

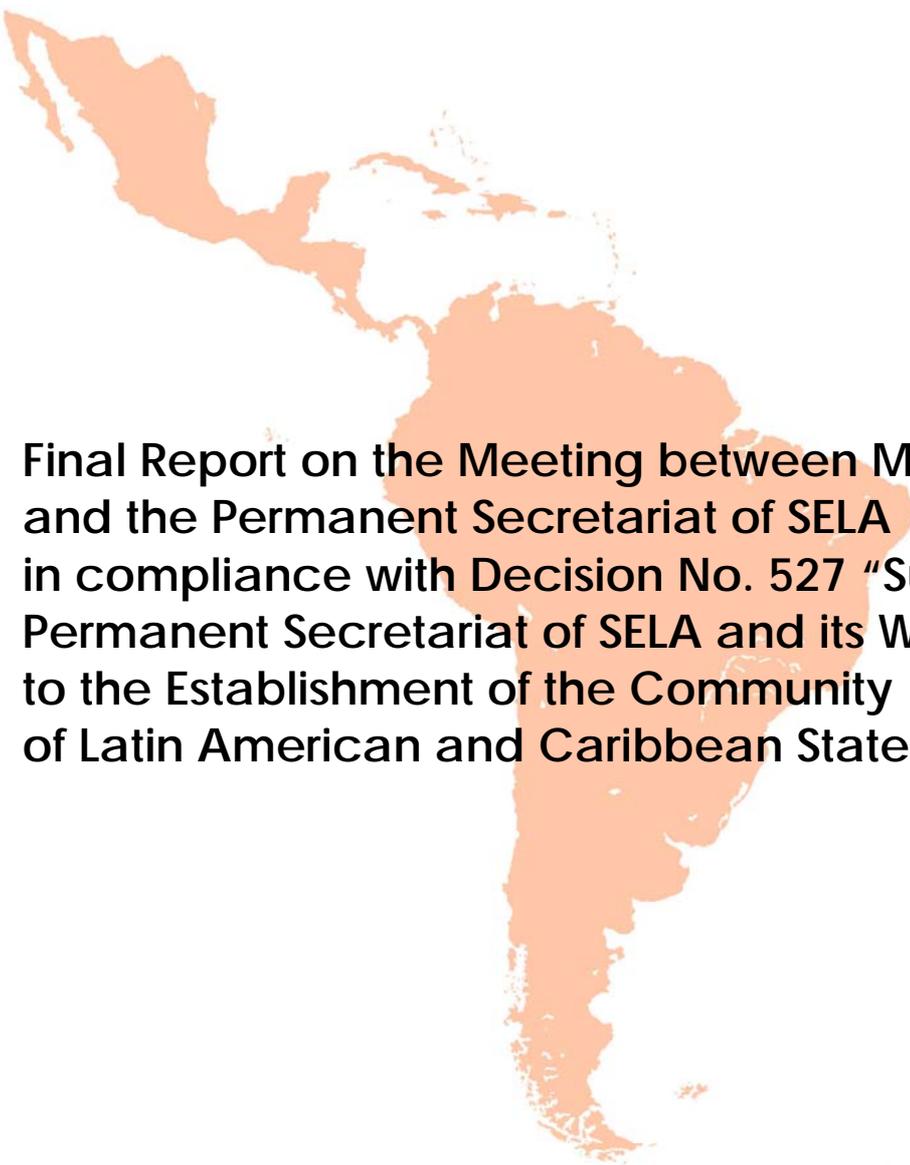


Sistema Económico
Latinoamericano y del Caribe

Latin American and Caribbean
Economic System

Sistema Económico
Latino-Americano e do Caribe

Système Economique
Latinoaméricain et Caribéen



Final Report on the Meeting between Member States and the Permanent Secretariat of SELA in compliance with Decision No. 527 “Support of the Permanent Secretariat of SELA and its Work Programme to the Establishment of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC)”

Intra-regional Relations

*Meeting between Member States and the Permanent Secretariat of SELA
in compliance with Decision No. 527 “Support of the Permanent Secretariat of SELA
and its Work Programme to the Establishment of the Community
of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC)”*

Caracas, Venezuela

3 April 2012

SP/RREMS-CELAC/IF-12

Copyright © SELA, April 2012. All rights reserved.
Printed in the Permanent Secretariat of SELA, Caracas, Venezuela.

The Press and Publications Department of the Permanent Secretariat of SELA must authorise reproduction of this document, whether totally or partially, through sela@sela.org. The Member States and their government institutions may reproduce this document without prior authorisation, provided that the source is mentioned and the Secretariat is aware of said reproduction.

C O N T E N T S

RAPPORTEUR'S REPORT	3
ANNEXES:	
I. Agenda	9
II. Speech by His Excellency Jorge Alvarado Rivas, Ambassador of the Plurinational State of Bolivia and Chairman of the Latin American Council	17
III. Speech by His Excellency Ambassador José Rivera Banuet, Permanent Secretary of SELA	21
IV. Presentation by the Honourable Hernán Núñez Montenegro, Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of the Embassy of Chile in Venezuela, on behalf of the Pro-Tempore Presidency of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC)	25
V. Decision N° 527 of the Latin American Council	33
VI. List of Participants	37

RAPPORTEUR'S REPORT

1. Held on 3 April 2012 at the headquarters of SELA in Caracas, the Meeting between Member States and the Permanent Secretariat of SELA in compliance with Decision No. 527 "Support of the Permanent Secretariat of SELA and its Work Programme to the Establishment of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC)" was mainly intended to facilitate the exchange of views on the activities of CELAC and their impact on the Work Programme of SELA.
2. Participants included representatives of SELA Member States, specifically from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Haiti, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Dominican Republic, Trinidad and Tobago, and Venezuela; the Permanent Secretary of SELA, Ambassador José Rivera Banuet; and officials of the Permanent Secretariat. The complete list of participants is included in Annex VI.
3. The supporting documentation for the meeting included the Agenda, a copy of Decision No. 527 of the Latin American Council and a presentation made by the Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of the Embassy of Chile in Venezuela on behalf of the Pro Tempore Presidency of CELAC, which are all available on SELA's Website at www.sela.org.
4. At the opening ceremony the floor was taken by His Excellency Jorge Alvarado Rivas, Ambassador of the Plurinational State of Bolivia and Chairman of the Latin American Council; His Excellency Ambassador José Rivera Banuet, Permanent Secretary of SELA; and the Honourable Hernán Núñez Montenegro, Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of the Embassy of Chile in Venezuela, on behalf of the Pro Tempore Presidency of CELAC.

The main aspects of their remarks were as follows:

- a. His Excellency Ambassador Jorge Alvarado Rivas welcomed the participants and stressed the importance of the meeting on the grounds that it is necessary to define the participation and contribution of the various regional and subregional cooperation and integration organizations in Latin America and the Caribbean towards the institutionalization and consolidation of CELAC, particularly the role that SELA is expected to assume in this context in accordance with Decision No. 527 of the Latin American Council. The text of his speech is appended in Annex II.
- b. At the outset, Ambassador José Rivera Banuet gave the warmest welcome to His Excellency Anthony David Edghill, Ambassador of Trinidad and Tobago in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, as this was his first participation in the work of SELA. Then, he welcomed all participants and highlighted the mandate of the Latin American Council and the objective of this meeting to carry out a debate on the implementation of Decision N ° 527 so as to align the work of SELA with the activities of CELAC.

The Permanent Secretary stressed the significance of the consolidation of CELAC, which in his opinion represents an important step towards integration, consultation and coordination among the countries in the region vis-à-vis the major challenges and prospects for their economic and social development, as well as those stemming from the current international environment. Thus, he claimed that CELAC will require the support and contribution of the various regional and subregional cooperation and integration

4

schemes for the full development of its activities and, as regards SELA, he stressed that it is an experienced institution with a wealth of technical expertise which is fully prepared to assist in the development and consolidation of CELAC and its activities.

Ambassador Rivera Banuet said that the establishment of CELAC was a necessary decision, which had been postponed and finally found its way and form in the 2008 Declaration of Salvador de Bahia, the 2009 Montego Bay Action Plan and the 2010 Cancun Declaration, and in those initiatives submitted in the Caracas Work Programme for the Implementation of the Montego Bay Action Plan. He considered it a decisive effort towards the regional unity.

In this connection, he was convinced that the task ahead is huge and a huge effort—accompanied by a big deal of ingenuity, involvement and commitment—will be required from all agencies for the successful completion of these activities. Thus, he once again asserted that SELA will be more than willing to work closely with other organizations and do its part towards the achievement of the major objectives that CELAC has identified.

Finally, Ambassador Rivera Banuet expressed his acknowledgement and appreciation to the Government of Chile, represented by Mr. Hernán Núñez Montenegro, who was scheduled to give a presentation on the activities carried out so far by the authorities of CELAC and a description of the stage this mechanism is currently at. The complete text of the speech delivered by the Permanent Secretary is available in Annex III.

5. Mr. Hernán Núñez Montenegro, Chargé d’Affaires a.i. of the Embassy of Chile in Venezuela, on behalf of the Pro Tempore Presidency of CELAC, made a presentation in which he first noted that the efforts by his Government have been focused on the fulfilment of provisions of Paragraph 35 of the Declaration of Caracas, under which the leaders invite the Pro Tempore Presidency of CELAC to implement the 2012 Plan of Action of Caracas during its term, in particular concerning those thematic axes in the social, environmental, energy, economic, and cultural areas and other priority fields identified in the Plan of Action.

In this regard, he provided a detailed report on the results of the activities undertaken since the establishment of CELAC in December 2011 to date, of which the following are particularly worth mentioning:

i) Mr. Núñez Montenegro began by referring to the meeting of the Troika held on 9 January 2012 in Santiago, which resulted in the adoption of the rules for its operation as a body intended to facilitate, coordinate and support the work of the Pro Tempore Presidency. This mechanism shall meet at the level of ministers, vice-ministers and national coordinators. That event, he said, featured a discussion of the Pro Tempore Presidency’s Report on the setting in motion of CELAC and the announcement of the Annual Work Programme, including the simultaneous scheduling of the CELAC-EU Summit and the First CELAC Summit for January 2013. The complete text of his presentation is included in Annex IV.

ii) Then, he changed the focus to the Meeting of National Coordinators held in March 2012, which served for the discussion of the Pro Tempore Presidency’s Report on the setting in motion and other activities of CELAC as of 18 March 2012, and its Annual Work Programme. On that occasion, he stressed, the Pro Tempore Presidency presented a document that reflects a review of mandates and, particularly, two important immediate actions: (a) in connection with the global financial crisis, a meeting at the technical level to be held in May in Ecuador; and (b) on the subject of social development, the first ministerial meeting to be held in June in Caracas.

As regards international activities of CELAC, Mr. Núñez Montenegro added that the Work Programme was approved as proposed by the Pro Tempore Presidency and that there was a special consideration for the establishment of links with the Pacific Islands, with which the Troika is scheduled to meet. Among other agreements, he noted the preliminary work for the meetings of regional and subregional integration mechanisms; a review of the mandates of the Latin American and Caribbean Group (GRULAC) in relation to CELAC within the framework of different international organizations, especially the United Nations, in New York, Geneva, Vienna, and at the headquarters of the European Union in Brussels; the establishment of a Working Group to prepare a proposal for the development of a Latin American and Caribbean Tariffs Preference; and the First Meeting of CELAC Foreign Ministers, scheduled to be held on 21 September 2012 in New York. Referring to the agreed CELAC-EU Summit, he claimed that it is scheduled for 26 and 27 January 2013 in Santiago under the theme "Alliance for sustainable development: Promoting investment of social and environmental quality." As said previously, the complete text of his presentation is included in Annex IV.

6. The Chairman thanked the speakers for their contributions and invited the delegations of the Member States to express their views on this regard.

7. The delegation of Trinidad and Tobago thanked the Permanent Secretariat for convening and organizing this meeting and stressed the desirability of defining a new mechanism aimed at promoting greater involvement of the Caribbean States in the activities of CELAC. In this connection, the delegation referred to a previous proposal to create a Quartet of countries as an extension of the Troika identified at the Summit of Latin America and the Caribbean on Integration and Development (CALC), held in December 2011 in Caracas, which would serve as an instrument to encourage a more intensive participation of the Caribbean countries in the development of the work plans and activities of CELAC. This proposal, however, has not been embraced so far, they added.

8. The Cuban delegation stressed the importance of this meeting and expressed their complete satisfaction with the work done so far within the framework of CELAC, which in their view reveals a strong political will to move towards the institutionalization and international projection of the initiative. In this respect, the delegate stressed the need to keep a close track of these results and to ensure that all actors involved are properly informed of them. Finally, he offered his Government's support for such monitoring and information exchange.

9. The delegation of Peru noted the importance and timeliness of the meeting to define more specifically the participation of SELA in the development and consolidation of CELAC. In this context, the delegate stated that his Government believes that SELA should become the technical platform of CELAC and added that they would enthusiastically support any decision in this direction.

10. The delegation of Brazil agreed that it is necessary to establish closer links between CELAC and SELA, which, in their opinion, would give greater dynamism to this process in certain aspects, while being in line with the desirability of avoiding duplication of efforts and resources.

11. The delegate of El Salvador agreed with the suggestion made by the Peruvian delegation that the Permanent Secretariat of SELA should become the technical

6

platform of CELAC and, in this sense, he referred to the proposal that the President of Panama, His Excellency Ricardo Alberto Martinelli, presented at the Summit of Latin America and the Caribbean on Integration and Development (CALC), held in December 2011 in Caracas.

In this respect, he considered that as long as CELAC authorities are from countries with sufficient economic and financial resources, CELAC activities can advance successfully as has been the case so far. However, should authorities be from countries with lower economic development and fewer resources, it is most likely that they will not be able to fully assume and carry out the mandated tasks, which themselves entail very high costs. Thus, he added, the rotating Pro Tempore Presidency approach would be difficult to implement by countries with limited economic resources and financial and technical constraints, as is the case with the vast majority of CELAC member countries.

Therefore, the Salvadorian delegate said that his Government is convinced that there are highly qualified organizations with enough technical expertise in Latin America and the Caribbean which could be very helpful in assuming and undertaking the major tasks of CELAC, among which he mentioned the CAF-Development Bank of Latin America, the Latin American Reserve Fund (FLAR) and SELA, considering SELA's history and proven technical expertise and capability.

12. The Chairman thanked the delegations for their interesting remarks, contributions and proposals, and then requested that Ambassador Rivera Banuet present the activities undertaken by the Permanent Secretariat of SELA so far in implementing Decision No. 527 of the Latin American Council.

13. Ambassador Rivera Banuet described the work done by the Permanent Secretariat as part of the implementation of Decision N ° 527 of the Latin American Council. First of all, he referred to the Regional Meeting on monetary and financial cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean held in February 2012. The final report, containing the conclusions and recommendations of this meeting, was shared with the Pro Tempore Presidency of CELAC so that it can be used to support the mechanism's planned activities in the monetary and financial areas – consistent with the relevance of the topic within the 2012 Caracas Plan of Action – aimed at moving towards the goal of creating a regional monetary and financial architecture. After that, he also mentioned some other documents and reports which have been prepared by the Permanent Secretariat and forwarded as well.

Similarly, the Permanent Secretary highlighted the future delivery to the Pro Tempore Presidency of CELAC of 1) studies being conducted by the Permanent Secretariat on the possibilities of increasing the commercial exchange of goods and services among the South American countries, on the one hand, and between the Central American nations and the Caribbean countries, on the other, which will serve as a basis for a regional meeting which shall be convened by SELA at its headquarters by the middle of this year with invitations being extended to all regional and subregional integration organizations; and 2) studies and meetings which have been conducted as part of the region's economic and commercial relations with extra-regional countries and groups of countries, such as those referred to Latin America and the Caribbean's relations with China, East Asia and Canada, including the preparations for the upcoming meeting on the existing links between the nations in the region and the Middle East countries.

Then the Permanent Secretary of SELA highlighted the process of monitoring and analysis of economic and trade relations between Latin America and the Caribbean and the

European Union, which will be discussed at a mid-year meeting and whose conclusions and recommendations will also be shared with the Pro Tempore Presidency of CELAC.

Moreover, he added that the Permanent Secretariat is undertaking activities in accordance with the mandates of CALC, as contained in the Declarations of Salvador de Bahia and Cancun and in the Montego Bay Plan of Action, where SELA has been expressly identified as a facilitator for the development of the issue of productive dimension and industrialization. In this connection and consistent with what was agreed in the Montego Bay Plan of Action, the Permanent Secretariat is writing an analytical paper with recommendations on the activities that the region could be undertaking with regard to this matter, which will be forwarded to the Member States and shared with the Pro Tempore Presidency of CELAC so that it can be referenced when the time comes for this issue to be addressed.

In this context, the Permanent Secretariat – based on a meeting on the subject – has also produced an analytical paper on the development of cultural and creative industries in the region, in support of the Government of Costa Rica, who has been vested with the responsibility to work on the cultural issues within CELAC.

Together with the above-mentioned item on productive development and industrialization, the Permanent Secretariat of SELA is also working on a subject of particular interest: the development of public policies to foster and boost small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) as an essential part of productive development, an area of great interest for the Member States of SELA and CELAC.

In summary, Ambassador Rivera Banuet said that all activities conducted by the Permanent Secretariat are shared with the Pro Tempore Presidency of CELAC, and that this practice will continue with the subsequent Pro Tempore Presidencies, pursuant to the agency's Work Programme which is consistent with the lines of work of CELAC.

In this respect, he stressed that the objectives of CELAC, i.e. coordination and consultation, integration and cooperation, are identical to those set forth by the Convention of Panama establishing SELA. Thus SELA is enabled to share the Work Programme adopted by the Latin American Council with the Pro Tempore Presidency of CELAC through each of the documents that SELA produces, including meeting reports and proposals and recommendations which are generated by the Permanent Secretariat. It is the way that SELA deems most appropriate to continue to work with an initiative as important for the region as CELAC.

14. The Chairman thanked Ambassador Rivera Banuet for the information shared, considering that it clarifies the role that SELA is to play in the development and consolidation of CELAC, and then he brought the meeting to a close, not before highlighting its results and importance in terms of promoting further discussion of the best ways to align the activities of both organizations for the benefit of development and integration of the countries in the region

15. After that, Ambassador Rivera Banuet Rivera made a few closing remarks in which he noted that the mandate of the Latin American Council to examine the actions that would allow for a better linking of the Work Programme of SELA with CELAC has thus been fulfilled.

8

He placed great importance on the presentation delivered by Mr. Hernán Núñez on behalf of the Pro Tempore Presidency of CELAC, because it clarifies their course of action, identifying several important ideas about how SELA can support the technical efforts of CELAC through SELA's Work Programme.

The Permanent Secretary of SELA said it is also important to underline that SELA is collaborating with the Pro Tempore Presidency of CELAC by sharing all the information and results of the meetings it convenes, thereby providing elements and suggesting possible lines of action regarding the different issues addressed by SELA so that the governments make the appropriate decisions.

An example of this, he reiterated, will be the preparation of proposals on how to deal with the issue of productive development, which is a priority for the region, adding that public policies for industrialization had been neglected and now governments are interested in reactivating them, because the region finds itself in an increasingly competitive world with many new major economic actors. This new scenario forces Latin America and the Caribbean to achieve a better international insertion which can only be accomplished through industrialization and productive development.

Finally, the Permanent Secretary of SELA reaffirmed the Permanent Secretariat's willingness to assume and conduct the activities being considered in its Work Programme and its alignment with CELAC.

16. The Chairman thanked the remarks made by the Permanent Secretary and gave a few closing remarks himself, in which he stressed the active participation of the delegations of the Member States, the important contribution of the Government of Chile on behalf of the Pro Tempore Presidency of CELAC and, in general, the usefulness of the discussions held in reinforcing the role of SELA in the process of development and consolidation of CELAC.

Agenda

**Meeting between Member States and the Permanent Secretariat of SELA
in compliance with Decision No. 527 "Support of the Permanent Secretariat of SELA
and its Work Programme to the Establishment of the Community
of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC)"**

Caracas, 3 April 2012

I. Background

a. By Decision No. 527 "Support of the Permanent Secretariat of SELA and its Work Programme to the Establishment of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC)," adopted in October 2011, the Latin American Council requested the Permanent Secretariat of SELA to attach priority, in implementing its Work Programme, to the activities of CELAC and the decisions made by the Heads of State and Government of our region during the Summit of the Community. In this connection, the Permanent Secretariat was instructed to convene a meeting with representatives of SELA Member States after that Summit..

b. Considering that the Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) took place in Caracas on 2 and 3 December 2011, and in consultation with the Bureau of the Latin American Council, the aforementioned meeting has been convened for 3 April 2012 at the headquarters of the Permanent Secretariat.

The main objective of this meeting is to exchange views on the support that the Permanent Secretariat of SELA could provide to the Pro-Tempore Presidency of CELAC, being held by the Government of Chile, in the implementation of its activities and their impact on the Work Programme of SELA.

II. The Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC)

On 2 and 3 December 2011, the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) was established within the framework of the III Summit of Latin America and the Caribbean on Integration and Development (CALC) and the XXII Summit of the Rio Group, held in Caracas and attended by 33 Heads of State and Government of the countries in the region. The new organization was launched "...as a representative mechanism for political consultation, integration and cooperation of Latin American and Caribbean States, and as a common space to ensure the unity and integration of our region" (Declaration of Caracas, Paragraph 31).

As a result of both Summits, the officials signed more than twenty documents, three of which lay the foundations for the creation of CELAC: the "Declaration of Caracas", the "Procedures for the Organic Operation of CELAC" and the "2012 Caracas Action Plan."

a. **The Declaration of Caracas** includes a set of political guidelines that should serve as the frame of reference for action by the Community, particularly as regards the implementation of the Caracas Action Plan. In the context of the analysis arising from the adoption of Decision 527 of the Latin American Council, emphasis should be made on the following statements by the Heads of State and Government, who agree that:

"...the unity and (...) integration (...) constitute (...) a requirement for the Region to successfully confront the challenges before us" (Par. 7)

"...our countries have made progress in regional and sub regional integration processes and in the establishment of various mechanisms (...) constituting a solid foundation to build a community (...)" (Par. 10)

"...continue unifying efforts and capacities to boost the sustainable development of the region, focusing on the expanding process of political, economic, social and cultural cooperation and integration..." (Par. 25)

"...move forward on the basis of our principles for the strengthening and consolidation of Latin American and Caribbean cooperation, in the development of our economic complementarities and South-South cooperation as an axis of integration in our common space, and as an instrument to reduce our asymmetries." (Par. 27)

"CELAC (...) is the highest expression of our will for unity in diversity" (Par. 28) and "...will promote action plans for the implementation of the mandates and the fulfilment of the commitments embodied in the Salvador de Bahia and Cancun Declarations, the Montego Bay Action Plan and the Caracas Work Programme" (Par. 29), "...under the principles of flexibility and voluntary participation..." (Par. 30), incorporating the Caracas Action Plan 2012 into this Declaration (Par. 33), inviting the Pro-Tempore Chairmanship of CELAC to implement it (Par. 35) and the "regional mechanisms and organisms, to promote among themselves communication, cooperation, articulation, coordination, complementarity and synergy, where appropriate, and through their respective executive bodies, (...) ensuring the efficient use of resources and the complementarity of efforts." (Par. 36)

b. The **2012 Caracas Action Plan** establishes, among its objectives, to "strengthen and deepen integration processes of our economies in the regional, sub-regional and bilateral areas, with the aim of guaranteeing the creation of a Latin American and Caribbean space."

In this connection, the Plan includes a set of guidelines aimed at strengthening complementarity and cooperation between regional and subregional integration mechanisms, as well as coordination among high-level officials. To that end, the Plan considers that the dialogue among these mechanisms should be focused on five areas:

- i) **Economic-commercial area**, which considers the creation of a working group that will prepare proposals for action in different areas.
- ii) **Productive area**, which sets out the "possibility of holding a Latin American and Caribbean conference on productive and industrial development."
- iii) **Social area**, which is aimed at creating a working group to develop a Strategic Regional Coordination Agenda.
- iv) **Cultural area**, which considers the possibility of holding "a meeting among regional and subregional integration mechanisms on cultural integration and incentives for the development of creative industries."
- v) **Energy area**, which sets out the creation of a body composed of the national authority of each country in charge of energy issues.

In short, from the agreements adopted at the Caracas Summit, a series of strategic guidelines could be drawn to make some headway towards the goals established for CELAC. Based on "unity in diversity" as a guiding principle, the guidelines are as follows:

- **Continuity**: build on what already exists;
- **Focus efforts** on priority areas, based on the strengthening and consolidation of intra-regional cooperation;
- **Flexibility and voluntary participation**;
- **Communication, cooperation, coordination, complementarity and synergies among regional organizations** in support of the established objectives;

III. SELA

1. Institutional Scope

The Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA), established by the Panama Convention in 1975, is the only Latin American and Caribbean inter-governmental organization of greater scope in terms of the number of Member States in the region (28) and geographical coverage. It includes countries from all subregions in Latin America and the Caribbean. It has no extra-regional presence among its members or observers. With its creation, it became the first organization to cover the region as a whole.

The Latin American Council has repeatedly expressed its desire for the few countries in the region that are not yet part of the system, in particular members of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), to accede to it, and mandated the Permanent Secretary to make efforts to promote their incorporation. These States are Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Montserrat, San Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, whose adherence to the Panama Convention would increase the membership of SELA to 34.

2. Objectives, institutional structure and legal framework

Article 5 of the Panama Convention establishing the Latin American Economic System sets out the objectives of the regional organization, namely:

- To promote regional cooperation, with a view to attaining self-sustained, independent and integral development;
- To support the integration processes of the region and encourage coordination among them, or with Members States of SELA, particularly with respect to those activities aimed at promoting greater harmonization, duly respecting the commitments made within the framework of such processes;
- To promote the formulation and implementation of economic and social programmes and projects of interest to the Members States;
- To act as a mechanism for consultation and coordination within Latin America for the purpose of formulating common positions and strategies on economic and social matters before third countries, groups of countries and in international organizations and forums; and
- To promote within the context of the objectives of SELA relating to intra-regional cooperation means to ensure preferential treatment for the relatively less

developed countries and special measures for countries with limited markets and for those whose landlocked condition affects their development.

To comply with these objectives, SELA is composed of three organs:

- The *Latin American Council*, which is the main decision-making body of SELA and is empowered to approve the work programmes of the organization, among other functions;

- The *Permanent Secretariat*, which is the technical administrative organ of SELA under the direction of the Permanent Secretary; and

- The *Action Committees*, composed of representatives of the Member States concerned shall be established to carry out specific studies, programmes and projects and to prepare and adopt joint negotiating positions of interest to more than two Member States. In addition, the Member States, gathering at the Latin American Council, may create working groups, commissions and any other appropriate mechanisms to develop cooperation and coordination among them.

To comply with the objectives of SELA, an organizational structure of a more flexible and pragmatic nature was designed, predominantly aimed at the action.

As regards its legal system, SELA is an inter-governmental institution of public international law governed by the Panama Convention and its Regulations, as well as the Decisions adopted each year by the Latin American Council, which currently amount to 530.

3. Brief overview of its performance

In the first decade of its existence, SELA provided a forum for consultation and coordination vis-à-vis a number of regional and extra-regional developments and events of common interest, facilitating the adoption of common positions and a common front of external relations in a global scenario characterized by significant changes in international economic relations.

As regards regional cooperation, it facilitated the creation of 16 Action Committees, aimed at developing economic and technical cooperation in various economic and social areas of interest for its Member States, which over time resulted in institutions of different types and objectives, such as multinational corporations, commissions, programmes and networks of both subregional and regional coverage. Some of these institutions are still active today.

In the subsequent years until the present, the action of the organization has been focused on (i) preparing analytical and propositional studies in the various areas set forth in its annual work programmes; (ii) holding regional meetings to promote dialogue and exchange of views on certain topics, contributing to their analysis at the regional level; they also serve as spaces for joining positions on those topics within the region or in negotiations with third countries and extra-regional institutions; (iii) conducting intergovernmental coordination meetings and expert seminars on general and specific areas of regional cooperation; (iv) providing technical assistance to Member States in specific matters, when requested and within the competence of the organization; and (v) developing training activities.

These activities have resulted in *Regional Cooperation Programmes* in different technical and social areas such as Health, Education, Trade Facilitation, International Trade Single

Windows, Food Security and support to Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs), among others.

At present, the Work Programme of the Permanent Secretariat covers three thematic areas: Intra-regional Relations, Economic and Technical Cooperation and Extra-regional Relations. The Work Programme adopted by the Latin American Council for 2012 is the result of a comprehensive reflection and consultation exercise undertaken by the Member States and the Permanent Secretariat since the year 2010 with the purpose of encouraging the greatest possible impact of the activities carried out by the organization on regional integration, cooperation and economic development with social inclusion.

IV. General considerations

As shown above, SELA is the first institutional expression of a political will in the region – in its broadest geographical and political extension – because it counts on a regional mechanism for decision-making, independent from any other multilateral scheme. Within this framework, as noted in Article 2 of the Panama Convention, SELA is a permanent regional body “for consultation, coordination, cooperation and joint economic and social promotion, with its own international juridical personality. It is composed of sovereign Latin American States.”

In short, SELA arose from the need for a pragmatic and flexible forum for action, where all the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean can participate on an equal footing, which responds to the demands and interests of the economic, social and political realities of the region.

Secondly, the concept of operating as a “system” in carrying out its tasks provides SELA with a unique institutional feature because of the possibility of working on a flexible and voluntary basis, which favours consultation and coordination, thereby generating the synergies that it explicitly promotes.

The trajectory of SELA in complying with these responsibilities has been naturally influenced by the developments lived through by the region in its search for efficient formulas for cooperation, integration and external relations, by the various stages undergone by the region – from self-centred regionalism to open regionalism – and by the international scene. To some extent, it can be argued that the potentials offered by the Panama Convention have not been put to the test of a long-term regional strategic design yet.

The establishment of the CELAC poses a new and warmly welcome reality. CELAC deals with regional institutional questions in a very pragmatic way, ruling out the idea that any regional organization should prevail over another. Also, it is based on the premise of building on what already exists, on a voluntary basis, by agreeing on priorities and pursuing them through joint coordination efforts, mutual support and inter-institutional synergies.

It was also clearly established that it is the duty of the Pro-Tempore Presidency of CELAC to take the first steps towards the implementation of the Caracas Action Plan 2012, and that, in principle, regional organizations – including SELA – will join efforts upon such a basis, which must be reflected in their Work Programmes.

V. Agenda for the meeting

Tuesday, 3 April 2012

10: 00 am **OPENING SESSION**

- Speech by His Excellency Mr. Jorge Alvarado Rivas, Ambassador of the Plurinational State of Bolivia and Chairman of the Latin American Council of SELA
- Speech by the Permanent Secretary of the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA), Ambassador José Rivera Banuet
- Presentation by the Honourable Hernán Núñez Montenegro, Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of the Embassy of Chile in Venezuela, on behalf of the Pro-Tempore Presidency of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC)

10:15 am **COFFEE BREAK**

10:45 am **DEBATE**

Exchange of views and debate among the Representatives of the Member States of SELA

12:00 m **CLOSING SESSION**

Summary by the Chairman of the Latin American Council of SELA

**Speech by His Excellency Jorge Alvarado Rivas,
Ambassador of the Plurinational State of Bolivia
and Chairman of the Latin American Council**

Your Excellencies Ambassadors and Representatives of SELA Member States;

Your Excellency Ambassador José Rivera Banuet, Permanent Secretary of SELA;

Honourable Hernán Núñez Montenegro, Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of the Embassy of Chile in Venezuela and Representative of the Pro Tempore Presidency of CELAC;

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am pleased to welcome all of you to this meeting in a time when our institution, the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA), is trying to establish a definition of great importance for its future: how to get in line with the work initiated by CELAC several months ago within the framework of SELA Work Programme as mandated by the Latin American Council.

I must stress the importance of this meeting on the grounds that it is necessary to define the participation and contribution of the various regional and subregional cooperation and integration schemes in the process of institutionalization and consolidation of CELAC, particularly the role that SELA would assume in this context in accordance with Decision No. 527 of the Latin American Council.

There have been many and valuable contributions by SELA in support of the process of institutionalization and consolidation of CELAC, and hopefully this meeting will bring in new ideas, methods and procedures for the purpose of strengthening the existing cooperation between the two institutions.

I wish you every possible success in your deliberations.

Thank you very much

A N N E X I I I

**Speech by His Excellency Ambassador José Rivera Banuet,
Permanent Secretary of SELA**

Your Excellency Jorge Alvarado, Ambassador of the Plurinational State of Bolivia and Chairman of the Latin American Council of SELA;

Mr. Hernán Núñez, Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of the Embassy of Chile in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, whose participation on behalf of the Pro Tempore Presidency of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) is greatly appreciated;

Ambassadors and Representatives of SELA Member States;

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Firstly, I wish to warmly welcome His Excellency Anthony David Edghill, Ambassador of Trinidad and Tobago in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, who is participating in our work for the first time, and so I wish him every success in his activities.

Being able to hold this meeting in compliance with Decision 527, which was agreed upon by the Member States at the latest Latin American Council, is a source of great satisfaction for the Permanent Secretariat of SELA. Decision 527 refers to the support of the Permanent Secretariat of SELA, through its Work Programme, to the establishment of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC). Through it, we were mandated to convene a meeting with representatives of SELA Member States following the Summit of Latin America and the Caribbean on Integration and Development (CALC), held in Caracas on 2 and 3 December 2011, for the purpose of considering the Summit agreements in the implementation of the 2012 SELA Work Programme so that our organization could somehow align its activities or make some of its efforts consistent with the broad lines of work established by CELAC. That is the purpose and spirit of this meeting, based on last October's deliberations on the subject at the Latin American Council.

For SELA, it is very important that the Heads of State and Government of Latin America and the Caribbean have finally reached a consensus on the consolidation, establishment and emergence of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, which is a very important step towards integration, cooperation, coordination and consultation among the nations of Latin America and the Caribbean. It is a necessary decision, which had been postponed and finally found its way and form in the 2008 Declaration of Salvador de Bahia, the 2009 Montego Bay Action Plan and the 2010 Cancun Declaration, and in those initiatives presented in the Caracas Work Programme for the implementation of the 2010-2011 Montego Bay Action Plan. I think this magnificent effort is vital for our region as it helps pave the way for regional unity, which has been so long desired and pursued.

I am convinced that in such *desideratum*, CELAC will require the support of the various regional and subregional organizations in Latin America and the Caribbean since its Plan of Action entails a great effort, the successful completion of which depends heavily on the active participation of all regional institutions. Thus, in the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System, we are more than willing to cooperate in this regard with the nations holding the Pro Tempore Presidency. In the case of Chile this year, and subsequently Cuba and Costa Rica, SELA and its Permanent Secretariat will always assist in this process which has been initiated, is currently underway and will hopefully lead us to the achievement of those goals particularly significant for our region.

I feel that the task ahead is huge, and accordingly a huge effort will be required. In order to be able to cooperate towards the accomplishment of the defined tasks, the different organizations will need to use a lot of effort, imagination and determination, always avoiding the duplication of efforts, the waste of resources and the waste of actions, because I think the region is already tired of such mistakes. Therefore, I reaffirm that we, at SELA, are willing and eager to work closely with other organizations and to do whatever is appropriate to provide an effective assistance in achieving the major objectives of CELAC.

Finally, I would like to thank Mr. Hernán Núñez once again for his presence. On behalf of the Government of Chile, he will be presenting the activities conducted so far by the Troika and the Pro Tempore Presidency, while also describing the current situation of CELAC work.

Thank you very much.

**Presentation by the Honourable Hernán Núñez Montenegro,
Chargé d’Affaires a.i. of the Embassy of Chile in Venezuela,
on behalf of the Pro-Tempore Presidency of the Community
of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC)**



CELAC: Pro Tempore Presidency held by Chile

✓ Caracas Declaration

- 35. They invite the Pro-Tempore Chairmanship of CELAC to implement, during its Presidency, the Caracas Action Plan, particularly in the social, environmental, energy, economic and cultural areas, and other priority areas established in the Caracas Action Plan.




In compliance with the above-mentioned mandate:

✓ **Meeting of the Troika in Santiago on 09 Jan. 2012**

- Cuba: Minister of Foreign Affairs, Bruno Rodríguez
- Venezuela: Minister of Foreign Affairs, Nicolás Maduro
- Chile: Minister of Foreign Affairs, Alfredo Moreno




Meeting of the Troika in Santiago on 09 Jan. 2012

- ✓ Procedures for operations.
- ✓ Troika: Body intended to facilitate, coordinate and support the work of the Pro Tempore Presidency. It shall meet at the level of ministers, vice-ministers and national coordinators.
- ✓ Report of the Pro Tempore Presidency on the setting in motion of CELAC.
- ✓ Presentation of the Annual Work Programme
 - CELAC – European Union Summit
 - First CELAC Summit



Meeting of National Coordinators

✓ Report of the Pro Tempore Presidency (PTP) on the setting in motion and other activities of CELAC as of 18 March 2012.

✓ Presentation of the annual work programme. The PTP submitted a report on the review of the mandates.

- Financial crisis. Ecuador will host a technical meeting (in May).
- Social Development. First Ministerial Meeting will be held in Caracas in June 2012.



Meeting of National Coordinators

- Migrants. Honduras proposal to hold the meeting in Tegucigalpa was accepted (scheduled for second half of 2012).
- Islas Malvinas. It was agreed that the PTP should send a new note to the SG of the UN.
- Cuba and the Summit of the Americas. Venezuela introduced the topic. There was a general understanding that Cuba should participate in the next Hemispheric Summit.
- Haiti. Request for information to the Member States on the activities of bilateral and multilateral cooperation.



Meeting of National Coordinators

- **Drugs.** The PTP shall submit the information to be provided by the National Coordination of Peru about the meeting on the world drug problem, to be held in Lima.
- **Permanent Secretariat.** The National Coordination of Panama requested that this item be included in the mandate document.
- **International activities of CELAC.**
 - ✓ Programme proposed by the PTP was generally adopted. It was considered of the utmost significance to establish links with the Pacific Islands and make a forum of the Troika with these island States.



Meeting of National Coordinators

- ✓ PTP reported that it visited the SG of ALADI on 15 March to coordinate the preparatory work for the meetings of regional and subregional integration mechanisms.
- ✓ It was agreed to review the functioning of the GRULAC with respect to CELAC in the various international organizations, especially in the United Nations in New York, Geneva, Vienna and at the headquarters of the EU in Brussels.



Meeting of National Coordinators

- Establishment of a working group to develop a proposal for a Latin American and Caribbean Tariffs Preference.
- First Meeting of CELAC Foreign Ministers will be held in New York on 21 September.
- CELAC – EU Summit will take place in Santiago on 26 and 27 January 2013 and its main topic will be "ALLIANCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: PROMOTING INVESTMENT OF SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY".



Meeting of National Coordinators

- Intra-regional cooperation. Argentina proposed to analyze the issue at the next Meeting of National Coordinators.
- The CELAC symbol.
- Special tribute was paid to the National Coordinator of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela for the excellent work carried out at the recent Caracas Summit.

Decision N° 527 of the Latin American Council

DECISION N° 527

**SUPPORT OF THE PERMANENT SECRETARIAT OF SELA AND ITS WORK PROGRAMME
TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COMMUNITY OF LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN STATES
(CELAC)**

THE LATIN AMERICAN COUNCIL,

HAVING SEEN:

Paragraph 2 of Article 5 of the Panama Convention establishing SELA, which indicates that one of the objectives of SELA is "to support the integration processes of the region and encourage coordination among them, or with Members States of SELA, particularly with respect to those activities aimed at promoting greater harmonization, duly respecting the commitments made within the framework of such processes."

DECIDES:

Sole Article: To request the Permanent Secretariat of SELA to attach priority, in implementing its Work Programme, to the activities of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), in accordance with decisions to be made by the Heads of State and Government of our region during the upcoming Summit of Latin America and the Caribbean, scheduled to be held in Caracas on 2 and 3 December 2011. In order to comply with this Decision, the Permanent Secretariat shall convene a meeting with representatives of the Member States of SELA subsequent to the Caracas Summit.

List of Participants

ARGENTINA

Carlos Cheppi
Ambassador
Embassy of Argentina
Avenida El Empalme,
Edificio FEDECAMARAS; Piso 3
El Bosque, Caracas
Tel: (58-212) 731-3311
Fax: (58-212) 731-2659
E-mail: secretariaprivada@gmail.com

María Fernanda Silva
Minister
Embassy of Argentina
Avenida El Empalme,
Edificio FEDECAMARAS; Piso 3
El Bosque, Caracas
Tel: (58-212) 731-2145
Cell phone: (0424) 157-5286
Fax: (58-212) 731-2659
E-mail: silvadosantos@yahoo.com.ar

BOLIVIA

Jorge Alvarado Rivas
Ambassador
Embassy of the Plurinational State of
Bolivia
Av. Luis Roche con 6ta. Transversal
Qta. "Embajada de Bolivia
Urbanización Altamira, Caracas
Tel: (58-212) 263-3015
Fax: (58-212) 261-3386
E-mail: joralva43@gmail.com

BRASIL

Carlos Henrique Anguisani
Secretary - Foreign Policy Sector
Embassy of Brazil
Calle Los Chaguaramos con
Av. Mohedano, Centro Gerencial
Mohedano, Piso 6, La Castellana
Caracas
Tel: (58-212) 918-6000
Fax: (58-212) 261-9601
E-mail: despachobrasil@gmail.com

CHILE

Hernán Núñez Montenegro
Chargé d'Affaires a.i
Representative of the Pro Tempore
Presidency of the Community of Latin
American and Caribbean States
(CELAC)
Embassy of Chile
Paseo Enrique Eraso
Torre La Noria, Piso 10
Urbanización Las Mercedes
Caracas
Tel:(58-212) 992-3378 / 991-3014
Fax: (58-212) 992-0614
E-mail: echileve@cantv.net

COSTA RICA

Nazareth Avendaño Solano
Ambassador
Embassy of Costa Rica
Edificio For You, PH
Avenida San Juan Bosco
Entre 1ra. Y 2da. Transversal (fte a Pza.
Altamira)
Urbanización Altamira
Caracas
Tel:(58-212) 265-7889
Fax: (58-212) 265-4660
E-mail: embaricavene@yahoo.com.mx

Jorge Valerio
Counsellor Minister
Embassy of Costa Rica
Edificio For You, PH
Avenida San Juan Bosco
Entre 1ra. Y 2da. Transversal (fte a Pza.
Altamira)
Urbanización Altamira
Caracas
Tel:(58-212) 265-7889
Fax: (58-212) 265-4660
E-mail: jorgevalerioh@gmail.com

40

CUBA

Rogelio Polanco
 Ambassador
 Embassy of Cuba
 Calle Roraima entre Río de Janeiro y
 Choroni, Quinta Marina,
 Urbanización Chuao
 Caracas
 Telefax : (58-212) 993- 5646
 Email: embajadorcubavzla@cantv.net

ECUADOR

Ramón Torres Galarza
 Ambassador
 Embassy of Ecuador
 Av. Principal de La Castellana con 2nda.
 Transv., Edif. BANCARACAS, Piso 8, Of.
 805, Urb. La Castellana
 Caracas
 Tel: (58-212) 265-0801
 Fax: (58-212) 265-2510
 E-mail: ramontorres2009@hotmail.com

Gabriela Carrillo Fraga
 Second Secretary – Consul
 Embassy of Ecuador
 Av. Principal de La Castellana con 2nda.
 Transv. Edif. BANCARACAS, Piso 8, Of. 805
 Urb. La Castellana, Caracas
 Tel: (58-212) 265-2665 / 0801/
 264-7790
 Fax: (58-212) 265-2510 / 264-6917
 E-mail: gcarrillo2011@gmail.com

EL SALVADOR

Román Mayorga
 Ambassador
 Embassy of El Salvador
 Quinta Cuzcatlán, Av. Copérnico, Valle
 Arriba
 Caracas
 Tel: (58-212) 991-4472
 E-mail: romanmq@gmail.com /
rmayorga@ree.gob.sv

HAITI

René Luc Desronvil
 Counsellor Minister
 Embassy of Haiti
 Qta. San Rafael, 8va. Transversal
 Urbanización Altamira
 Caracas
 Tel: (58-212) 262-1194
 Fax: (58-212) 261-9068
 E-mail: info@embassyidehaitivenezuela.org

JAMAICA

Shae-Alicia Lewis
 Chargé d' Affairs a.i
 Embassy of Jamaica
 Calle La Guairita, Edif. Los Frailes, Piso 5
 Urbanización Chuao
 Caracas
 Tel: (58-212) 991-6133
 Fax: (58-212) 991-6055
 E-mail: embjaven@cantv.net /
counsellorconsul.embjaven@gmail.com

MÉXICO

Eduardo Martínez Curiel
 Counsellor Minister
 Embassy of Mexico
 Calle Guaicaipuro con Avenida Principal
 de las Mercedes. Edificio FORUM, Piso 5
 Urbanización El Rosal, Chacao
 Caracas
 Tel: (58-212) 952-5777
 Fax: (58-212) 9532408
 E-mail: emartinezcuriel@sre.gob.mx

PANAMA

Pedro Pereira
 Ambassador
 Embassy of Panama
 Centro Profesional Eurobuilding
 Piso 8, Oficina 8-D
 Urbanización Chuao, Caracas
 Tel:(58-212) 992-9182 // 9093
 Fax:(58-212) 992-8421
 E-mail: embapanama.venezuela@mire.gob.pa

Eliseo Castillo
 Official
 Embassy of Panama
 Centro Profesional Eurobuilding
 Piso 8, Oficina 8-D
 Urbanización Chuao, Caracas
 Tel:(58-212) 992-9182 // 9093
 Fax:(58-212) 992-8421
 E-mail: embapanama.venezuela@mire.gob.pa

PARAGUAY

Augusto Ocampos
Embassy of Paraguay
4ta. Avenida entre 7ma. y 8va.
Transversal, Qta. Helechales N° 1811
Urbanización Altamira, Caracas
Telefax: (58-212) 263-2559 // 267-5543
E-mail: embaparven@cantv.net /
embaparven@mre.gov.py

Gustavo Irala
Second Secretary
Embassy of Paraguay
4ta. Avenida entre 7ma. y 8va.
Transversal, Qta. Helechales N° 1811
Urbanización Altamira, Caracas
Telefax: (58-212) 263-2559 // 267-5543
E-mail: embaparven@cantv.net /
embaparven@mre.gov.py

PERU

Luis Enrique Raygada
Ambassador
Embassy of Peru
Av. San Juan Bosco con 2da.
Transversal, Edificio San Juan, Piso 5
Urbanización Altamira
Caracas
Tel: (58-212) 264-0868
Fax: (58-212) 265-7592
E-mail: lraygada@embajadadelperu-venezuela.org

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

José Antonio Ortiz
Chargé d'Affaires a.i
Embassy of Dominican Republic
Los Palos Grandes, 2da Transversal
Caracas, Venezuela
E-mail: pvasquez16@live.com

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Anthony David Edahill
Ambassador
Embassy of Trinidad and Tobago
3ª Av. entre 6ta. y 7ma. Transversal
Quinta Poshika
Caracas
Tel: (58-212) 261-3748/5796
Fax: (58-212) 261-9801

Ordell Barman
Consul
Embassy of Trinidad and Tobago
3ª Av. entre 6ta. y 7ma. Transversal
Quinta Poshika
Caracas
Tel: (58-212) 261-3748/5796
Fax: (58-212) 261-9801
E-mail: ordell.barman@gmail.com

VENEZUELA

Alfonso Zabaleta Fajardo
Director-General for Latin America and
the Caribbean
Vice-Ministry for Latin America and the
Caribbean
People's Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the
Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela
Avenida Urdaneta, Esquina de Conde
a Carmelitas
Torre MRE, Piso 6. Caracas
Tel: (58-212) 806-4783
Fax: (58-212) 806-4786
E-mail: alfonso.zabaleta234@mppre.gob.ve
alfonso.zabaleta@gmail.com

Yamile Guerra
Third Secretary
People's Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the
Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela
Avenida Urdaneta, Esquina de Conde
a Carmelitas
Torre MRE
Caracas
Tel: (58-212) 806-4787
Fax: (58-212)806-4786
E-mail: yamibo@gmail.com
Website: www.mre.gob.ve

Wilfredo Madera
Analyst
Office for Multilateral Affairs
People's Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the
Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela
Avenida Urdaneta, Esquina Carmelitas
Torre MRE
Caracas
Tel: (58-212) 806-4787
Fax: (58-212)806-4786
Website: www.mre.gob.ve

**LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN
ECONOMIC SYSTEM (SELA))**

José Rivera Banuet
Permanent Secretary
Tel: (58-212) 955-7101
Fax: (58-212) 951-5292 / 6901
E-mail: jrivera@sela.org

Carlos Bivero
Director of Relations for Integration
and Cooperation
Tel: (58-212) 955-7115
Fax: (58-212) 951-5292 / 6901
E-mail: cbivero@sela.org

Telasco Pulgar
Coordinator of Relations with Regional
and Extra-Regional Organizations
Tel: (58-212) 955-7153
Fax: (58-212) 951-5292 / 6901
E-mail: tpulgar@sela.org

Juan Acuña
Coordinator of Relations
with Member States
Tel: (58-212) 955-7107
Fax: (58-212) 951-5292 / 6901
E-mail: jacuna@sela.org

Ana Mercedes Castellanos
Technical Coordinator
Tel: (58-212) 955-7114
Fax: (58-212) 951-5292 / 6901
E-mail: acastellanos@sela.org

Antonio Leone
Coordinator of the Productive Sector
Tel: (58-212) 955-7108
Fax: (58-212) 951-5292 / 6901
E-mail: aleone@sela.org

Javier Gordon Ruiz
Coordinator of Cooperation Projects
Tel: (58-212) 955-7137
Fax: (58-212) 951-5292 / 6901
E-mail: jgordon@sela.org

Fernando Guglielmelli
Head of the Office of the Permanent
Secretary
Tel: (58-212) 955-7123
Fax: (58-212) 951-5292 / 6901
E-mail: fguglielmelli@sela.org