



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



**FIRST INTER-AMERICAN MEETING OF MINISTERS AND
HIGH-LEVEL AUTHORITIES ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

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DECLARATION OF SANTA CRUZ + 10

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DECLARATION OF SANTA CRUZ + 10

(Approved at the fourth plenary session held on December 5, 2006)

1. We, the Ministers and High Level Authorities responsible for the Sustainable Development of the Americas, gathered in the city of Santa Cruz de la Sierra, reaffirm our commitment to advance the objectives of sustainable development, as set out in the 1992 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 Application, among others.

2. We reiterate 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 alleviation is an integral part of sustainable development.

3. We acknowledge that the vulnerability of small island developing states in the hemisphere continues to be a major challenge to their sustainable development, among other factors.

CONSIDERING:

4. The eradication of poverty is a fundamental goal of sustainable development.

5. Combating poverty and reducing inequities are fundamental challenges faced by the Hemisphere today.

6. The achievement of development goals agreed upon internationally, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, requires a new partnership between developed and developing countries to support national efforts to achieve sustainable development, including sound policies, good governance at all levels, and the rule of law.

7. We recognize that the needs and responsibilities facing the countries of the Hemisphere today are diverse. Sustainable development does not assume that all the countries are at the same level of development, have the same capabilities, or can necessarily use the same model to attain it. In view of the different contributions to global environmental degradation, states have common but differentiated responsibilities in the global quest for sustainable development. We should make efforts to ensure that the benefits of sustainable development reach all countries in the Hemisphere, in particular those that are less developed, and all segments of our populations. We will give special attention to the small island states, whose environmental vulnerability, especially with regards to natural disasters, is greater owing to their geographic situation, their size, and the scale of their economies, among other factors.

8. Water is fundamental for life and basic for socio-economic development and the conservation of ecosystems, and that, in this regard, its sustainable management must be promoted with a view to ensuring access to water for present and future generations, taking into account internationally-agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration.

9. That the impacts of natural disasters are devastating and affect negatively the quality of life of affected communities, and the development of all countries of the hemisphere. That preventive and risk-mitigation measures can increase the resiliency and reduce the vulnerability of communities.

10. That climate variability, including El Niño and La Niña phenomena, and the adverse effects of climate change represent an increased risk to all countries in the hemisphere, in particular developing countries.

11. That the sustainable management of the agricultural, forest and tourism sectors can enhance the capacity of those sectors to provide important economic, social and environmental benefits that support the livelihood of families and local communities, including indigenous peoples.

11 bis. That the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity benefit from, among others, the promotion of sustainable approaches to the agriculture, forest and tourism sectors and that the unsustainable use of natural resources generates a loss in biodiversity.

11 ter. That protected areas as well as the sustainable interaction of local communities, including indigenous peoples, with biodiversity, play an important role in the conservation of biodiversity.

12. That the economic, social, and environmental benefits arising from the sustainable management of natural resources, including those arising from the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources can contribute to poverty alleviation, the reduction of inequities and the promotion of equal opportunity in all countries. That regional integration, at the hemispheric, regional, sub-regional and bilateral levels, including trade agreements, has the potential to contribute to sustainable development.

13. That the results of the technical preparatory workshops held in 2005-2006 and hosted by the Governments of Costa Rica, Jamaica, and Ecuador, and the workshops with the participation of civil society including indigenous peoples held in Argentina, Bolivia, the United States, Panama, and Trinidad and Tobago, as well as the virtual forum, have provided valuable input to this Declaration.

DECLARE THAT:

14. We reiterate the commitments assumed in the Rio de Janeiro, Santa Cruz de la Sierra Summits, the Monterrey Consensus, the Johannesburg Summit, in particular Chapter X of its Plan of Implementation, and the Mauritius Summit, in relation to: the mobilization of financial and development resources; the transfer of environmentally-sound, efficient and effective technologies; and capacity-building to advance the process of sustainable development, including the objective of poverty eradication.

15. We recognize value and respect the participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in the sustainable management of natural resources.

15 bis. We will promote, within the framework of the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources, a broad public participation, including representation from the diverse sectors of society, public access to environmental information on a nondiscriminatory basis with regards to gender, race, ethnicity, nationality, political, religious, or other opinion, as well as institutional transparency and the achievement of conditions that favor social development and democracy.

16. We reaffirm our commitment to promote and strengthen policies, laws and regional cooperation and integration mechanisms that advance public participation and democratic governance as important elements of sustainable development. We will promote institutional transparency, gender equity, and equal opportunities for all vulnerable groups.

I. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

17. We recognize that water is a limited natural resource essential for life, and that access to clean water and to sanitation services is indispensable to health and human dignity, as well as to sustainable development.

18. We reaffirm our commitment to strengthen institutional capacities, and to promote cooperation and dialogue among States to support integrated water resources management consistent with domestic law and relevant international law.

19. We recognize the urgent need to evaluate the effects of climate variability and climate change on water resources, as well as to strengthen early-warning capacities for extreme climatic events.

20. We recognize the importance of dialogue and regional cooperation to improve water-quality and quantity monitoring networks in order to promote and protect human health and the environment.

II. DISASTERS

21. We reaffirm our commitment to build upon relevant international commitments and frameworks including through the development, implementation and integration of disaster preparedness and management into sustainable development policies, planning and programming at all levels.

22. We affirm our commitment to strengthening public policies and strategies that minimize the risks of natural disasters through an integrated approach.

23. We underscore the importance of promoting public-private sector partnerships, to help provide reasonable levels of safety, and to strengthen the monitoring and enforcement of appropriate safety standards.

24. We recognize the Inter-American Committee on Natural Disaster Reduction (IACNDR) and the Inter-American Strategic Plan for Policy on Vulnerability Reduction, Risk Management and Disaster Response (IASP) as mechanisms for regional cooperation.

III. SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT, SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

25. We recognize the importance of developing and implementing national forest programs, policies and strategies, as appropriate, that strengthen the capacity of countries to address illegal practices in the forest sector, through the promotion of forest law, enforcement and governance at the national and, sub-national level, and regional and sub-regional levels as appropriate.

26. We affirm the need to advance policies and initiatives that support sustainable tourism, including the exchange of information, the promotion of educational and awareness programs regarding the conservation of natural and cultural patrimonies, micro-financing opportunities for small-scale enterprises, and other mechanisms.

27. We recognize, in the framework of domestic legislations, that the development and implementation of strategies for managing protected areas as well as their buffer zones and conservation corridors should take into account the active participation of all stakeholders, particularly local communities, including indigenous peoples, in the local socio-political and cultural context.

RESOLVE:

INITIATIVES FOR ACTION

28. We entrust the General Secretariat of the OAS, within the framework of its mandates, and in coordination with other entities and international organizations, to promote the mobilization of resources and technical assistance, for the implementation of agreed regional and sub-regional programs and projects on sustainable development, including the objective of poverty eradication.

I. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

29. To strive to increase access to clean drinking water and sanitation services for all peoples within the jurisdiction of each Member State, on the basis of non-discrimination, solidarity and environmental sustainability.

30. To promote, as appropriate and with the consent of the involved States, the undertaking of studies, plans, programs, projects and joint actions for the protection and sustainable use of surface and ground water resources, wetland ecosystems and associated biodiversity. To this end, existing cooperation mechanisms, at the bilateral, sub-regional and regional levels will be strengthened, fostering the exchange of information and experiences and the coordination of actions.

31. To advance integrated water resources management, strengthening good governance through public participation, institutional transparency and access to environmental information, among others.

II. DISASTERS

32. To promote initiatives taking into account existing mechanisms that seek to prevent, mitigate, prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters, through regional coordination, as well as policy and strategy coordination on this matter. Moreover, to promote regional and sub-regional cooperation for the development of people-centered early-warning systems against disasters, allowing for the prevention of negative impacts on vulnerable communities.

33. To strengthen national initiatives and institutions in disaster reduction planning, the adoption and enforcement of construction, rehabilitation and reconstruction practices that increase the resilience of communities and economic sectors to natural disaster impacts. To develop and implement an integrated approach to disaster risk reduction, including hazard mapping, early-warning systems and sanitation and infrastructure programs.

34. To promote and to strengthen the inclusion of disaster management in development planning processes.

35. To continue with the exchange of information and experience regarding the mapping of risk zones, people-centered early-warning systems and other technical aspects of risk reduction through the Inter-American Network for Disaster Mitigation (IANDM), and other mechanisms and initiatives.

35 bis. Enhance the exchange of information and experiences regarding the necessary adjustments to reduce the negative impacts of natural disasters, climate variability and climate change.

III. SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT, SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

36. To support sustainable agricultural practices and innovations and recognize that they may be enriched by indigenous knowledge and environmentally-appropriate technologies.

37. To promote greater coordination among the sustainable agriculture, sustainable forest management and sustainable tourism sectors, through the development of policies that consider *in situ* conservation and integrated land management.

38. To formulate public policies consistent with relevant international commitments regarding the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources, including by appropriate access to genetic resources, and by appropriate transfer of relevant technologies, taking into account all rights over those resources and to technologies, and by appropriate funding.

38 bis. To recognize and value the importance of traditional knowledge and its potential contribution to sustainable development.

39. To strengthen efforts at the national level towards the protection of ecosystems and the services they provide and the valuation of their contribution to sustainable agriculture, sustainable forest management and sustainable tourism, and to facilitate the regional exchange of information, experiences and lessons learned.

40. To facilitate access by local actors in member countries to micro-finance credit systems and other innovative financing systems, such as payment for benefits provided by ecosystems and other initiatives that promote conservation and the sustainable use of natural resources. Likewise, to promote support for research, technical assistance, and access to modern and environmentally sound technology.

CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

41. We recognize that democratic governance is a key factor for sustainable development in our Hemisphere. We reaffirm that each country has primary responsibility for its own sustainable development through promotion of good governance at all levels, respect for the rule of law and effective law enforcement. In undertaking to promote sustainable development within our countries, we acknowledge the fundamental importance of democratic principles and institutions and transparency.

41 bis. Environmental issues are best handled with participation of all concerned citizens, at the relevant level. At the national level, each individual shall have appropriate access to information concerning the environment that is held by public authorities, including information on hazardous materials and activities in their communities, and the opportunity to participate in decision-making processes. States shall facilitate and encourage public awareness and participation by making information widely available. Effective access to judicial and administrative proceedings, including redress and remedy, shall be provided.

42. We call upon the international community to support national development efforts through mobilization of resources, technical assistance, institutional strengthening and technology transfer.

43. We will promote national institutional capacity building and the strengthening of national environmental laws to ensure their effective application.

43 bis. In accordance with national law, we will promote environmental impact assessments.

44. We will strengthen regional and sub-regional cooperation on sustainable development, particularly regarding environmental education and awareness, the training and enhancement of human resources, and the creation and strengthening of networks and other cooperation mechanisms.

44 bis. We adopt the Inter-American Program for Sustainable Development (PIDS 2006-2009).

45. We will promote the implementation of the Inter-American Program for Sustainable Development (PIDS) in collaboration, as appropriate, with civil society, the private sector and international financial institutions.

46. We entrust the Inter-American Committee on Sustainable Development (CIDS), in collaboration with other pertinent bodies to coordinate, monitor and support the implementation of the Inter-American Program for Sustainable Development (PIDS).