

Political Declaration of Belén, Costa Rica, III Summit of Heads of State and Government of the CELAC

A. Building together a sustainable development with equity

The Heads of State and Government of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), conscious of our responsibility towards the development of Latin American and Caribbean peoples and societies whom we represent, as well as with the international community to which we belong, recognize in CELAC the competent dialogue and political coordination mechanism for the 33 countries of the Community to strengthen the unity in diversity, integration, cooperation, solidarity and the development of national and regional capacities so that it allows us to move towards greater prosperity and a well-being of the Latin American and Caribbean peoples.

The eradication of poverty and sustainable development with social, economic and financial inclusion are challenges that require global, regional and national efforts, as well as that of our local governments and our communities. The irreversible eradication of poverty is a prerequisite for sustainable development and to ensure the equality of opportunities of progress for the societies. Sustainable development cannot be attained without the inclusion of groups in situations of vulnerability, such as, indigenous and other tribal populations, afro-descendants, women, elderly people, persons with disabilities, migrants, children and adolescents. Equity, social and financial inclusion and access to fair credit are central to ensure overall access to justice, citizen participation, well-being and a dignified life for all. The promotion of culture of peace and of non-violence are also fundamental elements for the attainment of sustainable development.

In this context, gathered in Costa Rica in this Third Summit, on January 28th and 29th , 2015, under the motto "Building together" , we reiterate our commitment with the principles of International Law, peace, sustainable development, democracy and respect for human rights, the eradication of hunger and poverty and the fight against inequality, and against all forms of racism, reaffirming our vision of Latin America and the Caribbean as a region of opportunities for all, where social, economic and financial inclusion, tolerance and respect is to prevail. We reaffirm likewise our commitment with multilateralism and international cooperation as cross-cutting measures for the attainment of sustainable development.

We therefore agree to:

1. Reaffirm our strong determination to eradicate extreme poverty, hunger and inequality in the region as an indispensable precondition to reach sustainable development, through the articulation of economic, social, and environmental policies with the integral and fair citizen participation.
2. Address the fight against poverty in an integral and multidimensional way, by directly influencing on its causes, through, inter alia, the promotion of national and regional social and financial inclusion policies directed especially to groups in situations of vulnerability in a way that promotes social justice, social cohesion and sustainable development, preserving the respective spaces needed for their advancement.
3. Guarantee full respect to democracy, the rule of law, as well as to all human rights including right to development and right to peace, in a model of sustainable development that places the person at the center of our policies. Thus, recognize the importance to promote plural, widespread and diverse full citizen participation.

4. Foster the equality and gender equity implementing actions for its incorporation as central and transversal axes of public policies and of the actions of the States, especially directed to promote the empowerment of women, the effective equality, from diversity and taking into consideration all stages of life, in particular, the access to a decent job, quality education, information technologies and communication, health, a life free of violence and discrimination participate in an equal manner to decision making positions in all the powers of the State in its different levels, including, regional and local governments, as determinant factors to consolidate democracy and advance towards a more participative, inclusive and respect for women's rights development model; taking into consideration the joint work with civil society, the social organizations, and the private sector and their budgetary allocation for the development and implementation of public policies for equality.

5. Promote, in order to eradicate hunger, poverty and inequality, the elaboration and effective implementation of regional and national development programs, with a vision of mid and long term, transparency and accountability mechanisms, adequate use of public resources available at the national and international level.

6. Strengthen also, mechanisms to prevent, detect, sanction and combat corruption; improve the efficiency and transparency in public management, promote the accountability at all levels, as well as citizen participation in the supervision of public affairs and the access to information, according to respective national legislations international agreements subscribed by the States.

7. Promote the effective implementation of the international instruments of prevention and fight against corruption in our countries, in particular the Convention of the United Nations against Corruption, and promote the transparency of public policies, strengthening access to information, citizen participation, social control, effective and efficient public management.

8. Favor the creation of opportunities of dignified and productive employment and decent work, in the framework of growth with social inclusion, as the necessary conditions to overcome poverty and diminish inequality in the region.

9. Reaffirm our commitment with the full implementation of the right to education. Recognize the knowledge gaps and agree to the need of effectively reducing them. In this regard, we commit ourselves to strengthen the regional cooperation to achieve the universal access to public, free and quality education, and thus, promote sustainable development, poverty eradication, gender equality, empowerment of women and human development, to ensure access and participation of women and men, particularly young people, ensuring also equal access to education for people with special educational needs (associated or not with a disability), migrants, indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants, continuously incorporating scientific and technological progress, promoting social mobility and improve opportunities employment throughout life, productivity and capacity to promote development and competitiveness based on knowledge and added value, among others.

10. Actively promote policies on higher university education, in all academic modalities, that allow equitable access to a quality higher education. For this purpose we will implement, cooperation and articulation strategies of courses and programs accredited in CELAC member countries, and existing regional mechanisms, as well as policies and national and regional instruments aimed at strengthening the Human Talent in the region, in the context of multiculturalism and multilingualism. This with the support of information and communication technologies, the exchange of good practices and cooperation mechanisms.

11. Highlight our commitment with a Latin American and Caribbean region free from illiteracy, as well as a quality education at all levels and reiterate that education is a fundamental right that contributes to sustainable development processes in the Community. Commit our efforts to fully

implement the right to free, universal and quality education, and so progress in reducing knowledge gaps that persist in the regions.

12. Reaffirm our commitment to build opportunities through sport, to promote social inclusion, the fight against poverty and inequality in our region, considering that sport is a fundamental pillar and a tool for social integration, which contributes to the improvement of quality of life, reduction of poverty and crime prevention.

13. Highlight the importance of information and communication technologies, including the Internet, as well as innovation, as tools to encourage peace, promote well-being, human development, knowledge, social inclusion and economic growth, highlighting their contribution to the improvement of coverage and quality of social services. Likewise, reaffirm the peaceful use of information and communication technologies in a way compatible with the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter and International Law and never with the objective of subverting societies nor create situations with the potential of fostering conflict amongst States. Guarantee stability and security of Internet and ensure the legitimacy that requires its governance, based on full participation of all stakeholders, both from developed and developing countries, in the exercise of their respective roles and responsibilities.

14. Promote growth, progress, social, economic and financial inclusion and sustainable development in our States through productive development, technology transfer, all cooperation modalities, including South-South and intraregional Cooperation. Strengthen the commitments in the field of technology transfer, access to information and intellectual property rights. Likewise, promote cooperation projects that include exchange of scientists and qualified personnel in the region, which will favor the transfer of knowledge, the scientific and intellectual creation and innovation and well-being of our countries.

15. Strengthen, through measurable criteria, the compromises convened in the Plan of Application of the Decisions of Johannesburg, in particular the calling to promote, facilitate and finance, when appropriate, the access to environmentally 5/21 sound technologies and corresponding expertise, as well as its development, in favorable conditions, especially through the exchange of scientists among Universities, Institutes of Higher Education and Institutes of Technological Development of the region, which will favor the transfer of knowledge, the scientific and intellectual creation and innovation.

16. Focus the work towards the social, economic and financial inclusion and cooperation amongst CELAC member States, centered on the human talent, with an awareness of the need to develop national inclusive development policies that support this objective, including SMEs, entrepreneurship, enterprises of social production cooperatives.

17. Recognize the direct contribution of family farming to food security and sustainable development in achieving a region free of poverty and hunger, and welcome the declaration of the I CELAC Ministerial Meeting on Family Farming, held in Brasilia on November 11th, 2014.

18. Approve CELAC's Plan for Food Security, Nutrition and Eradication of Hunger 2025, and thank the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the Latin American Integration Association (ALADI) for their support in its formulation.

19. Take note of the decision of GRULAC members represented in Rome, to endorse the re-election of Dr. Jose Graziano da Silva to the post of FAO's Director General, in the Conference of the organization that will be held in June 2015.

20. Recognize the role of culture and the respect the diversity of cultural expression as important aspects of sustainable development, given its impact on economic growth, on social development and the protection of the environment and recognizing as substantial elements of process towards the attainment of more equitable and better prepared societies to tackle current challenges.

21. Support the agreements reached in the Second CELAC Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of Culture, on August 21, 2014, in Caracas, especially the implementation of a CELAC Action Plan on Culture, which seeks to undertake actions aimed at achieving social objectives, as well as to find ways of communication and access among member countries to strengthen Latin American and Caribbean unity to advance in the way of cultural integration in the 6/21 region, preserve cultural heritage and promote culture in favor of productive economic growth, poverty eradication and sustainable development.

22. Recognize the need to strengthen the link between international migration and development, the contribution of migrants to development of the destination country, placing at the center of this matter the migrant and its family and not its migratory status, understanding that it is the duty of all the States – of origin, transit and destination – to guarantee full respect of all human rights of migrants, irrespective of their migration status, including migration of children and adolescents, accompanied and non-accompanied, and their higher interest to avoid exacerbating their vulnerabilities. We deem necessary to consider this relationship between migration and development, looking to the adoption and implementation of the Post 2015 Development Agenda.

23. Recognize the need to develop actions aimed at exchanging experiences on safe migratory processes of our fellow citizens, both in the countries where they migrate to, as well as their return to their country of origin in our region.

24. Welcome the commitments assumed by the CELAC member countries, reflected in the III CELAC Report of the Meeting on Migration, held in Azogues, Ecuador on October 22nd and 23rd, 2014, and ratify Resolution A/RES/69/187 “Migrant children and adolescents” of the United Nations General Assembly.

25. Emphasize the importance of the right of access to information and participation of the society in the promotion of sustainable development, according to the national capacities, realities, plans and legislations, conventions and applicable international standards. In this sense, highlight the progress of the process on the implementation of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration of 1992, which shall be consistent with national policies and with full respect to national sovereignty. This process shall be foreseen within a balanced context of the evolution of the other Principles of Rio 1992.

26. We recognize the different visions, approaches, models and tools to achieve Sustainable Development, and the importance of development in harmony with nature, the relevance of strengthening cooperation, articulation, harmonization and complementarity of national public policies on environmental issues, and the need to modify unsustainable prevailing consumption patterns.

27. We recognize the need of changing patterns of production and consumption in the region, urging to manage sustainable processes of production and consumption, which will contribute to the eradication of poverty, the mitigation of the effects of desertification and drought, climate change, biodiversity conservation and other regional priorities that will impact globally.

28. Promote and participate in the environmentally sound management of chemicals and hazardous and non-hazardous waste, ensuring synergies with existing processes and initiatives within the countries of the region.

29. Welcome the organization of the First Meeting of Regional and Sub Regional Mechanisms for the Eradication of Hunger and Poverty, coordinated by the ALBA – TCP held at the headquarters of SELA, in Caracas on June, 26 and 27, 2014, thus fulfilling with the mandate set out in the CELAC Plan of Action of Havana. Likewise, we welcome the technical meeting held in Caracas on November 26th and 27th, 2014, in which the implementation of the Action Plan on Social Public Policies, adopted in Caracas on July 23th, 2013 was discussed, as a step towards the Second CELAC Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of Social Development and Hunger and Poverty Eradication.

B. We participate in the construction of the priorities of the global development agenda

CELAC is and develops itself in a heterogeneous region. Even though the region has accomplished important progress in reducing poverty, we still face challenges. The task is even greater with respect to inequality, where progress has been slower and the difficulties greater. The definition of the Sustainable Development Goals and of the Post-2015 Development Agenda, inspire as to build progress opportunities for all, through clear and specific objectives, while respecting the different national realities, capacities and development level. As a region it is essential to influence the global debate promoting our regional position and building consensus among governments, always attentive to the contributions of other actors in the development process, including the United Nations System, international financial organizations, civil society, academia, international organizations, public, mixed, social enterprises, cooperatives and the business sector, among others.

For these reasons, we commit to:

30. Continue consolidating the discussion spaces on issues of international priority, essential for building consensus and continue strengthening CELAC and its projection on the global agenda, so that it contributes to the promotion of the Latin American and Caribbean region.

31. In this context, work to strengthen the consultation and coordination among member States in the United Nations, not only in the instances where they are regularly held but also at other multilateral fora, where it is convenient and possible, to reach common positions. Likewise, highlight the importance of fostering consensus of CELAC member States, when possible, in the various multilateral processes relevant to the development of our countries. In order to deepen the coordination, we will begin a discussion process that allow us make decision in the future.

32. Reaffirm the Special Declarations on the Post 2015 Development Agenda of the II and III CELAC Summit and ratify the commitment of its members to continue participating active and constructively in the next phases of the process of elaboration of the Agenda. Ensure that the definition of the Development Agenda is conducted under a universal, comprehensive, open, transparent and inclusive inter-governmental negotiation process.

33. Join efforts for the Third International Conference on Financing for Development to establish a concrete plan of action to address the systemic and structural issues that affect the availability of resources to finance sustainable development in developing countries.

34. Reaffirm that in order to appropriately approach the objectives of eradication of hunger, poverty and inequality, an active participation and planning of the States is required, through, among others, guaranteeing that the International and Regional Financial Architecture be at the service of human beings and allow them to best respond to sustainable development objectives.

35. Express our conviction regarding the importance of the topics related to the strengthening of the regional financial architecture and call upon to continue the work in a coordinated manner in the agreements and commitments acquired in cooperation and monetary and financial integration. In this sense, we ratify the support to topics approached in the Caracas and Havana Plans of Action and the 9/21 resolutions adopted at the Quito Declaration of the II CELAC Meeting of Ministers of Finance.

36. Exhort the institutions of national development and invite the central banks of Latin America and the Caribbean, to analyze the option of measures of exchange of experiences and cooperation at the CELAC level, with the perspective of configuring a regional net of financing for development that allows fostering the productive and commercial activity of the member States.

37. Reaffirm our solidarity and support towards the Republic of Argentina in searching an agreement in relation to the sovereign debt restructuring that do not compromise its development policies and the well-being of its Peoples.

38. Express our intention to reach consensus through all international multilateral mechanisms, with the participation, when appropriate, of all pertinent institutions in the restructuring of sovereign debt. In particular, we highlight, among others, the negotiation process opened by Resolution 68/304, adopted by the UN General Assembly.

39. Confer the required support of the condition of a land-locked country, in the implementation of the effective measures destined to overcome the vulnerabilities and problems derived from this situation, facilitating freedom of transit through the territory of transit States by all means of transportation, conforming the rules applicable to international law, the international conventions and the current bilateral agreements.

40. Salute the successful development of the Second United Nations Conference on Land-locked Countries, held in Vienna in November 2014. Reaffirm the commitment of applying the Program of Action of Vienna favoring the Land-locked Developing Countries for the 2014-2024 Decade to approach this needs in an integral way and the specific challenges in development of the land-locked developing countries derived from the lack of a coastal shore, the distance, and geographic limitations.

41. Reaffirm the Declaration and Plan of Action of Beijing and celebrate its 20 years (Beijing+20), conscious of the importance of empowering women at all stages of their lives, especially those living in a situation of greater inequality and in conditions of vulnerability and marginalization, in the formulation and 10/21 implementation of public policies and actions of the States; and emphasize the importance of women and girls in the definition of the Sustainable Development Goals, through the incorporation of a specific objective that approach the consecution of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. Likewise, highlight the importance that the gender topic has for the Post 2015 Development agenda and accents the high-level event "The women in power and decision-making: constructing a different world" , to be held in Santiago, Chile on February 27th and 29th, 2015.

42. Celebrate the proclamation made by the United Nations General Assembly in December 2013 of the International Decade of African Descent, under the theme "African Descent: recognition of justice and development" and recognize the multiethnic character of our societies by developing a regional agenda that promotes social inclusion policies for the Afro-descendants populations of Latin America and the Caribbean.

43. Recognize that slavery and human trade were atrocious tragedies in the history of humanity. In this sense, CARICOM's initiative to create the Reparations Commission of the Caribbean Community is saluted.

44. Salute the World Conference of Indigenous Peoples, held on September 22nd and 23rd, 2014 in New York, as well as the adoption of the final document and its Principles.

45. Reaffirm our commitment to the policies laid out in the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, as approved by the General Assembly in December 2006, opened for signature on 30th of March 2007, to build an inclusive society where persons with disabilities are given a fair chance of full participation. In addition to meeting the needs of the physical access to the built environment, we are committed to the provision of equal opportunity and access to all social, health, educational, economic and cultural facilities, services, and institutions. As such the actualization of social inclusion policies is not provided as a special reclamation of and for persons with disabilities, but is part of the social development and realignment of structural development beneficial to all. Our societies will define policies in consideration of Art. 2 (Definitions), Art. 3 (General Principles), Art. 8 (Awareness Raising), Art. 9 (Full independence), Art. 11 (Situations of Risk and Humanitarian Emergencies) and Art. 32 (International Cooperation) in finding national and regional solutions in steps of social inclusion for persons with disabilities.

46. Reiterate efforts and purposes to coordinate and generate synergies in health issues between CELAC and other existent instances in the region that are convened in the framework of the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO), the IberoAmerican Conference, the International Conference of Nutrition, as well as in subregional groups such as the Council of Ministers of Health of Central America (COMISCA) and the Meeting of the Health Sector of Central America and the Dominican Republic (RESSCAD), UNASUR, among others.

47. Recognize the importance of the application by the States part of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (CMCT) the measures provided, its guidelines, protocols and resolutions and pertinent decisions approved by the General Assembly of the United Nations and the World Health Assembly related to the prevention and control of non-transmissible diseases, and the strengthening of health systems, as fundamental premises of protection to public health, which seek to guarantee the full enjoyment of human rights, individual and collective, in special the population in situations of vulnerability, such as children, young people and the poorest populations, persons with disabilities, as well as the full development of the nations. In this context, express their solidarity with the Oriental Republic of Uruguay in the exercise of its sovereign right of determining its public health policies.

48. Highlight the importance of actions of prevention and an eventual confrontation to the Ebola epidemic that have been held in Latin America and the Caribbean, particularly the coordination held between CELAC and the ALBA-TCP member countries with this end, and urge and urge that such joint efforts be further developed and can be extended to other serious health problems that affect or have the potential of affecting the countries of the region.

C. We face climate change and global warming

Our societies are highly vulnerable to climate change. This requires us to reaffirm our national and international commitments in relation to the protection and conservation of the environment and biodiversity and the fight against global warming. Convinced that climate change is one of the most serious problems of our time and that its increasing negative impact compromises the efforts for poverty eradication and sustainable development in the region, we recognize the need for effective and appropriate international cooperation and action, to accelerate the global reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, the adoption of other adaptation

measures and mitigation, and the assurance of adequate, foreseeable and sustainable means of implementation for developing countries, in accordance with the principles and dispositions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the decisions adopted in the Conferences of the Parties, in the context of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.

Taking into consideration the challenges to address disasters derived from the various natural, socio-natural and anthropogenic threats in the region, it is required to strengthen measures for the Integral Disaster Risk Management, the adaptation to change and the climate variability. We stress the need of a close internal coordination between neighboring countries to respond to the humanitarian consequences that disasters, such as flooding, hurricanes, droughts, and other, generate in our populations.

Faced with these challenges, CELAC's joint action will enable to advance in successful experiences and achieve measurable progress.

Therefore, we agree to:

49. Reiterate the regional commitment to sustainable development in its economic, social and environmental aspects and the agreements reached at the World Summit on Sustainable Development Rio + 20. 50. Encourage the adoption of public policies within the framework of Agenda 21, for the full implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio + 20) and other relevant instruments, in harmony with nature, highlighting the need for these policies to be implemented in the context of a comprehensive and independent vision of complementarity. 51. Salute the result of the 20th Conference of the Parties of the Framework Convention of the United Nations on Climate Change, held in Lima, Peru in December 2014 and that constitute a fundamental preparatory step in the development process of a legally binding instrument under the Convention that will be adopted in France in 2015 on the basis of equity, the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, and on their respective capabilities and the commitment of provision of the means of implementation from the developed to developing countries, in particular in financial issues and under a system of measurement, report and verification.

52. Emphasize the Declaration presented by CELAC's PPT within the high level segment at the COP20, as a regional effort to move forward in finding consensus in climate change issues, reiterating our will to continue working in deepening these consensus, with a view to conform a possible regional position in this matter, particularly in view of the COP21 in Paris.

53. Reaffirm our commitment to promote the regional energy integration as a basis for sustainable development and the universalization of access to energy services that improve life quality and contribute to poverty eradication of the Peoples. 54. Reaffirm the commitment of the CELAC Member States with the sustainable development of Small Island States and States with low-line coastal areas, which can only be achieved through a confluence of efforts involving governments, civil society and private sector, that takes into account the unique situations and vulnerability of these States, which can be addressed only through international cooperation;

55. Redouble efforts for comprehensive risk management and humanitarian assistance in disasters, ensuring the particular region needs and interest, view to be incorporated in the next World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction to be held in Sendai, Japan, on March, 2015. Promote the strengthening and the creation, when needed, of mechanisms of assistance and cooperation among our countries.

56. Express our support to the completion of the Humanitarian Summit, which will be held in Turkey in 2016 and the respective processes of regional consultations, which are being

developed globally in consideration of this meeting. Reiterate, in this way, the special commitment of the region with the Latin American and Caribbean regional consultation, which will take place in Guatemala in May, 2015 and encourage the participation of the CELAC member countries in this meeting.

57. Reaffirm the importance and challenges associated with defining a new urban agenda for the region, aware of the rapid urbanization in Latin America and the Caribbean, in view of the upcoming United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) from the United Nations Human Settlements Program, to be held in Quito, Ecuador in October, 2016.

58. Deepen the generation of housing and development resilient policies to ensure territorial equity, reverse urban segregation, promote sustainability in the territories, incorporate risk management, consider the relationship between small and intermediate towns and metropolis and strengthen institutions in the region. Also, reaffirm the need for these processes to be participative and recognize diversity as an opportunity for development.

D. Foster peace to achieve sustainable development

We recognize that peace is a supreme value of universal coexistence. Therefore we reaffirm the Proclamation of Latin America and the Caribbean as a Zone of Peace and our ongoing commitment to nuclear disarmament and the proscription of weapons of mass destruction globally, the peaceful settlement of disputes, to banish forever use and threat of use of force in our region and against individual countries. Together we will make the Latin America and the Caribbean region not only a zone of peace but also a violence-free zone.

In our region, we built together the infrastructure for peace to promote well-being and sustainable development. Therefore, we reaffirm our commitment to the promotion of the right to peace, the Rule of Law, justice, education, and culture for peace, as well as the promotion, respect and observance of all human rights for all. The region must face various forms and manifestations of transnational organized crime; terrorism; the World Drug Problem; trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants; and against illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons, all forms of cyber-crimes and any attempt of criminal actions against any of our countries. Organized crime is also a major threat for our democracy and development, therefore we must make every effort to control and eradicate this scourge.

We emphasize the value and contribution to international peace and security of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean and its Protocols (Treaty of Tlatelolco), which established the first densely populated area free of nuclear weapons on the planet.

Therefore, we decide to:

59. Reiterate the regional commitment to multilateralism, dialogue between nations, and the peaceful settlement of disputes, and full respect to the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter and international law and the inalienable right of each of our countries to choose their form of political and economic organization.

60. Support the unrestricted promotion and strengthening of peace, the prohibition of the use and threat of use of force, unrestricted respect to independence, selfdetermination of peoples, sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-interference in the internal affairs of each country, thus reaffirming in this way that CELAC is a zone of peace and a region free of nuclear weapons.

61. Underline our full support for the work of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL).

62. Reiterate that complete, transparent, irreversible and verifiable nuclear disarmament is an important goal of this community of states and that the only effective guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons is its total elimination and prohibition. In this context, Member States of the Community support the negotiation of a universal legally binding instrument proscribing nuclear weapons with a multilaterally agreed timetable.

63. To reiterate our categorical rejection of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, that not only constitutes a threat to peace and international security, but also undermines human dignity, peaceful and civilized coexistence and promoting international cooperation against this scourge.

64. Reiterate our rejection of unilateral lists and certifications by some developed countries affecting Latin American and Caribbean countries, in particular those referring to terrorism, drug trafficking, trafficking in person and others of a similar nature, and ratify the Special Communiqué adopted by CELAC on May 7th, 2014 that rejects the inclusion of Cuba in the so-called List of States promoting international terrorism of the United States' State Department.

65. Take note of the entry into force of the Arms Trade Treaty, as the first global, legally binding instrument to regulate the international illicit transfer of conventional arms, as well as take note of the interest of Trinidad and Tobago of hosting the Secretariat of the Arms Trade Treaty.

66. Highlight education and promotion of the values of culture of peace as a foundation to create a new culture of non-violence; educate for the sustainability of essential ethical principles of well-being and to contribute to the defense, respect and promotion of universal human rights, as well as and help promote coexistence with nature.

67. CELAC member countries join the rejoicing of the people and Government of Panama to celebrate the centenary of the Panama Canal, on August 15th, 2014. The Centenary coincides with the expansion work that will continue to contribute to the economic and sustainable development in the hemisphere, as well to global trade and navigation.

68. Reiterate the Latin American and Caribbean character of Puerto Rico and, in noting the resolutions on Puerto Rico adopted by the United Nations Special Committee on Decolonization, reiterate that it is an issue of interest for CELAC.

69. CELAC member countries pledge to continue working, within the framework of international law, and in particular in Resolution 1514/(XV) of the United Nations General Assembly of December 14th, 1960, to ensure that the region of Latin America and the Caribbean be a territory free of colonialism and colonies.

70. Entrust the CELAC Quartet, together with the participation of other Member States wishing to join this mandate, to submit proposals to advance as stated in paragraph 38 of this Declaration.

71. Reiterate our firm support of the legitimate right of the Republic of Argentina in its dispute concerning sovereignty over the Malvinas, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime spaces, as well as our permanent interest that this dispute be settled through negotiations and peaceful means, pursuant to stipulations in Resolution 31/49 of the United Nations General Assembly.

72. Welcome the historic decision of the Presidents of Cuba and the United States to reestablish diplomatic relations. Reiterate our strongest rejection of the implementation of unilateral coercive measures and once again reiterate our solidarity with the Republic of Cuba, while reaffirming our call upon the Government of the United States of America to put an end to the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed on this sisterly nation for more than five decades. Urge the President of the United States that, in this way, use their broad executive powers to substantially modify the blockade.

E. We strengthen our ties with extra-regional partners

The major global and sustainable development challenges require coordinated solutions by the international community. Decisions adopted in the present, will reduce potential conflicts in the future. The region is in a position to work jointly and coordinate when possible, with extra-regional partners at many different issues on the multilateral agenda to move forward in the overcoming of the challenges. In this regard, we will act to:

73. Encourage CELAC' s dialogue with other countries, group of countries and organizations from other regions of the world with the sole purpose of enhancing action and regional discussions on topics of interest for the Community, to share and disseminate CELAC' s positions on global issues, and to promote, where possible, regional initiatives for collaboration and cooperation, trade and investment, complementary to national and sub-regional efforts.

74. Congratulate the successful First Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Forum CELAC – China, held in Beijing on January 8th and 9th, 2015, and reiterate our willingness to advance the implementation of its agreements immediately.

75. Highlight the agreement to hold the II Meeting of Foreign Ministers of the CELAC – China Forum, in Santiago, Chile in January 2018.

76. Welcome the outcomes of the Ministerial dialogues of CELAC's Quartet with India, ASEAN and Russia, held on September 25th, 2014 in New York. Continue Ministerial Dialogues of CELAC's Quartet with these partners, as well with the Republic of Korea, Turkey and other partners that have previously been held dialogues that demonstrate the regional potential for extra-regional partnerships. Working to explore, during 2015, the convenience and viability of creating other forums and, in particular, with Russia and India.

77. Continue exploring the possibilities of having exchanges with the African Union, the BRICS and the League of Arab States.

78. Highlight CELAC relations with the European Union, established in the Rio Summit of 1999 and reaffirm the commitment to further deepen them with a new view of the bi-regional relations, to achieve a successful II CELAC – EU Summit, in Brussels, on June 10th and 11th, 2015.

F. We organize cooperation and promote the articulation of our actions

Latin American and the Caribbean region has a heritage of assertive, tangible and successful experiences in South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation, which complements in conjunction with national actions, for the fulfillment of CELAC objectives, to favor mutual knowledge, promote unity and integration, facilitate the knowledge transfer, and to visualize results.

In this regard South-South cooperation constitutes, for our community, a privileged instrument for complementarity, union, integration and horizontal exchange of knowledge between its

Members, allowing us to meet the enormous common challenges and to help the governments of our region to achieve sustainable development and inclusive growth for the benefit of our peoples.

Therefore, we agree to:

79. Reiterate that the CELAC Declaration on International Cooperation, adopted on January, 29th, 2014, during the II CELAC Summit in Havana, and the CELAC Conceptual Framework for International Cooperation adopted during the II Meeting of the Working Group on International Cooperation (GTCI), celebrated on July 29th – 30 th, 2044 in San Jose, Costa Rica is the document that will guide the cooperation in the Community.

80. Recognize the importance and particularities of South-South cooperation and reaffirm our vision of South-South cooperation as a concrete manifestation of solidarity among peoples and countries of the South, which contributes to their national well-being, improves their self-sufficiency and facilitates achieving the development objectives established at national and international level. It also allows developing countries to play a more active role in international politics and decision-making processes, supporting their efforts to achieve sustainable development.

81. Reiterate the importance of articulation of CELAC actions of cooperation of the Working Group of Cooperation (GTCI), with other CELAC Working Groups, to build cooperation bridges inside and out of the region, as well as to foster the capacities and strengths of the Member States and those of the region, especially in those contexts in which defined mandates and priorities exist. Develop the articulation mechanisms among CELAC authorities with the National Coordinations and the GTCI.

82. Highlight the need to foster inter-governmental dialogue, in the various areas of the international agenda with the International Organism and Regional and Subregional Mechanisms of Integration to avoid duplication of actions, to give coherence to the processes of regional cooperation, guarantee the complementarity and achieve a added value of CELAC regional cooperation to the already existent actions.

83. Express our satisfaction with the report of action taken pursuant to the mandate of cooperation with the sister Republic of Haiti and reiterate the will to identify new forms of cooperation with the expectation of meeting the needs expressed by the country.

G. We act immediately:

We reaffirm that CELAC is the forum for dialogue and political cooperation par excellence of the 33 countries in the region, in which our unity in diversity is valued and common positions and exchange of experiences in many areas are encouraged, both regional as global.

We reiterate our commitment to continue working on the basis of consensus, defending the multiethnic, multicultural, multinational and diverse character of the Community in its undertakings and to guide our regional work in all areas, towards the implementation of actions with vocation and regional impact that allow us to find joint solutions to common challenges and problems.

We decide then to:

84. Welcome the conclusions of the sectorial meetings, held pursuant to the CELAC Plan of Action of Havana, which allow to follow-up and give continuity to the agreed mandates and

thank the different countries that have hosted various meetings, listed as follows: Meeting of the Working Group on Social Development and Eradication of Hunger and Poverty on November 25th and 26th, 2014 in Caracas, Venezuela; II Meeting of High – Authorities on Family Farming, November 10th – 13th, 2014 in Brasilia, Brasil; II Meeting of Ministers of Culture on August 21st, 2014, in Caracas, Venezuela; I Meeting of High Authorities on Science and Technology, on April 1st – 2nd, 2014, San José, Costa Rica; II Meeting of CELAC – EU High-Authorities, April 3rd – 4th, 2014, San José, Costa Rica; I Meeting of CELAC Industry and Commerce, April 10th – 11th, 2014 all in San Jose, Costa Rica; II Ministerial Meeting on Infrastructure for the Physical Integration of Transport, Telecommunications and Border Integration, December 5th – 6th, 2014 in Montevideo, Uruguay; III Ministerial Meeting on Energy, October 14th, Lima, Peru; III Meeting on Migration, October, 22nd and 23rd, 2014 in Azogues, Ecuador, I Meeting on the World Drug Problem, May 13th, – 14th, 2014 in Antigua, Guatemala; II Meeting of Ministers and High-Authorities on Prevention and Fight against Corruption, December 8th – 9th, 2014, Quito, Ecuador; II Meeting of the Working Group on International Cooperation, July 29th – 30th, 2014, San Jose, Costa Rica; I Meeting of Regional and Sub-regional Mechanisms and Organisms of Integration, June 18th -20th, 2014 in Caracas, Venezuela; I Meeting of Regional and Sub-regional Mechanisms and Organisms of Integration on Culture, July 17th, 2014, San Jose, Costa Rica; I Meeting of Regional and Sub-regional Mechanisms and Organisms of Integration on Tourism, November 10th, 2014 in Port Spain, Trinidad and Tobago; I Meeting on the Working Group on the Promotion of Equity, Equality and the Empowerment of Women, August 21st, 2014, San Salvador, El Salvador; I Meeting of the Working Group on the Fight of Illicit Traffic of Small and Light Weapons, September 11th – 12th, 2014, San Salvador, El Salvador; I Meeting of the Working Group on Afro-descendants, December 4th – 5th, 2014, Brasilia, Brazil.

85. Highlight the support of Regional Organisms and Mechanisms of Integration provided to the Costa Rican PTP in compliance with the objectives of the Community, and support the coordination, of the Regional and Sub-regional Mechanisms of Integration.

86. Adopt the CELAC Action of Plan 2015, in order to consolidate actions in an effort to achieve regional sustainable development and the ultimate goal to eradicate hunger and poverty.

87. Focus on the work of the sectorial areas defined over the CELAC discussions, concentrating the actions of the Community on these areas to achieve full compliance with the commitments made in each one of those areas.

88. Promote sectorial meetings of CELAC Plan of Action 2015, which gives continuity to the fundamental principles that inspire actions of the Community in the pursuit of human development and sustainable development.

89. Thank the distinguished Government of Ecuador for assuming the CELAC Pro Tempore Presidency in 2015 and hosting the IV CELAC Summit in 2016.

90. Acknowledge the Dominican Republic for hosting the Pro Tempore Presidency of CELAC during 2016 and hosting the V CELAC Summit.

91. Take note of the offer of the Plurinational State of Bolivia to host CELAC's Pro Tempore Presidency during 2017 and the VI Summit.

92. Thank the work done by the Pro Tempore Presidency held by Costa Rica during 2014 in complying with mandates agreed and in advancing CELAC international agenda, as well as the valuable support of the Quartet and the member countries of the Community, who served as hosts of one or more sectorial CELAC meetings.

93. Highlight the value of the discussions during this III Summit on: the challenges of CELAC in the fight against poverty, with an emphasis on transparency and accountability, and fight against corruption; the definition of regional positions in the multilateral arena; the discussion towards the Post 2015 Developing Agenda and on Financing for development; as well as the fundamental role of CELAC as a mechanism for consultation and political dialogue in the process of integration and coordination of common policies and actions in the region.

94. Express our gratitude to the distinguished Government of the Republic of Costa Rica for the successful celebration of the III CELAC Summit of Heads of State and Government, held in Belén, Costa Rica, on January 28th and 29th, 2015 and for its leadership in consolidating CELAC internationally.

Belén, Costa Rica, January 29th, 2015