
2016 CELAC ACTION PLAN

The Heads of State and Government of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) gathered in Quito, Ecuador, on January 27th, 2016, agree to establish the following 2016 Action Plan, which contains the main guidelines to guide the work of CELAC for its 2016 administration.

FOOD SECURITY AND ERRADICATION OF HUNGER AND POVERTY

1. Continue applying the 2025 CELAC Plan on Food Security, Nutrition and Hunger Eradication (2025 CELAC FSN Plan), developed by FAO, ECLAC and ALADI, following the mandate established in the 2014 CELAC Action Plan.
2. Give continuity to the commitments reached at the 2nd Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of Social Development to Eradicate Hunger and Poverty, held in Caracas, Venezuela, on October 22nd and 23rd, 2015. Convene in Venezuela for a technical meeting during the second semester of 2016, with the goal of following up on the 2nd Meeting of Ministers on the regional cooperation strategic agenda on social matters of CELAC 2015 – 2017.
3. Convene the 3rd Meeting of Ministers and High Officials of Social Development for the Eradication of Hunger and Poverty, which allows moving forward in the Strategic Agenda of Regional Coordination in social matters of CELAC (2015-2017) and its Work Mechanism, all of it complying with the 2025 CELAC FSN Plan and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as part of the regional commitment to achieve the eradication of poverty, said meeting will be held on.....semester of 2016.

FAMILY FARMING

1. Give continuity to the decisions adopted at the 2nd Meeting of the Working Group on Family Farming, and the 2nd Ministerial Meeting, held in San Jose, Costa Rica on November 5th and 6th, 2015, in order to assess the progress of the work contained in the Ad-Hoc Group of Family Farming Action Plan and to identify cooperation activities in this area, both from technical as well as a productive point of view, and define available funding sources.
2. Implement the Ministerial Declaration on Family Farming and the CELAC Ad-Hoc Working Group on Family Farming Action Plan in 2016, where spaces for reflection, analysis and definition of scope and challenges involved are promoted to advance with the 2030 Development Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals adopted within the framework of the 70th United Nations General Assembly on matters relating to Family Farming, Food Security, Nutrition and Hunger Eradication.

3. CELAC welcomes the interest of the Republic of El Salvador to host the 3rd Ministerial Meeting in November 2016.

PREVENTION AND FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION

1. Follow up the recommendations and commitments adopted at the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Special Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities on Preventing and Combating Corruption, and focus on the accomplishment of the Declaration of Panama, adopted in October 2015.
2. Continue strengthening among the States of CELAC the international cooperation and the exchange of information about transparency, accountability and citizen participation and the encouragement on the use of new technologies in the governments and the exchange on tax information according to the applicable norm.
3. Encourage member countries of CELAC to establish and develop programs or codes of ethics within non-state actors, including the private sector.
4. Commission the Working Group Specialized in the Prevention and Fight against Corruption to prepare a draft on "Regional Declaration on ethics in the Public Sector", that contains principles and values, such as integrity, honesty, ethics, strict compliance with the law, and transparency in the public sector, that should guide the performance of public servants in the performance of governmental functions.
5. Entrust the mentioned Working Group the analysis of policies and programs directed towards asset recovery.
6. Convene the 4th Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities on Prevention and Fight against Corruption, to be held in Guatemala, on the first semester of 2016.

PROMOTING EQUITY, EQUALITY AND THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

1. Follow up on the decisions of the 1st Meeting of the Working Group on the Advancement of Women, held on August 21st and 22nd, 2014 in San Salvador, El Salvador; as well as on the progress in the implementation of the Minutes of Commitment, adopted at the 1st Meeting of the Working Group, and the Commitment Declaration for "Food and Nutritional Security. Empowerment of Rural Women", approved in the 2nd Meeting of the Working Group on the Advancement of Women, which was held in San Salvador, El Salvador on October 26th and 27th, 2015 and adopt the roadmap agreed within the framework of this meeting.
2. Urge the Member States of CELAC to work in developing public policies, administrative, budgetary measures and strengthening of legal and programmatic frameworks for the empowerment and promotion of the autonomy of rural women and compliance of their

rights promoting the access to financial services, control and ownership of land and other natural resources, agricultural modernization programs, the establishment of strategies for sustainable production systems of social protection and access to quality services and technology production goods, markets and information on these, inheritance of an equal footing, among others; considering the national context of each country (agreement 2, Declaration of Commitment, 2nd Meeting of the Working Group of CELAC on advancement of women).

3. Identify and promote public policies for the economic empowerment of the region with the objective to determine ways to promote interregional cooperation in the sector.
4. We support the offer of El Salvador to coordinate the content and development of the next meetings of the CELAC Working Groups on the Advancement of Women, jointly with the future Pro Tempore Presidencies of CELAC and the countries hosting the meetings of said Working Group.
5. Convene the 3rd Meeting of the Working Group on the promotion of equity, equality and empowerment of women, based on the roadmap and on the Declaration of Commitments of the 2nd Working Group Meeting on the Advancement of Women, to be held inthe..... ..semester of 2016.
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PEOPLE OF AFRICAN DESCENT

1. Continue efforts and strengthen cooperation among Member States to implement the Decade of the Latin American and Caribbean People of African Descent Action Plan, according to the agreements arrived at during the 1st and 2nd Meeting of the Working Group on People of African Descent of CELAC, held in Brasilia, on December 4th and 5th, 2014, and on October 22nd and 23rd, 2015, respectively.
2. This Action Plan must be in harmony with the agreements derived from the United Nations Decade of People of African Descent, in order to guarantee the creation or strengthening of national mechanisms for equity and the elimination of racial and ethnic discrimination, as well as to guarantee human rights for people of African descent. Promote the preparation of guidelines for the adoption of national and regional measures for the recognition, justice and development for people of African descent.
3. Convene the 3rd Meeting of the Working Group on People of African Descent, to be held at on the semester of 2016.

MIGRATION

1. Advance with the discussions derived from the 4th Meeting on Migration of CELAC, held in San Salvador, El Salvador, on November 5th and 6th, 2015, with the goal of developing applicable guidelines that are compatible with future proposals within the framework of the United Nations and international standards in this matter. It is also a priority to advance in the CELAC - EU Structured Dialogue on Migration, under which framework we will seek to strengthen the positive linkage among migration, development and human rights, through the exchange of good practices and the development of tangible projects.
2. Celebrate the 5th Meeting on Migration in the year 2016, in Santiago, Chile.

WORLD DRUG PROBLEM

1. Give continuity to the commitments made at the Second Ministerial Meeting on the World Drug Problem, held in Quito, Ecuador, on May 21st and 22nd, 2015, in which the Declaration of Quito on the drug problem in the region was adopted and the common positions of CELAC settled in international forums in particular towards the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on the World Drug Problem (2016 UNGASS) as well as to allow to continue discussing those subjects that would permit extend the agreement issues, within the CELAC - EU Cooperation and Coordination Mechanism on Drug Issues framework.
2. Convene the 3rd Meeting on the World Drug Problem, to be held at Dominican Republic on the first semester of 2016.

LABOR

1. Conduct the 2nd Meeting of the Working Group on Employment of CELAC during the first trimester of 2016 to draw up an Action Plan for CELAC in this area, in Peru.

EDUCATION

1. Convene in 2016 in San Jose, Costa Rica, the 1st Working Group of the 2nd Meeting of Ministers of Education of CELAC with the purpose of advancing in the execution of the adopted route map, as well as the commitments acquired on the 1st Meeting of Ministers of Education of CELAC, held in Havana, Cuba on February 7th, 2013.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

1. Continue supporting the efforts of the Working Group on Human Talent, coordinated by Costa Rica and of the Working Group on Knowledge Management, coordinated by Brazil, established during the 2nd Senior Officials Meeting on Science and Technology.
2. Follow up on the recommendations agreed upon at the 3rd Meeting of Senior Officials on Science and Technology, held on September 15th to 17th, 2015, in Quito, Ecuador, with the objective to advance with the efforts of the Working Groups on Human Talent and Knowledge Management.
3. Advance the strategic link with other regions on ICT issues like the “1st CELAC-China Forum of Science, Technology and Innovation and Technological Exhibit”, held in Quito, Ecuador, on September 16th to 18th, 2015 in the framework of the implementation of the 2015-2019 CELAC-China Cooperation Plan.
4. Convene the 4th Senior Officials Meeting in Science and Technology based on the declaration of the Third Senior Officials Meeting on ICT 2015 (Action Plan and Roadmap) on the second semester of 2016.

CULTURE AND DIALOGUE AMONG CULTURES

1. Follow up the decisions and recommendations agreed upon at the 3rd Meeting of Ministers of Culture, held in La Havana, Cuba, on September 17th to 19th, 2015.
2. Maintain the linkage with the Latin American and Caribbean Culture Web Site, with the support of UNESCO, as a useful element for CELAC.
3. Contribute substantially to the implementation and enrichment of the *Cultural Action Plan of CELAC (2015-2020)* approved by the countries at the 3rd Meeting of Ministers of Culture and ensure that it turns into an instrument for the integration of cultures and identities in our region and for implementing a culture of peace, in correspondence with the Declaration of Latin America and the Caribbean as a Zone of Peace, adopted at the 2nd CELAC Summit.
4. Celebrate the 4th Meeting of Ministers of Culture at the Plurinational State of Bolivia, in 2016, with the objective to advance in the consolidation of cultural cooperation and follow up on the Cultural Action Plan.
5. Request the Ministers of Culture of CELAC to continue the discussion on the scope of the definition of “cultural goods” and the establishment of a regional strategy, according to the Special Declaration N° 25 of Belén, Costa Rica.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

1. Follow up on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals approved in the framework of the 70th General Assembly of the United Nations, specially taking into consideration the different visions, models, approaches and realities to attain sustainable development.

ENVIRONMENT

1. Convene the 2nd Meeting of the Working Group on Environment, during the first semester of 2016, venue to be defined, as a follow up to the 1st Meeting of the Working Group on the Environment, held in Quito, in April 2013.
2. Entrust to the Working Group on Environment to consider the possibility of elaborating a multidimensional strategy that facilitates the sustainable management and that considers the challenges of our countries in face of climate change, the conservation of the environment and the loss of biodiversity, in particular, the more vulnerable countries of the region.

CLIMATE CHANGE

1. Convene the 2nd Meeting of Ministers of Environment or other high-level national authorities related with climate change, based on the agreements and commitments reached at COP21 that allow to advance on the objectives set forth by the region for the coming years, to be held at Panama on the first semester of 2016, considering the paragraph 22 of the Political Declaration of Quito – Middle of the World.

INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE

1. Convene a Meeting of Senior Officials on Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management, at Dominican Republic, during the first semester of 2016, in order to identify the general guidelines of a Regional Strategic Agenda that includes proposals for disaster risk reduction, humanitarian assistance, and support for rehabilitation and reconstruction. This Agenda should prioritize coordinating tools and the articulation of proposals with other national, regional and sub-regional mechanisms for Disaster Risk Management.
2. Promote information exchange, dialogue and coordination among the member countries of CELAC in the process towards the World Humanitarian Summit to be held in Turkey in May 2106, based on the regional agreement reached in Guatemala between the 5th and 7th of May 2015.

INFRASTRUCTURE

1. Follow up the agreements reached at the 1st Meeting of the Working Group on Infrastructure for Physical Integration of Transportation, Telecommunications and Border Integration, held on December 5th and 6th, 2014, in Montevideo, Uruguay, and move forward in the definition of a roadmap that guides the workings of said group.
2. Convene the 2nd Ministerial Meeting on Infrastructure for Physical Integration of Transportation, Telecommunications and Border Integration during the first semester of 2016, in San Pedro Sula, Honduras.

ENERGY

1. Follow up on the activities identified by the Working Group according to the Action Plan of Montego Bay of October 2013 and the Declaration of Montego Bay on Energy Security and Regional Integration; documents that were adopted during the 2nd Meeting of Energy Ministers of CELAC, held in Jamaica on October 24th and 25th, 2013; to the decisions reached and noted in the Declaration of the 3rd Ministerial Meeting of Energy that took place on November 7th, 2014 in San Salvador, El Salvador, parallel to the 44th Meeting of OLADE.
2. Follow up the actions of the 1st Meeting of the Ad-Hoc Virtual Group for Energy, held on October 14th, 2015 at Quito, Ecuador.
3. Implement the actions agreed upon at the 2nd Meeting of the Working Group on Energy and the 4th Meeting of Energy Ministers, held on October 30th, 2015, in Bolivia, including the elaboration of a proposal of a 2015 CELAC Energy Roadmap, with the support of the Latin American Energy Organization (OLADE), for approval at the next Meeting of Energy Ministers of CELAC.
4. Convene the 5th Ministerial Meeting on Energy on a place to be determined in parallel to when the OLADE Meeting is held.

PRODUCTION AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Follow up on the Action Plan adopted during the 1st Meeting of Ministers of Economy and Industry, held on April 10th and 11th, 2014 in San Jose, Costa Rica.
2. Celebrate the 3rd Meeting of Minister of Economy, based to be held in the semester of 2016.

COOPERATION

1. Entrust the International Cooperation Working Group to continue its task of screening areas where South – South Cooperation can be applied, based on the capacities, institutional strengths and successful public policies of each Member Country and to present the progress made in the National Coordinators Meetings.
2. Recommend the International Cooperation Working Group to work in coordination with other intra-regional mechanisms so as not to duplicate efforts in the implementation of regional cooperation actions and projects.
3. Urge National Coordinators to encourage the participation of the International Cooperation agents in the Regional and Sub-Regional Integration Organisms Mechanisms Meetings.
4. Follow up on the 3rd Meeting of the Working Group on Cooperation, held in Quito, on August 24th and 25th, 2015.
5. Convene the 4th meeting of the Working Group on Cooperation, in order to progress on the objectives for which it was created, identifying the challenges and strengths to boost regional cooperation.

REGIONAL AND SUB-REGIONAL MECHANISMS AND ORGANISMS OF INTEGRATION

1. Take note of the consensus reached at the 4th Meeting of Regional and Sub-regional Integration Mechanisms, held in the Dominican Republic on October 19th and 20th, 2015, in order to weigh the progress of the mandates to encourage complementarity and convergence of actions amongst the Mechanisms and Bodies.
2. We reaffirm our interest in continuing to strengthen and deepening complementarity, cooperation, and coordination between the Secretariat and Pro Tempore Presidencies of Regional and Sub-regional Organisms and Mechanisms of Integration. We entrust the 1st Meeting of National Coordinators of 2016, to begin deliberation to improve communication, coordination and synergies amongst organisms and mechanisms with the goal of deepening integration and unity and accelerating regional development in priority areas of CELAC.

INTERNATIONAL POLICY

1. Continue the monthly meetings of the Ambassadors of the Member States of CELAC to the United Nations and other multilateral headquarters, where possible, to gradually continue consolidating the coordination on major issues on the agenda of the Community

where there is consensus, in accordance with the mandates and outcomes of the Summits and Ministerial Meetings.

2. Continue strengthening consultation and coordination among the Member States of the CELAC in the United Nations and other multilateral fora in order to continue speaking as a region, where appropriate and without detriment of the existing coordinating groups, on issues of interest and relevance to the Member States of the Community and submit, where possible, joint and consensus-based initiatives in cases that require it.

RELATIONS WITH EXTRA-REGIONAL PARTNERS

1. Execute the Action Plan approved by the Heads of State and Government within the framework of the 2nd Meeting of the CELAC - EU Summit, held at Brussels in June 2015.
2. Implement the agreements reached at the 1st Meeting of Foreign Ministers of the CELAC-China Forum, held in Beijing on January 8th and 9th, 2015, for the consolidation of the CELAC-China Forum, taking into account the areas of concern identified by the region.
3. Advance CELAC political dialogues with India, Russia and ASEAN, in accordance with the agreements of the Community reached with each of them.
4. Continuing the discussion on the Guidelines for Relations with Extra-regional Partners of CELAC, in light of the proposals submitted by the Pro-Tempore Presidencies of Costa Rica and Ecuador, at the Meetings of National Coordinators of CELAC, held in San José, on November 25th and 26th, 2014 and in Quito, in November 2015, respectively.
5. Entrust the Quartet of CELAC, with the participation of those Member States that wish to be added to this initiative, to explore the possibility of convening a CELAC-African Union Meeting of Senior Officials on the margins of the 71st United Nations General Assembly, aimed at strengthening the bi – regional dialogue.

2015–2019 CELAC – CHINA COOPERATION FORUM

1. Continue implementing the 2015-2019 CELAC – China Cooperation Plan in coordination with China and considering that each forum and/or event must be jointly organized, defining objectives, guests, results and following-up considering the 2nd Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs that will take place in January 2018, in Santiago, Chile.
2. Continue the discussion and review of the new schedule of activities planned between CELAC and China for 2016. This meeting should be held in the 1st Meeting of National Coordinators in 2016.

CELAC – RUSSIAN FEDERATION RELATIONS

1. Adopt the Joint Declaration for the Establishment of Permanent Mechanisms on Political and Cooperation Dialogue between CELAC and the Russian Federation, approved during the meeting between CELAC Quartet and Russia, held on September 29th, 2015, in New York.
2. Agree on the initial topics that could be addressed on the I° Meeting on the Political and Cooperation Dialogue between CELAC and Russia, which will be held at the Russian Federation on 2016.

CELAC - INDIA RELATIONS

1. CELAC should establish a prioritization of topics on the bilateral agenda with that country highlighting, among others, the interest of increasing relations through Forums proposed by India on business, energy, science and technology. For this purpose, we have proposed to that country to conduct a Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) in January 2017 and continue with the negotiation of the Joint Declaration document, in the next year.
2. Advance the negotiation of the “Joint Declaration on the Mechanism for Political Dialogue and Cooperation between the CELAC and India” and carry out the 1st Senior Officers Meeting (SOM) in 2016.

CELAC - KOREA RELATIONS

1. Celebrate the Tripartite Academic Seminar with CELAC, Korea and ECLAC in Santiago, Chile, in 2016; in such Seminar, the member countries of the Community may voluntarily participate. To this effect, the PTP shall submit the agenda of the Seminar, which will prioritize topics of bi-regional interest.

CELAC - TURKEY RELATIONS

1. Identify initiatives and areas of relations between the Community and Turkey, following the meeting of the CELAC Quartet of Foreign Ministers and Turkey, held on September 24th, 2015.

OTHER AREAS

1. Entrust to the National Coordinators to reflect and evaluate the results achieved and the future perspectives in the following areas: labor, citizen security, the fight against small and light arms trafficking in all its aspects, Latin American and Caribbean tariff preferences.

Quito, January 27th, 2016.