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

FIRST MEETING OF MINISTERS AND HIGH AUTHORITIES OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
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DECLARATION OF LIMA

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on November 12, 2004)

We, the Ministers and High Authorities of Science and Technology attending the First Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of Science and Technology Within the Framework of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) of the Organization of American States (OAS), in Lima, Peru, on November 11-12, 2004, for the purpose of giving due importance to the incorporation of science, technology, engineering, innovation and education as major driving forces behind the economic and social development of the countries of the Hemisphere and bearing in mind the cooperation principles set forth in the Charter of the Organization of American States and the actions which to this end were mandated by the Summits of the Americas, including the Summits of Punta del Este in 1967, Miami in 1994, Santiago in 1998, Québec in 2001, and Monterrey/Nuevo León in 2004,

CONSIDER:

1. That science, technology, engineering, innovation, and education are fundamental to promote the integral development of the countries of the Americas, which encompass the economic, social, educational, cultural, scientific, and technological fields, as well as job creation to combat poverty, in the framework of protection of the quality of the environment and integration of the gender perspective in policies and to strengthen democracy.

2. That hemispheric cooperation is a fundamental instrument to address the needs of each country for building human and institutional capacity and infra-structure for scientific and technological research.

3. That support for hemispheric initiatives in science, technology, engineering, innovation and education of common interest to the member states promotes solidarity and cooperation between each other and contributes to the exchange of information on successful practices and experiences.

4. That given the wide disparity in science, technology, engineering, innovation and education among the different countries of the Americas, it is critical to support those less developed in these areas, in order to promote their democratic integral development.

5. That the Strategic Plan for Partnership for Development 2002-2005 of CIDI, where scientific capacity building and the exchange of technologies are priority areas of action, identifies that “the struggle against poverty and inequality, and especially the eradication of

extreme poverty is a common and shared responsibility of the member states, and are essential factors in promoting and consolidating democracy. Furthermore, the need to achieve integral, just and sustainable social and economic development continues to pose a challenge for the Hemisphere."

6. That the Inter-American Science and Technology Program (PRICYT) is a mechanism aimed at facilitating the formulation of development initiatives based on science and technology in the framework of CIDI.

7. That it is of the utmost importance to link these efforts with those of the Summits of the Americas, especially the one that will take place in 2005 in Argentina, which has as its theme the creation of employment to fight poverty and strengthen democratic governance,

8. That it is fundamental to promote the development of science, technology, engineering and innovation in cooperation and partnership with the private sector, particularly through the active use of information and communication technologies, as a means to significantly increase the level of investment in these areas.

9. That the value of the participation and contribution of civil society in the scientific and technological development and in innovation should be recognized.

WE DECLARE THAT WE WILL JOIN EFFORTS TO:

1. Promote the sustained growth of investment in science, technology, engineering, and innovation in our countries, which should be integrated into our respective economic policies to achieve economic and social well-being of the nations, including the participation of both the public and private sectors to strengthen the productive sector and basic services to improve the quality of life of our peoples, all within the framework of domestic sustainable development, taking into account the principles of solidarity, shared responsibility and cooperation.

2. Endeavor that all member states establish effective national policies in science, technology, engineering and innovation, which are clearly integrated with economic and social policies, by the year 2007.

3. Work towards the wide acceptance and recognition of the fundamental importance of incorporating science, technology, engineering, and innovation in our nations as leading elements of their social and economic development strategy; integrate and promote them in national and regional strategic development plans for the fundamental purpose of reducing poverty in the hemisphere.

4. Support the establishment of national innovation systems oriented towards the productive sector, both public and private, to improve their competitiveness through the use of science and technology and of qualified human resources that promote the generation and dissemination of technological innovation, aiming for the integral development of our countries.

5. Foster the expansion of human, institutional capacities and infrastructure to undertake scientific and technological research in a framework of environmental protection, gender equity and equality, and openness to the inter-relation between the public and private sectors.

6. Strive to narrow the gap in scientific, technologic, engineering and innovative capacities among the different countries of the Americas, by supporting those less developed in these areas, through increased cooperation in, *inter alia,* capacity building, technology transfer, research and education.

7. Promote the harmonization and coordination of science, technology, engineering, and innovation programs implemented by various bilateral and multilateral organizations in order to achieve the best results in applying available resources.

8. Facilitate the greatest interaction possible between scientific and technologic research communities by fostering the establishment and consolidation of advanced research networks and synergy among educational institutions, research centers, the public and private sectors, and civil society.

9. Promote applications of science, technology, engineering, and innovation as a means to increase social inclusion, especially of the most vulnerable groups; reduce poverty; and consolidate democracy in the countries of the region.

10. Encourage the social science approach for an understanding and assimilation of scientific and technological development in society, promoting a strong interaction between the natural and social sciences.

11. Support the creation at the OAS of a program of information and services that supports science and technology (science and technology indicator networks, geographic information systems, scientific databases) as a tool to formulate regional and national policies and programs and monitor and measure their social and economic impacts and their permanent dissemination.

12. Enhance science education, both formal and non formal, to encourage the incorporation of the entire population, and especially young people, into science, technology, engineering, and innovation activities aimed at promoting the economic and social development of the Americas, with the ultimate end of promoting scientific vocations and the public understanding of science.

13. Foster integral education, which includes continuing education for the adult population and emphasizes computer literacy, aimed at developing a labor force for the twenty-first century skilled in information and communication technologies.

14. Encourage the participation of all stakeholders in policy decision making on matters of science, technology, engineering, and innovation.

15. Implement the Lima Plan of Action and support the hemispheric initiatives in science, technology, engineering, innovation and education of common interest to the Member

States as well as other initiatives conceived in bilateral and multilateral levels within the region, with special consideration for those countries where their implementation would have the most impact and contribute to their development.

16. Convene annual meetings of science, technology, engineering, and innovation commissions to follow up on this Declaration of Lima and its Plan of Action, and disseminate their national and hemispheric results and experiences**.**