

The OAS Development Agenda

Advancing inclusive and
sustainable development

Antigua and Barbuda
Argentina
Bahamas
Barbados
Belize
Bolivia
Brazil
Canada
Chile
Colombia
Costa Rica
Dominica
Dominican Republic
Ecuador
El Salvador
Grenada
Guatemala
Guyana
Haiti
Honduras
Jamaica
Mexico
Nicaragua
Panama
Paraguay
Peru
Saint Lucia
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Suriname
St. Kitts and Nevis
Trinidad and Tobago
United States of America
Uruguay
Venezuela



Organization of
American States

SEDI

Executive Secretariat for Integral Development



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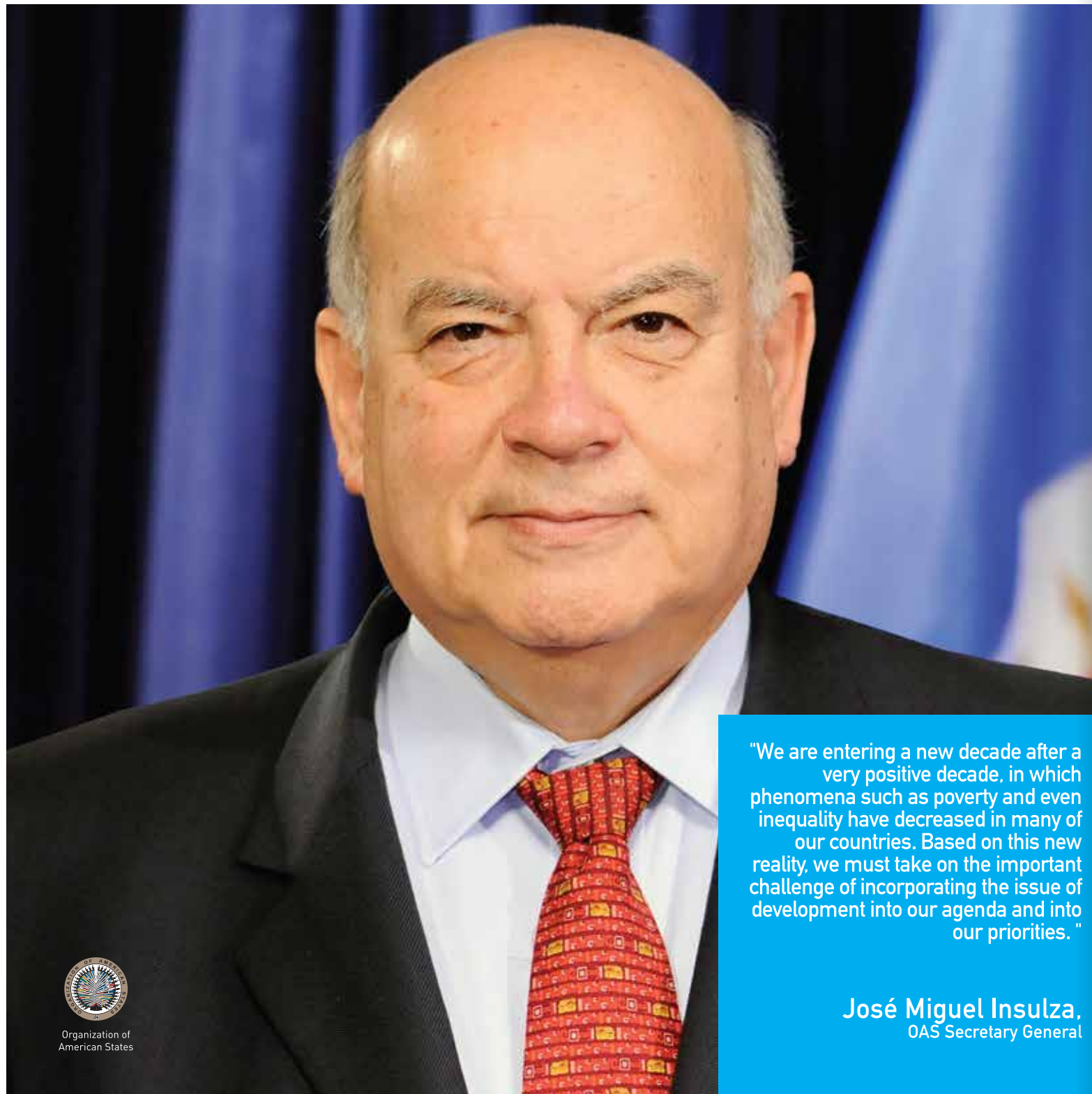
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"We are entering a new decade after a very positive decade, in which phenomena such as poverty and even inequality have decreased in many of our countries. Based on this new reality, we must take on the important challenge of incorporating the issue of development into our agenda and into our priorities."

José Miguel Insulza,
OAS Secretary General

1.

Our Mission

As the OAS action arm for development, the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI) works with our member states to help achieve inclusive and sustainable economic, social and human development.

We do this by supporting regional policy dialogue on key issues, and by implementing mandates through technical assistance and development cooperation initiatives.

Our work focuses on building the capacity of institutions and individuals in areas such as education, employment, competitiveness, innovation, natural resource management, and the use of information and telecommunication technologies (ICTs), among others, to generate real and visible impact in our communities."



Integral Development in Latin America and the Caribbean

After a decade of growth, Latin American and Caribbean governments have an opportunity to continue to transform their countries into more equitable, inclusive societies. Over the last decade, a combination of growth and inclusive policies helped 61 million people escape poverty, from 225 million poor in 2002 to 164 million in 2013 (nearly 28% of the population).¹

Yet, not only is this number too high for a region that continues to experience rapid growth; a closer look shows that countries are facing important development challenges that go well beyond spurring and sustaining economic growth. To support integral development, governments must strive to provide access to quality education, create an enabling environment for businesses and workers to be competitive and thrive, extend opportunities for the inclusion of populations in vulnerable situations and ensure that progress is human-centered and sustainable.

1. ECLAC: Social Panorama of Latin America, 2013



2.

Policy Dialogue: Creating a Solid Foundation for Action

A hallmark of the OAS is its convening power, its capacity to bring together authorities from across the Americas, from different branches and levels of government—along with other stakeholders and partners—to address key challenges facing the region.

Meetings of Ministers and high level authorities represent a permanent dialogue to develop plans of action that guide the work of the OAS. They also enrich and feed into meetings of Heads of state through the Summit of the Americas process, which helps to shape the region's priorities.

Meetings of Ministers
and high level authorities
supported by OAS-SEDI:

- Labor
- Education
- Science and Technology
- Culture
- Tourism
- Sustainable Development
- Social Development
- Competitiveness
- Small and Medium Enterprises
- Energy
- Ports
- Telecommunications
- Cooperation

The OAS also provides opportunities for civil society, academia, the private sector and social actors to participate in policy dialogue by contributing their best ideas about how to meet the region's development challenges.

Over a dozen Ministerial and high level meetings and processes related to development underscore the unique value of the OAS-SEDI and supports what is the most consultative and holistic approach to consensus building, policy formulation and decision making at the hemispheric level.

This “all-of-government approach” constitutes a unique asset and an important competitive advantage in the formulation and implementation of an integrated development agenda that is not limited by a single issue but rather benefits from having inter-sectorial and cross-disciplinary input.



Development: Integral to the Organization's Pillars



The mutually reinforcing work of the Organization's pillars, seen through the prism of **development** places people at the center of the OAS agenda.



The OAS Charter lays the groundwork for the mutually reinforcing aspect of the work of the Organization, reaffirming that “the elimination of extreme poverty is an essential part of the promotion and consolidation of representative democracy and is the common and shared responsibility of the American States.”

True to that visionary perspective, the OAS development pillar has created a specific niche of inter-sectorial cooperation with cross-cutting areas of work that deliver value to governments and citizens throughout this hemisphere. Policy dialogue, technical cooperation, social inclusion, democratic governability, citizen security, and human development are considered jointly.

For example, the innovative use of ICTs enables e-governance and supports public accountability. Sustainable cities, risk mitigation and natural resource management initiatives support sustainable growth while also mitigating conflict. Programs on economic and social development reflect a human rights approach and emphasize social inclusion.

This cross-fertilization of ideas in a transparent policy space supports the crafting of harmonized legislation, context-appropriate initiatives, effective resource allocation and stakeholder buy-in. In short, the OAS development approach emphasizes that efforts to secure peace, democracy with full respect for human rights and the rule of law are more likely to be sustainable when there is a sound foundation for durable development.



"The Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor (IACML), over half a century, has made very important contributions to institutionalize social dialogue at the hemispheric level, to strengthen labor ministries and to position labor and employment policies within national agendas."

***At the XVIII Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor (IACML) held in Medellin on November 11 and 12, 2013**

Rafael Pardo Rueda,
Minister of Labor
of Colombia



"We believe that cooperation makes a difference and drives change that is impactful, transformative and lasting. We've learned over time that no country is too small it has nothing to share and no country is too large it has nothing to learn."

Sherry Tross,
Executive Secretary for Integral
Development (SEDI-OAS)

Technical Assistance and Cooperation for Development

OAS-SEDI serves as a catalyst to spark and expand partnerships for development by building alliances and networks, identifying potential areas for cooperation, and mobilizing the human, technical, and financial resources needed for effective programming. By pooling knowledge and experience from different sources, more innovative solutions are created to tackle the enormous challenge of achieving integral, equitable, and sustainable economic and social development.

Partnership for development is the model that drives the work of the OAS-SEDI, complementing and supporting each country's efforts to meet its own development needs and priorities. This approach embraces the participation of all member states, recognizing that every country—regardless of its size or level of development—has valuable experiences to share and can learn from others to contribute toward reducing poverty and providing equality of opportunities.

Building on progress made by different countries to advance development, south-south and triangular cooperation have become more important in recent years and many OAS member states are emerging as world leaders in advancing these forms of cooperation.

This has strengthened OAS-SEDI's capacity to deliver tangible results by fostering direct exchanges between countries to benefit from practical experience and lessons learned.

The Partnership for development model also utilizes multi-stakeholder engagement to address cross-cutting issues and to enable progress to take deeper root. Consequently, cooperation development programs are designed and implemented in partnership and in collaboration with other multilateral organizations, development agencies, the private sector, academia and civil society.

"The OAS has, in my experience, been the single most extraordinary partner our organization has ever had. They are concerned about communities and they know that, until and unless a good idea has government support – it's nothing but a pilot."

**Addressing member states at an OAS meeting of the Inter-American Counsel for Integral Development (CIDI). February 25, 2014.*

Dr. Fred Mednick,
Founder of the organization Teachers
without Borders



Capacity-Building for the Future

With a clear focus on providing development cooperation that is effective and lasting, OAS-SEDI works with member states to enhance the capacity of institutions to design and implement policies and programs that benefit their citizens, including those in vulnerable situations.

Through programs, networks, and technical missions, government officials and practitioners are provided with opportunities to exchange ideas, transfer expertise, and hone their individual projects and programs. This focus generates a multiplier effect in the region, strengthening public institutions and the policies, programs and services delivered to millions of citizens in areas such as innovation and entrepreneurship, clean energy development, risk management and mitigation, social protection and labor.

The OAS-SEDI also works with governments and universities to provide training and to make higher education accessible to hundreds of students every year through scholarships and loans. Education, as a change driver, not only transforms individual lives, but also impacts communities in ways that are both immediate and long term.



"So, here we are, a small country, basically pursuing the notion of being the first country that is totally green and totally dependent upon renewable energy. The OAS has been the pioneer in setting that stage for us."

***Discussing technical assessments and assistance provided by the OAS-SEDI to map the potential of geothermal energy in Saint Kitts and Nevis.**

Hon. Dr. Denzil L. Douglas,
Prime Minister of St. Kitts and Nevis



"This first ethanol plant will allow us to generate energy with the resources that we have and trigger the production of biofuels in the country."

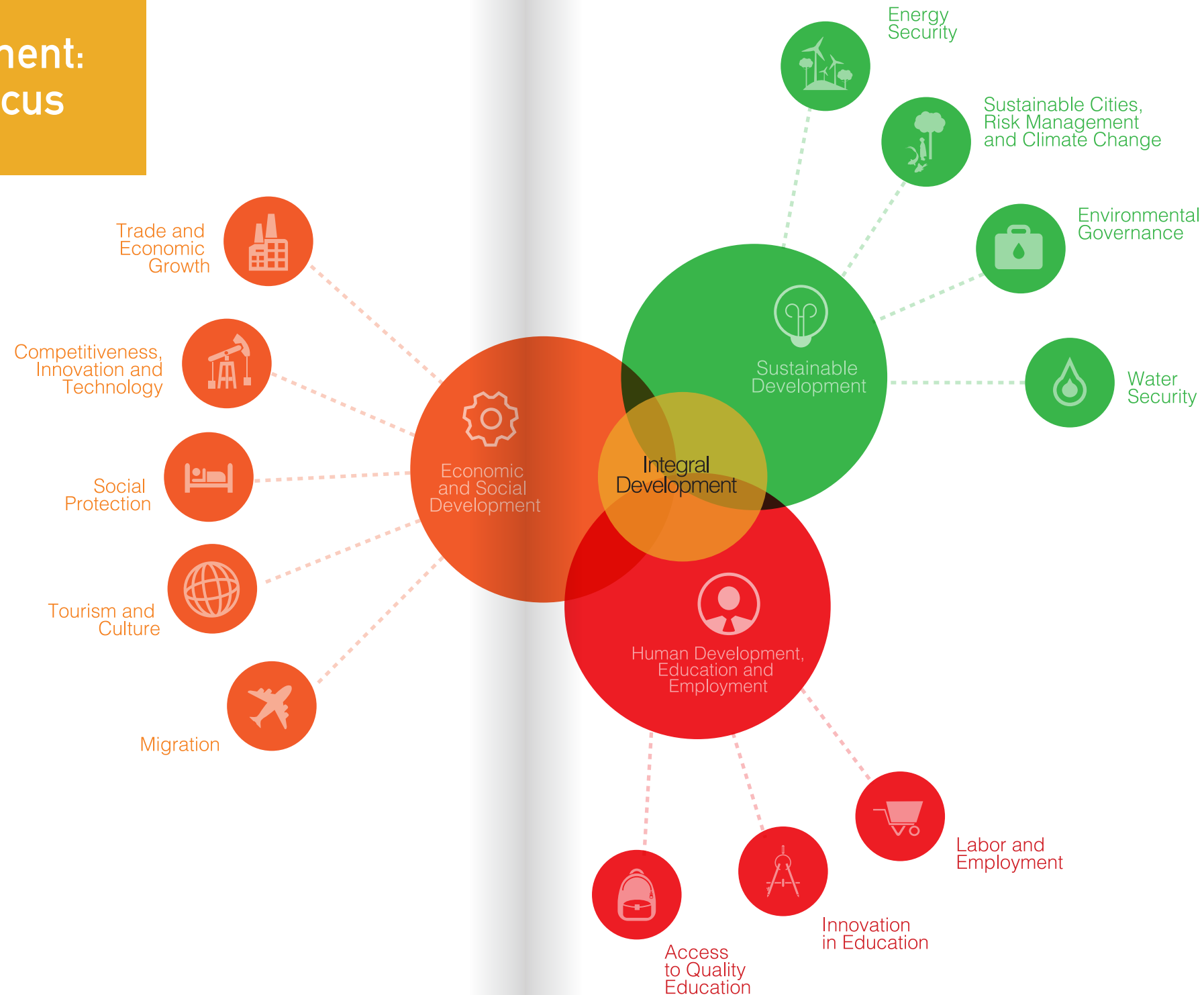
***During the inauguration of the first pilot ethanol plant in Honduras, developed with technical assistance from the OAS.**

Hon. Juan Orlando Hernández,
President of Honduras

3.

Integral Development: Programmatic Focus

Economic development and social development must go hand in hand to be truly inclusive. At OAS-SEDI, we assist governments as they design and implement policies and programs to help individuals, families and small businesses in our countries fulfill their potential and thrive in increasingly competitive economies.



In a region with vast natural resources and urgent development demands, the challenge is to promote development that is human-centered and sustainable. At OAS-SEDI, we provide policy, technical, and practical support that helps countries make sound decisions that benefit current and future generations.

For development to be effective and lasting, it must expand access to opportunities for people to fulfill their aspirations and to build stronger communities. At OAS-SEDI, we open doors of education and training to provide individuals and institutions with the capacity they need to navigate a complex world.

Specialized Collaboration Networks

An effective collaboration and cooperation mechanism for development.



Our integral approach to development requires participatory and collaborative arrangements that foster specialized and inter-sectorial exchanges of experiences, lessons learned and knowledge.

Recent experience at SEDI-OAS shows that collaborative networks advance inter-American development goals in a way that is inclusive, agile, and responsive to the particular needs of countries and communities.

Collaborative networks within the OAS context bring an important value added as they emerge from policy dialogue, and are therefore established with built-in political support.



Why focus on building stronger institutions and better prepared individuals?

To become more competitive in a global marketplace



500 small business advisers have been trained on the use of information and communications technologies (ICTs) in Central America.

Over 600 public officials trained on trade negotiations and agreements in partnership with the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the George Washington University.

To ensure that everyone has the opportunity to fulfill their aspirations



More than 100,000 citizens of the Americas have benefitted from opportunities to access quality education provided by the OAS Academic Scholarship Program.

Partnerships with 730 higher-education institutions in the Americas, Europe and Asia allow the OAS to continue offering new education opportunities.

To secure productive and dignified work



Nearly 800 public officials have benefited and more than 70 bilateral cooperation missions have been held between Ministries of Labor through the RIAL. Key areas of labor administration such as labor inspection, youth employment, combating child labor and gender equity are being strengthened.

To foster innovation and entrepreneurship



Over 2,900 public officials and technicians have been trained in the area of telecommunications with scholarships for on-site and online courses offered by the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL).

More than 100 case studies of country initiatives to foster innovation and competitiveness documented by the RIAC are becoming a practical tool to realize cooperation actions.

To better respond to growing demands on the natural and built environment



Community-based projects in areas such as clean energy, disaster management, transport and recycling solutions are being supported by the Sustainable Cities Initiative. These local projects are producing concrete results and know-how that serve to inform the design of larger initiatives to address the rapid urbanization in the region.

Over U\$18 million have been leveraged to support in-country initiatives on energy efficiency, natural resource management and sustainable cities.

More than 100 policies and plans developed for countries on natural resource management.

To shape communities and cities for the future



Nearly 2,000 port officials have been trained through the Secretariat of the OAS Inter-American Committee on Ports (CIP) in partnership with port authorities and international organizations. The CIP and its public and private sector partners promote development of competitive, safe and sustainable ports.

Over 600 public officials have been trained in technical, regulatory, and policy issues related to the advancement of energy efficiency and conservation through the Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas (ECPA).

Advancing inclusive and sustainable development

The OAS and Development

1948:
Charter of the
OAS (Art. 3)

“The elimination of extreme poverty is an essential part of the promotion and consolidation of representative democracy and is a common and shared responsibility of the American States”

2001:
Inter-American
Democratic Charter
(Art. 11)

“Democracy and social and economic development are interdependent and mutually reinforcing.”

2012:
Social Charter of
the Americas (Art. 1)

“Development with equity strengthens and consolidates democracy, since the two are interdependent and are mutually reinforcing.”



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