



PLAN OF ACTION OF PANAMA 2012 - 2016 WORKING GROUPS

In order to continue moving towards concrete and tangible activities from the Plan of Action of Panama 2012-2016, adopted during the Third Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of Science and Technology of the Hemisphere, four Working Groups were created.

Participation in the Working Groups is open to all Member States. Each Working Group is led by one Member State, which commits to undertake concrete and tangible actions to advance the group's objectives and to put forward proposals that impact on the whole production apparatus, with particular emphasis, where necessary, on MSMEs.

Participation is also open to international and regional organizations, as well as other social actors, including civil society, previously approved by the authorities of the Inter-American Committee on Science and Technology (COMCyT).

Resources

Member States should allocate the necessary economic, technical, and human resources to participate in meetings of the working groups. In addition, Member States should endeavor to contribute or help locate funds to cover specific activities, such as workshops, meetings, videoconferences, among others, as required by the working groups.

Working Group 1 on Innovation

This group focuses on developing a culture of technology-based innovation in the Americas that fosters inclusiveness, entrepreneurship, and creative thinking in society at large, academia, and the private and public sectors. It is coordinated by Mexico, and its members are:

- Costa Rica
- Ecuador
- Peru
- Dominican Republic
- Uruguay
- Barbados
- Paraguay
- El Salvador
- Trinidad and Tobago
- Advanced Research and Technology Collaboratory for the Americas, ARTCA
- Institute for Computing in Humanities, Arts and Social Science, ICHASS
- National Center for Supercomputing Applications, NCSA
- Northwest Center for Biological Research, CIBNOR
- *Universidad Pontificia Bolivariana, UPB*



Working Group 2 on Education and Human Resources

Helps increase the number of female and male graduates in science, technology, engineering, and technical education. It also contributes to improve study programs in these areas to respond to the changing needs of industry—especially of MSMEs—and communities. It is coordinated by Argentina, and its members are:

- Colombia
- Bolivia
- Mexico
- Nicaragua
- Dominican Republic
- Trinidad y Tobago
- Paraguay
- Guatemala
- Costa Rica
- Advanced Research and Technology Collaboratory for the Americas, ARTCA
- Institute for Computing in Humanities, Arts and Social Science, ICHASS
- National Center for Supercomputing Applications, NCSA
- Northwest Center for Biological Research, CIBNOR
- *Universidad Pontificia Bolivariana*, UPB
- International Road Federation, IRF
- Latin American and Caribbean Consortium of Engineering Institutions, LACCEI
- Pan-American Union of Engineering Associations, UPADI / Pan-American Academy of Engineering, API

Working Group 3 on Quality National Infrastructure

Helps Member States to have access to internationally recognized quality infrastructure services to foster competitiveness, innovation, trade, and consumer safety. It is coordinated by Canada, and its members are:

- Panama
- United States
- Mexico
- Peru
- Colombia
- Costa Rica
- Paraguay
- Inter-American Metrology System
- Advanced Research and Technology Collaboratory for the Americas, ARTCA
- Inter-American Accreditation Cooperation, IAAC
- Pan-American Standards Commission, COPANT
- Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt Germany, PTB



Working Group 4 on Technological Development

It contributes to strengthen inter-American cooperation in science, technology, and innovation in selected priority areas to achieve more effective and faster technological development in the Hemisphere. It is coordinated by Colombia, and its members are:

- Ecuador
- Argentina
- Honduras
- Dominican Republic
- Mexico
- Nicaragua
- Guatemala
- El Salvador
- Advanced Research and Technology Collaboratory for the Americas, ARTCA
- Institute for Computing in Humanities, Arts and Social Science, ICHASS
- National Center for Supercomputing Applications, NCSA
- Northwest Center for Biological Research, CIBNOR

Contact details:

For further information on the Plan of Action of Panama and its four Working Groups, please do not hesitate to contact Martha Beltrán-Martínez at mbeltranmartinez@oas.org or Cristina Rechy at mrechy@oas.org.