a prerequisite for effective implementation of the Inter-American Program for Sustainable Development (PIDS), the Declaration of Santa Cruz + 10, and the following initiatives of action.

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 promote 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 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), promoting synergies among the existing mechanisms that address this issue.

24. To promote sustainable management of the agricultural, forestry, tourism and other important productive sectors, thereby enhancing the potential of these sectors to contribute to sustainable development.

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

26. To develop strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of water resources and shared ecosystems and the goods and services they provide as a contribution to sustainable development, peace, and democracy in the Americas.

27. To promote best practices for the sustainable management of natural resources, including 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 implement regional initiatives that promote capacity building for developing effective policies for integrated management of coastal zones and their adaptation to climate change.

29. To promote integrated water resources, soils, and forests management, in the context of hydro-climatic variations as a fundamental tool to enable a rational and sustainable use of these resources in the agriculture and forest sectors.

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 establish public-private partnerships and develop incentives to improve the environmental performance of productive sectors in countries of the Hemisphere, promoting sustainable and efficient production and consumption patterns.

32. To direct efforts toward developing cleaner, more affordable, 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 renewable and non-renewable energy sources, energy efficiency, and energy interconnection schemes through the Energy and Climate Partnership for the Americas (ECPA) and other existing initiatives in the region for energy cooperation and integration, such as Petrocaribe.

34. To strengthen the capacity of member states to integrate risk assessment and strategic environmental assessment in land use planning for development planning and mitigation and adaptation to climate change.

35. To promote regional and subregional cooperation for the development, strengthening, and adoption of community-centered early warning systems, at the national level, that make use of information, knowledge, and cutting-edge technology.

36. To support member states in implementing initiatives consistent with the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015, aimed at reducing vulnerabilities and strengthening the resilience of communities, especially by incorporating risk reduction in public investment, its inclusion in local and national development policies, the strengthening of legal and institutional frameworks, as well as land use planning policies and the creation and strengthening of multiple hazards building codes.

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

38. To strengthen the Inter-American Committee on Natural Disaster Reduction for the effective coordination of the inter-American system on risk management.

39. To support member states in institutional strengthening and in the design and implementation of strategies, plans, and tools for the incorporation of mitigation and adaptation to climate change in different territorial levels of planning for sustainable development, as well as in identifying its costs and scale of priorities.

40. To support further dialogue and cooperation at the XVI Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 16) to be held in Cancun, Mexico - a country of the Hemisphere- and to express our utmost commitment to strengthening long-term cooperative actions leading to an ambitious and legally binding outcome for a new climate regime on the planet within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol.

41. To encourage the development of innovative financial instruments to facilitate disaster risk reduction and to increase resilience to climate change; and promote, as appropriate, participation in mitigation and adaptation to climate change mechanisms and funds, and in voluntary carbon markets.

42. To strengthen technical and financial cooperation among member states on matters relating to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, especially those related to the REDD+ mechanism, carbon monitoring and quantification, and the governance structures of the mechanism.

43. To continue to strengthen the exchange of information and experiences in member states on integrated water resources management, sustainable energy, biodiversity, disaster risk management, adaptation to climate change, 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 promote sustainable development through partnership for development in accordance with national legislation and applicable international law, in the areas of human and institutional capacity building, transfer of environmentally sound technologies, and effective mobilization of new and additional financial resources, as appropriate, for , among others:

- a. the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and shared ecosystems;
- b. developing valuation and compensation programs of natural heritage and ecosystem services;
- c. promoting initiatives for the prevention of illegal traffic of species of flora and fauna;
- d. supporting integrated water resources management and sustainable land management;
- e. the sound management of chemicals, pollutants and waste;
- f. using clean energy technologies that can benefit all nations of the Hemisphere;
- g. increasing access to information, knowledge, and cutting edge technology for early warning systems;
- h. supporting disaster preparedness, assistance, and response ;
- i. supporting and strengthening climate change adaptation actions; and
- j. implementing multilateral environmental agreements and regional agreements.

45. To promote good environmental governance by strengthening and effectively enforcing national environmental laws, in accordance with our sustainable development priorities and international law.

46. 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).

47. To contribute to the mainstreaming of cultural values and principles of gender equity 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.

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 5, 2010.