



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



**XV INTER-AMERICAN CONFERENCE  
OF MINISTERS OF LABOR**  
September 11-13, 2007  
Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago

OEA/Ser.K/XII.15.1  
TRABAJO/doc.20/07  
11 September 2007  
Original: Spanish

**JOINT CEATAL-COSATE DECLARATION**

On the occasion of the XV Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor of the Organization of American States (OAS), to be held from September 11 to 13, 2007, the employers and workers of the Americas, represented by the Business Technical Advisory Committee on Labor Matters (CEATAL) and the Trade Union Technical Advisory Council (COSATE) welcome the initiative the Conference has taken to reflect on policies and measures focused on the promotion of decent work in the Americas and to consider labor and employment as key elements of social and economic development in the context of globalization. With a view to contributing to this effort, they have agreed to the following:

**DECLARATION**

1. We reiterate our commitment, within the promotion of the principles of decent work, to the search for full and productive employment, mindful that this is essential for the establishment of sustainable socioeconomic development that is focused on social justice and makes human dignity a reality;

2. We recognize the importance of fostering the creation of a national, regional, and international environment that is sustainable and conducive to the generation of full and productive employment, with social protection for all. In this regard, we recognize that job creation calls for an environment with policies capable of guaranteeing rights in addition to fostering growth, investment, and entrepreneurship;

3. We take into account the Resolution on the Promotion of Sustainable Enterprises adopted by the International Labor Conference of the International Labor Organization (ILO) at its 96<sup>th</sup> Session, in 2007, and in that sense we reiterate that human talent is the single most important productive factor in today's economy;

4. We deem it fundamental that governments focus their efforts on training the labor force and increasing human capacities through high-quality educational, training, and lifelong

learning systems, ensuring the ability of workers to adjust to changes in technology and workplace reorganization and assuring the skilled workers necessary for enterprises;

5. We believe that professional training is an instrument for productive policy as well as social policy that contributes to increasing productivity, quality, and competitiveness as well as integration, social harmony, and equal opportunity;

6. Recognizing education in general and professional training in particular as preferred instruments for providing access to and disseminating knowledge and as relevant tools for making decent and productive work a reality, we urge governments to assign priority, in the design and application of their policies, to the participation of employers and workers;

7. Likewise, we propose the creation and promotion of open professional training systems that are sufficiently versatile and flexible to guide people along long-term learning paths;

8. In this context, we understand as essential the implementation of all provisions of regional agreements aimed at fostering social dialogue as the best means to build a strategy for education, training, and lifelong learning;

9. We ask the ILO and the OAS for a program that is specifically geared to building an effective social dialogue, not only at the regional level but also in each of the countries of the region, in order to:


- A. Make progress on specific goals and deadlines, recognizing exemplary cases that could be approached from a sub-regional viewpoint, and
- B. Implement the recent resolutions of the OAS General Assembly related to the participation of the private sector and the workers' representatives in activities of the OAS. In order to achieve better articulation between COSATE and CEATAL in their work as institutional channels for monitoring and providing follow-up to social dialogue, we request that the participation of CEATAL in OAS activities be institutionalized;

10. We urge the President of the Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor to communicate with the Group of the Social Charter of the Americas in order to ensure—within the context of institutionalized social dialogue—the participation of the Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor and its advisory bodies in the process of drafting the Charter with the understanding that it will express substantive matters related to economic, cultural, social and labor issues;

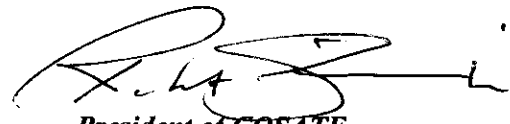
11. We ask the Ministers of Labor to promote through their governments, in all of the forums and summits of the Hemisphere, the adoption of a clear decision for the construction of an effective social dialogue and the definition of an agenda for the institutional incorporation of this dialogue.

12. We express our steadfast commitment to continuing to carry out, within the framework of social dialogue, all activities needed to ensure that decent work and productive employment will become a reality in the Hemisphere, recognizing that this is a condition for the genuine social and economic development of peoples.

September 11, 2007  
Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago



*President of CEATL*  
Daniel Funes de Rioja



*President of COSATE*  
Robert Giuseppe