



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



APPENDIX II

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

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INTER-AMERICAN PROGRAM FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

(2006 – 2009)

(Version revised by the Style Committee and the Working Group)

INTER-AMERICAN PROGRAM FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

(2006 – 2009)

(Adopted at the Fourth Plenary Session held on December 5, 2006)

I. BACKGROUND

The member states of the OAS recognize that sustainable development requires an integral approach involving economic, social and environmental elements moving in tandem to support development, to reduce poverty and to promote equality, equity, and social inclusion.

OAS member states have defined and reiterated their support for sustainable development in a number of meetings, declarations, and resolutions. In particular, Declarations and Plans of Action have defined the role of sustainable development and the environment in contributing to economic, social, educational, and cultural development.

A number of resolutions adopted since the Summit of the Americas on Sustainable Development, held in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia in 1996, have reiterated the support of OAS member states to the objective of sustainable development.

The Strategic Plan for Partnership for Development 2006-2009, approved by the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) at its eleventh regular meeting in 2006 (CIDI/RES. 178 (XI-O/06), and adopted by the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth regular session in 2006 (resolution AG/RES. 2201 (XXXVI-O/06) establishes sustainable development and the environment as a priority area of CIDI activity. The Strategic Plan emphasizes, *inter alia*, within that priority area, the importance of:

- Supporting member states in their efforts to integrate environmental protection within policies, regulations, and projects on natural resource management;
- Strengthening the capability of member states to identify and mitigate the risks of natural and man-made disasters, in order to mainstream planning of both areas within economic development policies, working at the sector-specific levels with the private sector and civil society;
- Supporting public-private collaboration in human resource capacity-building in the sharing of scientific information, best environmental management practices, regulatory standards, and enforcement issues, and encouraging the use of information and communication technologies in support of sustainable development;
- Promoting the development of sustainable energy policies and projects, in cooperation with the private sector, in order to expand renewable energy, energy efficiency, and energy security in the region;

- Ensuring that sustainable development policies and projects help reduce poverty, particularly in rural areas, identify and support new competitive and investment opportunities, and create and sustain jobs and livelihoods.

The Declaration and Plan of Action -- adopted at the Summit of the Americas on Sustainable Development, held in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia in 1996 -- reaffirm that human beings are entitled to live a healthy and productive life in harmony with nature.

The Inter-American Program to Combat Poverty and Discrimination (adopted in 1997) outlines actions and policies with respect to social development, emphasizing that social and economic development are part of the same process. Accordingly, OAS member states are committed to promoting human rights, and supporting the exchange of information on such issues, *inter alia*, as modernizing public institutions and social management; strengthening mechanisms for participation of civil society; and promoting and financing social investment.

The Third Summit of the Americas – held in Quebec City, Canada, in 2001 – reaffirmed the commitment of the member states to strengthen environmental protection and sustainable use of natural resources, and focused on several priority areas, including: disaster management; vulnerability assessments of Small Island Developing States; agricultural management and rural development; efficient transportation systems; energy; natural resources management and biodiversity protection; health; hemispheric security; and integrated water resource management.

Member states have reiterated their support for sustainable development in several declarations and resolutions. For example, the Inter-American Democratic Charter -- adopted in Lima, Peru, in September 2001 –establishes values and principles of liberty, equality, and social justice, and recognizes that democracy promotes the preservation and good stewardship of the environment. Article 15 of the Charter encourages member states to implement policies of environmental protection, including application of various treaties and conventions, to achieve sustainable development for the benefit of future generations.

The Hemisphere is facing important challenges related to the management of the environment at national and regional levels to achieve sustainable levels of social and economic development. Since 1992, a number of international meetings have been held with the goal of advancing the sustainable development agenda and underlining the relationship among poverty, inequality, inequity, and social exclusion. Examples include the Earth Summit, held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992; the International Conference on Financing for Development —held in Monterrey, Mexico, in 2002 – at which the “Monterrey Consensus” was adopted; the United Nations World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Johannesburg in 2002. Commitments and initiatives adopted by the member states at the regional and global levels within the Summit of the Americas process; in the Monterrey Consensus, whose goal is to, *inter alia*, “achieve sustained economic growth and promote sustainable development”; and at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, call for hemispheric action.

The Declaration of Kingstown on the Security of Small Island States, adopted in January 2003 in Kingstown, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, at the Second High-Level Meeting on the Special Security Concerns of Small Island States, notes that small island states have peculiar characteristics which render them especially vulnerable and susceptible to security risks, threats, concerns and other challenges of a multidimensional and transnational nature, involving political, economic, social, health, environmental, and geographic factors.

In the Declaration of Santiago on Democracy and Public Trust: A New Commitment to Good Governance for the Americas, adopted by the OAS General Assembly in 2003, member states established that democratic governance obliges us to focus on the responsible management of public affairs as an essential factor in the sustainable development of our countries with social, ethnic, and gender equity.

Within the broad area of security, environmental security has been linked to sustainable development. The Special Conference on Security, held in Mexico, in October 2003, in its Declaration on Security in the Americas stated that the security threats, concerns, and other challenges in the hemispheric context are of diverse nature and multidimensional scope, and the traditional concept and approach must be expanded to encompass new and nontraditional threats, which include political, economic, social, health, and environmental aspects. To this end, the Declaration recognizes that environmental deterioration affects the quality of life of our peoples and may constitute a threat, concern, or challenge to the security of states in the Hemisphere. Special attention has been given to the small island states, whose environmental vulnerability, especially with regard to natural disasters, is greater owing to their geographic situation, their size, and the scale of their economies, among other factors.

The Declaration of Nuevo León adopted at the Special Summit of the Americas, held in Monterrey, Mexico, in January 2004, emphasized the member states' commitment to increase cooperation and strengthen the institutions responsible for coordinating and implementing measures to reduce the impact of natural disasters on people, and highlighted the belief that ensuring environmental health for the people of the Americas represents an investment for long-term well-being and prosperity.

Mention must be made also of the work carried out at the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Plan of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, held in Port-Louis, Mauritius in 2005.

The Declaration of Mar del Plata of the Fourth Summit of the Americas held in 2005 reaffirms, among others, the commitment of member states to coordinating international efforts in support of sustainable development policies, as well as to promoting greater access for people to health care.

II. MANDATE AND CONTEXT

The objectives of the Inter-American Program are set out broadly in the mandates of the Summit of the Americas (Miami 1994, Santiago de Chile 1998, Quebec City 2001, Monterrey 2004, and Mar del Plata 2005) and especially the Summit of the Americas on Sustainable Development (Bolivia, 1996), as well as the General Assembly, CIDI, CIDS and other resolutions. For example, in 1996, the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS) established an Inter-American Committee on Sustainable Development (CIDS) as a subsidiary organ of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI). The CIDS is charged with formulating policy objectives in support of sustainable development, and of preparing an Inter-American Program for Sustainable Development (PIDS). In establishing the PIDS, the General Assembly emphasized the importance of ensuring that OAS activities were closely coordinated with developments in other international organizations. In this regard, the OAS role in implementing all aspects of the PIDS will be consistent with, and complementary to, those of other relevant regional and multilateral entities, particularly with the United Nations.

General Assembly resolution AG/RES. 1440 (XXVI-O/96), resolution CIDI/CIDS/RES.1 (III-O/02), AND Article 95 of the OAS Charter provide that CIDI formulate a strategic plan involving policies, programs and projects in support of integral development. In this context, the OAS will:

- a) Serve as a hemispheric forum to promote dialogue and coordinate progress in the area of sustainable development;
- b) Support the exchange of information relating to sustainable development, and facilitate the exchange of experiences among countries, institutions, and organizations; and
- c) Act as a partner in cooperation among stakeholders involved in sustainable development in those areas in which the OAS General Secretariat has a comparative advantage.

In addition, member states recognize that the Inter-American Program should contribute to the implementation of plans of action and recommendations set out in Agenda 21 adopted at the Earth Summit, held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, the Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, adopted in Johannesburg in 2002, as well as declarations and plans of action adopted in a variety of international and regional conferences, including, *inter alia*, the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, held in Bridgetown, Barbados, in 1994.

At the Summit of the Americas on Sustainable Development, the Declaration of Santa Cruz de la Sierra and the Plan of Action for the Sustainable Development of the Americas (the Plan of Action of Santa Cruz) were adopted. The Plan of Action proposes a range of initiatives to be carried out by governments, individually and collectively.

The First Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High Level Authorities, held in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, in December 2006, adopted this Inter-American Program for Sustainable Development 2006-2009, and in the “Declaration of Santa Cruz + 10” called for its implementation.

III. STRATEGIC AREAS OF ACTION

The objective of the Inter-American Program for Sustainable Development is to serve the interests of member states by reaffirming strategic priorities of action for the period 2006 to 2009, within the overarching framework of sustainable development.

The Inter-American Program for Sustainable Development will carry out its priority activities in the following areas:

3.1 Sustainable agriculture and the sustainable management of forests and other natural resources

Sustainable agriculture and the sustainable management of forests and other natural resources require an integral approach to the various themes that comprise this area and the identification of successful opportunities through cooperation in regard to environmental management at the project and policy level.

The OAS will take the following actions in this area:

- a. Serve as a regional forum for:
 - i) Advancing the dialogue in integrated approaches to alternative land uses and planning.
 - ii) Facilitating the adoption of strategies and integrated policies, in coordination with other institutions such as the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Commission on Sustainable Development of the United Nations (CSD), the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), multilateral technical and financial cooperation agencies, such as the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the World Bank, the Permanent Secretariats of the United Nations Conventions on Biological Diversity and to Combat Desertification, and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) and the Ramsar Regional Center for the Western Hemisphere (CREHO), and others as appropriate, to address the needs of access to, transfer of, and incorporation of appropriate production technologies and sustainable management of the natural resources in our region, as well as improving the quality of life of the poorest rural segments of society. Special emphasis should be given to areas and countries affected by processes of desertification, within the framework of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.
- b. Promote the exchange of information for:

Supporting the governments in their establishment of an inter-American network for sharing of information and best practices related to sustainable agriculture, the sustainable management of forests, and other related topics, taking into account the experience and activity of other multilateral, regional and national initiatives and programs in this area, such as the Sustainable Development Network Programme (SDNP-UNDP).

c. Provide cooperation for:

Developing action plans and/or carrying out, at the request of member states, projects for the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources including protection of watersheds and sensitive biodiversity resources.

3.2 Water Resources, Land, and Health

The Inter-American Program has the objective of improving water resources management practices in order to assure quality water for human consumption and ensure its sustainable use for the current and future generations without damaging the environment. The Program also calls for the OAS to cooperate with various institutions, organizations and agencies in the Inter-American and United Nations systems to provide support to the member states, particularly in integrated water resource management. The development of actions related to integrated water resources management builds on the experience that the OAS has acquired over the past decades working in water resource management throughout the Hemisphere.

Land degradation is recognized as one of the major global environmental and sustainable development challenges of the 21st century. The Inter-American Program, working in coordination with other regional and international organizations, supports and promotes integrated and cross-sectoral approaches to address land degradation issues within the framework of sustainable development, assisting governments, when requested.

The countries of the Hemisphere have emphasized that one of the pillars of human development is equitable access to health services. Efforts must be made to develop care and promotion strategies to prevent and minimize the negative impacts to the environment and human health.

The OAS will take the following actions in this area:

a. Serve as a regional forum to:

- i) Support, with the consent of States concerned, mechanisms for inter-governmental dialogue and cooperation in the development of policies, strategies, and for integrated water resource management, in accordance with relevant international laws, and integrated land management.
- ii) Facilitate and strengthen the dialogue to address the problems that create linkages between environmental degradation and health, in support of the Health and Environment Ministers of the Americas (HEMA) initiative, with the participation of the Pan-American Health Organization, and the United Nations Environment Programme.
- iii) Support initiatives in full collaboration with the Pan-American Health Organization to integrate actions related to provide good quality water and sanitation for the population.

- iv) Promote cross-sectoral approaches to integrated water resources management in accordance with relevant international law, and land use planning, integrating the ecological, economic, and social dimensions in program and project design.
- b. Promote the exchange of information to:
- i) Support actions to encourage the dissemination and exchange of information and experiences in water resources management and land tenure and management among the countries of the Hemisphere, by strengthening information mechanisms and networks.
 - ii) Support and promote special meetings such as World Water Forums, and the Inter-American Dialogue on Water Management at the hemispheric level, as well as support subregional meetings to facilitate discussion among water authorities and the society concerned with water management.
 - iii) Share best practices, disseminate information, and facilitate discussions related to strengthening policy, institutional, and legal frameworks, to address water and land resource degradation problems, and the linkages between environmental degradation and health issues.
 - iv) Strengthen the policy dialogue between the Pan American Health Organization and the OAS to foster promotion of initiatives related to water and health.
- c. Provide cooperation to:
- i) Support member states in the formulation and execution of strategic action programs for integrated water management to promote sustainable development.
 - ii) Establish, among member states, mechanisms for integrated water resources management, taking into consideration public participation in the decision-making process.
 - iii) Support member states in their efforts to strengthen institutional capacity and policy, regulatory and legal programs related to the implementation of integrated water resource management and land management practices, including rehabilitation of ecosystems.
 - iv) Support activities of member states in the formulation and implementation of programs and projects oriented to addressing threats to health caused by environmental degradation, including threats to water quality that entail problems associated with hazardous wastes and persistent organic pollutants.

- v) Support member states in the design and implementation of programs and projects for sustainable fisheries management and sustainable aquaculture development.
- vi) Support member states in advancing the development of programs and institutional policies that enable the recognition of wetlands as indispensable ecosystems in the recharge of aquifers, in the conservation of biodiversity, and the supply of quality water, as well as the strengthening of actions that ensure the ecological wealth of wetlands.

3.3 Natural Hazards Risk Management

One fundamental component in sustainable development is the support provided to reduce vulnerability to natural hazards through an integrated approach and thus avoid disasters or mitigate their effects on people, infrastructure and the natural resources base, which support economic development. Activities such as assistance with policy formulation, hazard and vulnerability assessments, training in disaster mitigation techniques, and formulation of mitigation measures for development investment projects are carried out as part of ongoing technical cooperation programs with collaborating national, regional, and international institutions. In this sense, the commitments adopted by the Permanent Council and the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) through its Joint Consultative Body of the Committee on Hemispheric Security and the Permanent Executive Committee of CIDI (CEPCIDI), in compliance with resolution AG/RES. 2114 (XXXV-O/05) and 2184 (XXXVI-O/06), will be taken into account, in particular in the areas related to systematic risk management, including risk identification, risk reduction, and risk transfer. Commitments assumed in the *Declaration of Hyogo*, adopted at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, held in Kobe, Japan, January 2005, will also be taken into account. Support will be focused and given to national and regional initiatives on issues of prevention, mitigation, and attention to disasters through an integrated approach, which would include organizations on civil protection and disaster management and development planning agencies.

The OAS will take the following actions in this area:

- a. Serve as a hemispheric forum to support national, regional and hemispheric actions to:
 - i) Promote sustainable development by reducing the vulnerability of economic and social infrastructure to natural hazards in national development plans.
 - ii) Promote sustainable public/private natural hazard risk management mechanisms that substantially lessen loss of life, prevent and reduce potential damage, and shorten the effects of the disaster recovery period.
 - iii) Improve public awareness and decision-making in development planning by disseminating hazard-prone area maps.

- iv) Foster catastrophe loss protection in the region by supporting the efforts of development lending institutions and the insurance industry to improve natural hazard risk management.
 - v) Encourage private sector and civil society involvement in community-based disaster preparedness and prevention activities.
 - vi) Support the implementation of OAS General Assembly and CIDS resolutions on natural hazards vulnerability reduction.
 - vii) Promote the strengthening of early warning systems that are people-centered, in particular, systems whose warnings are timely and understandable to those at risk, which take into account the demographic, gender, cultural, and livelihood characteristics of the target audiences.
 - viii) Consider the characteristics and special needs of the Small Island Developing States and other vulnerable countries in relation to adapting to the adverse impacts of climate change and of climate variability and, in this sense, grant them, as deemed appropriate, special attention in terms of facilitating financial resources, technology transfer, and capacity-building.
- b. Encourage the exchange of information to:
- i) Facilitating the interpretation of natural hazard information.
 - ii) Reducing natural hazard vulnerability through emergency preparedness, planning, investment, and scientific research.
 - iii) Reducing or eliminating the destructive effects of recurring hazardous events on people and their economic and social infrastructure through the application of appropriate risk reduction measures.
 - iv) Supporting established networks for the exchange of experiences and methods in the forecasting and mitigation of natural hazard events.

- c. Provide cooperation to:
- i) Promote community-based prevention, preparedness, mitigation and response in cases of disaster.
 - ii) Identify natural hazard assessments and the evaluation of financial, economic and physical risk.
 - iii) Promote hazard-resistant building practices and standards.
 - iv) Assist in the implementation of vulnerability and risk audits of lifelines and critical facilities in order to promote life safety and loss reduction.
 - v) Foster the study of the use of vulnerability reduction incentives and hazard mitigation in the property insurance industry.
 - vi) Facilitate technical training and information dissemination.
 - vii) Support the incorporation of natural hazards mitigation goals and objectives in national development plans, the adoption of appropriate building codes and zoning procedures, and the preparation, strengthening and implementation of regional disaster reduction plans.
 - viii) Support the coordination of international and national activities aimed at the preparation of sector vulnerability profiles and investment plans to reduce vulnerability to natural disasters.

3.4 Conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity

Biodiversity plays a critical role in the sustainable development in the countries of the region. It is a key component of the fight against hunger and other manifestations of poverty. It is essential to the well-being of humanity and the world as a whole. To avoid the loss of biodiversity, efforts must be made for formulating 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, with due consideration for both the benefits and risks of biotechnology. Efforts will also be made for recognizing and valuing the importance of traditional knowledge and its potential contribution to sustainable development.

The OAS will take the following actions to encourage the development and coordinated work in this area taking into account the relevant instruments, such as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, the Convention on Desertification (UNCCD) and the Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and other relevant regional and multilateral mechanisms.

- a. Serve as a regional forum for:
 - i) Promoting integrated approaches to land use that mainstream conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity into the land-use planning and land management process.
 - ii) Promoting discussion of biodiversity at the inter-American level in order to advance strategies for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.
 - iii) Promoting networks such as Inter-American Biodiversity Information Network (IABIN) and other actions and activities that facilitate sharing information and the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and otherwise support the achievement of the objectives in the conventions listed above. In addition, to explore the development of the Western Hemisphere Migratory Initiative (WHMSI), in a manner that reflects the interests and priorities of all member states.
 - iv) Facilitating the adoption of strategies, and integrated policies, to address the needs of access to, transfer of, and incorporation of appropriate production technologies and sustainable management of the natural resources in our region, on mutually agreed terms, as well as improving the quality of life of the poorest rural segments of society, in coordination with other organizations, and promote dialogue to avoid duplication of efforts. Special emphasis should be given to understanding linkages between the processes of desertification and biodiversity, ecosystem functions and services, water-related issues, and climate change.
 - v) Strengthening the capacity of member states to promote sustainable forest management and to address illegal practices, according to national legislation, through the promotion of forest law enforcement and governance at the national, sub-national, regional and sub-regional levels, including through collaboration with inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations, and the private sector, as appropriate.
 - vi) Supporting the effective implementation and enforcement, at the national and sub-national levels, of laws, policies and regulations that address illegal trade in endangered species and protection of wild flora and fauna, including through the implementation of CITES, as well as the promotion of strategies to address the loss of habitat for wildlife.
- b. Promote the exchange of information for:
 - i) Supporting the governments in the management of an Inter-American Biodiversity Information Network to promote compatible standards and inter-operable means of collection,

communication, and exchange of information relevant to decision-making and capacity building on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

- ii) In coordination with governments, identifying gaps in knowledge and new fields of interest, as well as a research agenda to support conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.
 - iii) Improving regional cooperation for biodiversity management through the sharing of experience and expertise in protected areas and natural habitats.
 - iv) Creating and strengthening the capacity to address critical issues at a regional level such as invasive species, migratory species, amphibian declines, wildlife trafficking, and the spread of wildlife and zoonotic diseases, among others.
 - v) Developing the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) and building capacity in member countries to participate actively in the development of data layers and assessment of environmental information as it relates to sustainable development and protection of human health and biodiversity.
- c. Provide cooperation for:
- i) Carrying out regional, sub-regional, and bilateral projects for the management and sustainable use of biological diversity, including wildlife and forests, and formulating strategies and considering coordinated action plans for managing natural ecosystems and biological resources shared by two or more countries.
 - ii) Supporting countries, upon joint agreed request, in identifying new protected areas in the region, and formulating plans for the management of protected areas and buffer zones with similar characteristics, and for establishing, restoring or consolidating biological corridors, as jointly agreed by those countries where the Protected Area would be located.
 - iii) Promoting integrated soil management and measures to combat desertification through sustainable development projects and integrated regional studies for such purposes as reversing significant degradation and erosion, in conformity with the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.
 - iv) Assisting member states, at their request, in strengthening activities in support of the development of environmental legislation to conserve biodiversity and water resources and to combat desertification.

- v) Strengthening technical and institutional capacity for the conservation and sustainable use of plants, animals, and ecosystems.
- vi) Building cooperative initiatives at a hemispheric, regional, and sub-regional level among environmental, natural resource, and law enforcement authorities to enhance the capacity to detect and effectively respond to illegal transboundary trade in wild flora and fauna to strengthen implementation of obligations under CITES.

3.5 Coastal Zone Management and Adaptation to Climate Change

A key component of the Inter-American Program is the support to countries and sub-regional and regional institutions in their efforts to respond to the adverse effects of climate change, particularly sea-level rise, in coastal and marine areas through vulnerability assessment, adaptation planning, and capacity building. In this context, the OAS will promote measures to counter the adverse effects of climate change in the the socio-economic fields.

The OAS will take the following actions in this area:

- a. Promote the exchange of information in order to:
 - i. Formulate policies and options for cost-effective response and adaptation to the impacts of global climate change.
 - ii. Enable the further integration and linkages between initiatives and projects addressing adaptation to climate change, and mitigation of natural disasters.
 - iii. Establish databases and information systems to allow key regional and national institutions to acquire, analyze, store, and disseminate data on climate change and the impacts on natural and man-made systems.
 - iv. Increase knowledge on the impact of climate change and greenhouse gas emission on socio-economic sectors and natural resources.
- b. Provide cooperation in order to:
 - i. Establish and operate sea level/climate and coral reef monitoring networks.
 - ii. Develop appropriate methodologies for coastal vulnerability and risk assessment and mapping.

3.6. Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Promotion

The Inter-American Program considers the development and use of renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies and systems as key components of sustainable development.

The OAS will take the following actions in this area:

- a. Serve as a regional forum for:
 - i) Organizing and implementing the Renewable Energy in the Americas Initiative (REIA), which builds collaborative partnerships to accelerate the use of renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies throughout the Americas.
 - ii) Participation in renewable energy and energy efficiency partnerships launched at the World Summit for Sustainable Development (WSSD).
 - iii) Promoting policy and regulatory measures to advance the use of renewable energy and energy-efficiency technologies in the Americas.
 - iv) Developing and accessing innovative financing mechanisms suited to the technical characteristics of renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies and appropriate to the social and economic needs of the demographically diverse end-users.
 - v) Identifying and promoting renewable energy and energy efficiency project opportunities in the Americas.
 - vi) Sharing information on renewable energy and energy efficient technologies and delivering technical assistance and training on matters related to sustainable energy development.

3.7 Capacity Building and Institutional Strengthening for Sustainable Development and Environmental Management

The exercise of democracy promotes the preservation and good stewardship of the environment. Democratic governance requires the development of responsible management of public affairs as an essential factor in the sustainable development of the member states, and the promotion of civil society participation. Governance and environmental management place priority in identifying best practices, developing technical skills at the institutional and local levels to assess and manage linkages among environmental, social, and economic issues, which are the components of sustainable development. The OAS will collaborate with the development of integral policies that take said components into account. In that regard, the OAS will work towards the development and strengthening of environmental law, in support of sustainable development priorities established by the member states. Environmental management will consider at the outset and in an adequate manner the protection of those communities that depend on the natural resources for their economic subsistence.

The OAS will take the following actions in this area:

- a. Serve as a regional forum to:

- i) Facilitate dialogue towards the consideration of technical, social and economic issues in environmental management, including the rights that may derive from those of the traditional indigenous knowledge, stressing that they are issues related to the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the Convention on Biological Diversity, that deal specifically with the topic.
 - ii) Facilitate the exchange of information and experiences in environmental law and policies, in particular, through the governmental experts designated by the member states to participate in the activities of the Inter-American Forum on Environmental Law (FIDA).
 - iii) Continue collaborating through FIDA in cooperative efforts towards developing and strengthening environmental laws, policies, and institutions, and in cooperation with member states, reinforce instruments or incentives of environmental compliance utilized by the member states in the establishment of their policies and legislation.
 - iv) Exchange information concerning environmental cooperation activities in the territory of the member states and develop a list of relevant programs and projects funded by cooperation partners in the Americas.
- b. Promote the exchange of information to:
- i) Foster collaboration with public, private, and civil society organizations interested in the law and environmental policy.
 - ii) Foster collaboration among experts on environmental law and policies.
 - iii) Support the development and implementation of national and international environmental policies.
 - iv) Support member states in complying with the commitments acquired through environmental agreements and in making decisions related to sustainable development, taking into account the environmental, economic and social dimensions.
 - v) Generate profiles of best practices for sustainable development and environmental management of trade transportation corridors in coordination with regional infrastructure integration strategies.
- c. Provide cooperation to:
- i) Develop capacities in support of good environmental management especially in the areas of environmental policies, legislation, regulations and standards.
 - ii) Support member states in the incorporation of environmental

policies into their development plans.

- iii) Build capacity, through technical and analytical support, upon request of member states, to undertake environmental impact assessments to minimize economic, environmental, and social externalities.
- iv) Support the development of environmental legislation in member states.

IV. COOPERATION AND FINANCING

We entrust the General Secretariat of the OAS, within the framework of its mandate, 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.

V. IMPLEMENTATION AND FOLLOW-UP

The General Secretariat, through the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development and its Department for Sustainable Development, in coordination with and with the assistance of the competent specialized offices and units, will support the activities that arise from the program.

Member States recognize the multi-disciplinary and inter-sectoral nature of sustainable development and the environment. Accordingly, the Program implementation shall emphasize close, ongoing cooperation and coordination with multilateral and regional organizations that are charged with implementing programs, projects, and policies of relevance to the priorities identified herein. Moreover, the Program implementation shall take into account developments in other bodies, and identify synergies with international and regional organizations, the private sector, civil society, community groups, research bodies and others in order to ensure that measurable progress is made. In order to ensure that the implementation of the Program proceeds in an efficient, cost-effective, and cooperative manner, a programmatic monitoring and evaluation system shall be established.

The Department for Sustainable Development will present to the Permanent Executive Committee of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CEPCIDI) an annual work program based on the guidelines of the CIDI strategic plan. In addition, the Department of Sustainable Development will prepare semester progress reports on the implementation of this Inter-American Program for Sustainable Development. In its annual work program the Department of Sustainable Development will, *inter alia*, monitor and evaluate the implementing of the Inter-American Program, and define a strategy for mobilizing funds to support the financing of the Program. The annual work program will include provision for monitoring the implementation and evaluating the results of the Program. A comprehensive ample evaluation of the impact will be undertaken in the final year of the Program, in accordance with the existing resources available for this purpose. The Department shall also present reports on the implementation of the program to the Inter-American Committee on Sustainable Development or other appropriate sectoral meetings, which can propose updates to the Program.

There are three sources of funds to support the implementation of the Program: the regular budget, the Sector Account for Sustainable Development and Environment of the Special Multilateral Fund of CIDI (FEMCIDI) and external funds. There is a relationship among these three funding sources, and the extent of the regular budget and FEMCIDI to raise and manage external funds. Its purpose is also to ensure efficiency and effectiveness in serving the needs of the member states in their execution of mandates in the area of sustainable development.

The resources in the sectoral Account for Sustainable Development and Environment of FEMCIDI should be used to implement activities arising from the Program. Accordingly, member states are encouraged to present multinational projects following these criteria, and the Department for Sustainable Development is to support member states that so request in the formulation of such projects, and shall cooperate with those member states in the search for additional external funding sources for its execution.

Moreover, the Department for Sustainable Development will provide support for the design and implementation of pilot projects to promote effective participation in innovative programs designed to promote sustainable development and environmental issues.