

## **DECLARATION OF BUENOS AIRES**

### **VII SUMMIT OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT OF THE COMMUNITY OF LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN STATES (CELAC)**

*Buenos Aires, January 24, 2023*

The Heads of State and Government of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), gathered in Buenos Aires on January 24, 2023, convinced of the importance of this intergovernmental mechanism of regional integration, consultation, dialogue and political agreement to promote and project Latin America and the Caribbean in the discussion and debate of global agenda issues:

- 1. Affirm** the commitment of CELAC members to firmly advance in the process of integration, promoting unity and the political, economic, social and cultural diversity of their peoples, with the aim that Latin America and the Caribbean projects itself as a community of sovereign nations capable of deepening consensus on issues of common interest and contributing to the welfare and development of the region, as well as the urgent overcoming of poverty and existing inequalities and inequities;
- 2. Stress** the full validity of the Proclamation of Latin America and the Caribbean as a Zone of Peace, signed at the II CELAC Summit held in Havana in January 2014 that recognizes the region as a zone of peace and free of nuclear weapons by virtue of the provisions of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean and its Protocols (Treaty of Tlatelolco), supported on the promotion and respect for the Purposes and Principles of the United Nations Charter and the international law, that promotes the peaceful settlement of disputes, a system based on respectful relations of friendship and cooperation, free of threats, aggressions and unilateral coercive measures contrary to international law, in an atmosphere of peace, stability and justice, in order to ban forever the use and threat of the use of force;
- 3. Reiterate** our commitment to democracy, to promote, protect and respect all human rights, international cooperation, the rule of law, multilateralism, respect for territorial integrity and non-intervention in the internal affairs of States and the defense of sovereignty, as well as the promotion of justice and the maintenance of international peace and security;
- 4. Recall** that, in the spirit of what was stated in the Declaration of the Unity Summit of Latin America and the Caribbean of the Riviera Maya of 2010, democracy is a conquest of the region that does not admit interruptions, in accordance with the legal system of the States, or setbacks, and, in this regard, **we reiterate**

our firmest commitment to the preservation of democratic values and to the full and unrestricted validity of the institutions and the rule of law in the region; access to public functions and its exercise; and respect for the constitutional faculties of the different powers of the State and the constructive dialogue between them; the holding of free, periodic, transparent, informed elections based on universal and secret suffrage as an expression of the sovereignty of the people, citizen participation, social justice and equality, the fight against corruption, as well as respect for all civil and political rights recognized in the applicable international instruments;

- 5. Reiterate** our commitment to advancing in unity and regional, political, economic, social and cultural integration, and the decision to continue working together towards Sustainable Development to face the health, social, economic and environmental crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, the increasing risk of natural disasters and the degradation of the planet's biodiversity, among others factors;

#### **POST-PANDEMIC ECONOMIC RECOVERY, FOOD AND ENERGY SECURITY**

- 6. Agree** that the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean have been specially affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, which has deepened the levels of poverty, food and nutritional insecurity, indebtedness, social inequality, labor informality, environmental degradation and gender inequality; therefore, **we highlight** the importance of promoting sustainable economic recovery with a cooperation, inclusive, equitable, sustainable and solidarity approach;
- 7. Express** our concern given that several countries of Latin America and the Caribbean emerged from the pandemic with higher levels of public debt and **underline** the need for international and regional financial institutions, such as Multilateral Development Banks, to optimize credit facilities through fair, transparent and accessible mechanisms without exclusions, that help countries that request them quickly recover from insolvency and access to international financial markets, incorporating for it a human rights perspective and taking into account countries' vulnerabilities;
- 8. Convey** that the current international context of multiple interrelated crises particularly affect the region, that suffers the impact of the interruption of supply chains, the excessive volatility of food, fertilizers and energy prices, and financial instability, among others. **We recognize** that the effects of this crisis have revealed the fragilities of the agri-food systems and the inequalities in our societies, have exacerbated the adverse impacts of climate change, the disruption of input markets and the increase in global inflation which entails the potential for a global recession;

9. **Highlight** the importance of camelids and their significant contribution to food security and their contribution to the survival of populations that live in areas of low temperatures, in arid and drought conditions, for which we **reaffirm** their commitment to the success of the celebration of the International Year of Camelids in 2024, in accordance with the provisions of the Resolution of the United Nations General Assembly A/RES/72/210 of December 20, 2017;
10. **Welcome** the “Bridgetown Initiative”, proposed by the Government of Barbados as a plan with the potential to significantly redesign the global financial system in order to improve the response to climate crises and the particular development challenges, thus allowing developing countries, in particular, to have the fiscal space in order to work towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
11. **Recognize** that it is necessary that the economic models of the countries of the region prioritize productive development with social inclusion and direct their available resources to achieve this end. **We stress** that this objective can only materialize through strong social cohesion within the countries, which requires political dialogue instances and mechanisms on the highest level;
12. **Agree** to coordinate, with the technical support of ECLAC, the holding of a meeting of Ministers of Economy and Finance in the first semester of 2023, on a date to be defined, in order to design a common agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean that can respond to the current global economic crisis;
13. **Recognize** the central role of our region in worldwide food and nutrition security as the main net food exporting region and in environmental sustainability given the forest, water, soil and biodiversity resources, and **we commit** to work together with the international community, to strengthen this global role;
14. **Reiterate** our commitment to promote effective actions aimed at guaranteeing food security by supporting agricultural and rural development, promoting the increase in sustainable food production and food availability, as well as a fairer, more transparent, equitable and predictable international trade system for agricultural products. Similarly, **we commit ourselves** to promoting energy transition actions in order to guarantee our fellow citizens a sustainable, accessible, affordable, reliable and safe energy sector, within the framework of the SDGs;
15. **Congratulate ourselves** for the results of the Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of Agriculture and **highlight** the importance of updating, according to the new international context and the challenges that our region faces, the Plan for Food Security, Nutrition and the Eradication of Hunger of CELAC 2025 (SAN-CELAC) with the technical assistance of FAO, IICA, ECLAC, ALADI and other cooperation agencies;

16. **Welcome** the relaunch of the CELAC Working Group on Labor as a mechanism for consultation and convergence based on institutionalized tripartite social dialogue characterized by its permanent and open nature;

## **HEALTH STRATEGY**

17. **Emphasize** the importance of improving the coordination of the national capacities and straightening them to better face current and future challenges in health matters, promoting a solidarity and cooperation approach. Likewise, **we commit ourselves** to continue implementing government actions that place the person at the core of health and resilience policies, assuring that the provision of health services takes into account the specific needs of groups in a situation of vulnerability and/or historically discriminated against, such as indigenous peoples, Afro-descendants, women, children, youth, the elderly and people with disabilities, acknowledging the critical role of caregivers;
18. **Welcome** the results of the CELAC Ministerial Meeting on Health carried out by the Argentine Pro Tempore Presidency and **highlight** the importance of giving continuity to the CELAC Health Self-Sufficiency Plan, with objective of strengthening the local and regional production and distribution of vaccines, medicines and critical supplies through technology transfer to complement effective support for innovation, research and technological development;
19. **Endorse** that the CELAC Sanitary Self-Sufficiency Plan will allow the strengthening of the mechanisms for joint international purchase of vaccines and essential medicines; the use of public procurement mechanisms for medicines for the development of regional markets; the creation of consortia for the development and production of vaccines; as well as the strengthening of convergence mechanisms and regulatory recognition, including primary health care systems for universal access and equitable distribution of vaccines;
20. **Value** the contributions of the I and II Meeting of CELAC on health matters for the presentation of the "Strategy to approach the purchase of high-cost medicines"; the IV Meeting of the Network of Experts on Infectious Agents and Emerging and Reemerging Diseases; the "Report on research, development and production capacities of vaccines in CELAC countries" and the "Working document for the Strengthening of joint international purchase mechanisms for vaccines and essential medicines";
21. **Affirm** CELAC's support for the World Health Organization (WHO) and The Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) and **express** our willingness to continue actively participating in the process of drafting specific amendments to the International Health Regulations (2005), maintaining focus on the

needs of low- and middle-income countries, and negotiation of an international instrument on prevention, preparation and response to pandemics, which guarantees universal and equitable access to essential supplies such as vaccines, medicines and diagnostic tests;

## **ADDRESSING THE WORLD DRUG PROBLEM**

- 22. Reaffirm** the need to adopt effective policies with a preventive, integrated, multidisciplinary and balanced approach regarding the World Drug Problem, according to national legislations, under the principle of common and shared responsibility, respectful of Human Rights, based on scientific evidence and taking into consideration the effects on public health, the environment, international cooperation and social justice;
- 23. Believe** that according to the Principle of Common and Shared Responsibility, it would be discordant and disproportionate to locate the responsibility in Latin American and Caribbean countries. Therefore, the States and other actors that play an intensive role in the dynamics associated with substance use should undertake mechanisms aimed at prevention that ensure a joint and horizontal effort within the framework of global multilateral initiatives to address the World Drug Problem;
- 24. Reiterate** that addressing the world drug problem requires effective international cooperation, in observance of national legislation, legally binding international instruments to which CELAC members are Parties, and other relevant international instruments, fully respecting the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter, especially respect for national sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of States;

## **ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION**

- 25. Renew** our willingness to work in a coordinated and concerted manner with the objective of reaffirming international climate action as a global priority, in the current context of multiple crises, and **reiterate** our willingness to jointly support the multilateral process based on the urgent need for action of each country and always in accordance with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and their respective national capacities;
- 26. Welcome** the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, which envisions mobilizing at least US\$200 billion annually from public and private sources to finance the execution of biodiversity-related plans and strategies; and increase total international financial flows from developed to developing countries to \$20 billion a year by 2025 and \$30 billion a year by 2030;

27. **Recall** the urgency that developed countries fulfill their commitment to jointly mobilize 100 billion dollars per year from 2020 and until 2025 for climate financing, in order to support developing countries, especially Small Island Developing States, the landlocked countries and the countries of the Central American Isthmus, and the COP26 commitment to at least double funding for adaptation, also considering the importance of mitigation, as well as guaranteeing resources for the loss and damage fund agreed at COP27 and strengthen regional coordination within the framework of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its Paris Agreement;
28. **Welcome** Brazil's candidacy to host the 30th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP-30), in 2025, in the city of Belém do Pará;
29. **Follow** with concern the increase in trade restrictive measures adopted with the justification of conserving the environment, in a context of growing economic uncertainty and multiple crises, which complex world economic prospects and particularly affect the capacities of developing countries to meet their SDGs. **We agree** that unilateral trade restrictions inconsistent with World Trade Organization (WTO) principles are inadequate to address environmental concerns and the promotion of sustainable development;
30. **Stress** our duty to defend the right to life on our Mother Earth, as well as the provision of the necessary financing, to obtain urgent and concrete results based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capacities, ensuring climate justice and the indispensable policy of reparations to compensate for losses and damages and to encourage direct, unconditional and respectful cooperation;
31. **Emphasize**, in accordance with the Rio Conventions, that the provision of financing from developed countries to developing countries as well as capacity building, scientific and technical cooperation, and technology transfer, are essential factors to achieve the established objectives in the environmental agreements and their protocols;
32. **Welcome** the approval of the CELAC Ministerial Declaration on the Environment as a result of the CELAC Meeting of Ministers of the Environment and we **agree** to continue the dialogue on environmental matters within the framework of the mechanism, in order to continue strengthening common positions and raising the voice of the region, strengthen the work and exchange of knowledge and capacities, and accelerate the implementation of the commitments adopted under the Rio Conventions;

- 33. Concur** that plastic pollution is one of the main global environmental problems. We **take note** of the mandate of the United Nations Environment Assembly 5 (UNEA) where the International Committee for Environmental Protection for Negotiation was established to develop a legally binding international instrument on reducing plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, whose first round of negotiations took place in Punta del Este, Uruguay, between November 28 and December 2, 2022;
- 34. Highlight** that Latin America and the Caribbean is represented by Antigua and Barbuda, Ecuador and Peru on the board of the Intergovernmental Negotiation Committee (INC), that will develop a legally binding international instrument to address the problem of plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, particularly given the fact that its presidency has fallen in our region;
- 35. Recognize** the importance of increasing the production of renewable energy and accelerating the energetic transition in a sustainable, fair, equitable and inclusive manner, contributing to the energy security of the countries of the region; taking into account the different realities, capacities and levels of development of each member country and respecting their national policies and priorities;
- 36. Reaffirm** the commitment of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean with the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs, within the framework of resolution 64/292 of the United Nations General Assembly, which recognizes the human right to water and sanitation, and we **highlight** regional efforts to advance in SDG 6 towards the Conference on the Comprehensive Midterm Review of the Achievement of the Goals of the International Decade for Action "Water for Sustainable Development 2018-2028" to be held in New York from 22 to March 24, 2023;

## **COMPREHENSIVE DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT**

- 37. Stress** the importance of regional cooperation in disaster risk management and reduction as a safeguard for sustainable development, placing special emphasis on the Small Island States of the Caribbean, landlocked countries and the countries of the Central American Isthmus, which suffer the greatest proportion of the impacts of the climate and sanitary crisis, coordinating existing convergences in different regional and sub-regional organizations in Latin America and the Caribbean in an effort to take advantage of the potential of each one. Likewise, we **express** our willingness to work together to have standardized guidelines that promote disaster risk management on a regional scale;

- 38. Reaffirm** our commitment with the progress made in the dialogue with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and highlighted the importance of prompt regulation of the CELAC Fund for Climate Adaptation and Comprehensive Response to Natural Disasters (FACRID), created by the signatory countries of the Voluntary Contribution Agreement, aware of the serious impact of climate change and the effects it has on the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, in order to implement projects for prevention, response preparation, mitigation and disaster recovery in the region, allowing capacity building and the sharing of knowledge for disaster risk reduction;
- 39. Agree** that the VIII Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas and the Caribbean that will be held in Punta del Este, Uruguay, between February 28 and March 2, 2023 and that will have science and technology as its focus will provide an opportunity to strengthen cooperation, improve humanitarian aid mechanisms, exchange on common problems, capitalize on experiences and share good practices, being a valuable meeting point between different actors of the region that work on comprehensive emergency and disaster risk management and adaptation to climate change and variability;

#### **SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION FOR SOCIAL INCLUSION**

- 40. Welcome** the adoption of the “Declaration of Buenos Aires on Science, Technology and Innovation” and **recognize** that the contributions from the scientific-technological sector are a fundamental tool to consolidate sovereignty and achieve sustainable development;
- 41. Concur** on the necessity to deepen the joint work to define priorities, coordinate actions, articulate scientific research and technological transfer, in order to diversify the productive and export matrix, favoring regional and global competitiveness, generating qualified work, especially in priority areas such as the health sector, in care and access to safe, effective and quality supplies. In this sense, **we highlight** the importance of developing synergies between national and sub-regional programs aimed at the training of high-level scientists, including the mobility of researchers and the exchange of information on best practices and experiences;
- 42. Consider** imperative the strengthening of regional and sub-regional institutions that promote the articulation in science, technology and innovation between CELAC countries, as a way to improve development levels and the impact of investment in the scientific and technological field as an instrument for the transformation of occupations, equity, quality and employment prospects, skills and labor relations;



**43. Underline** the necessity to promote spaces for dialogue between the public, academic, business, community organizations and civil society sectors at the national and regional level, in order to develop joint strategies and articulated agendas that promote innovation and technology transfer. In this sense, **we approve** the establishment of five working groups made up of representatives designated by the Member States, on the following areas: Ancestral Science, Aerospace Research, Regional Evaluators Network, Energy Transition and Biotechnology (with emphasis on Agriculture and Health), whose competencies, work modalities and expected results must arise from the agreement of the National Coordinators;

**44. Recognize** the use of technology, creativity and innovation as an opportunity for the development and strengthening of the culture of our peoples, as well as the technological tool that allows virtual access to cultural spaces;

#### **DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION**

**45. Highlight** the relevance of guaranteeing universal access to connectivity in the digital era without discrimination, especially to groups in vulnerable situation and in remote and rural areas, ensuring the investments in necessary infrastructure and promoting the development of digital skills and competences, in order to narrow digital gaps, including gender gaps, as well as to achieve the SDGs;

**46. Recognize** the role of information and communication technologies as essential tools for the promotion of human well-being, development, knowledge, economic growth and social inclusion. **We also stress** the need to ensure and take measures so that the Human Rights of people are not violated through the use of these technologies, such as the right to privacy and the protection of their personal data, guaranteeing a safe and protected experience for the citizenship both in their online interactions and with the infrastructure that operates through the use of information and communication technologies;

**47. We reaffirm** the validity of the positions assumed by CELAC regarding the peaceful use of ICTs and **call on** the international community to avoid unilateral acts that are not compatible with the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and International Law;

**48. Reiterate** the importance of continuing to work on the digital transformation of the States of the region, in order to guarantee agile, efficient, modern, accessible and inclusive public services. In particular, we **emphasize** the need to promote the adoption of an open government approach in the design and implementation of public policies and social protection systems, to ensure that the provision of public services is focused on citizens and their needs, as well as to encourage proper accountability. Likewise, **we**

**highlight** the importance of transparency and access to public information in the context of the digital transformation of States, in accordance with their own plans and programs to combat poverty and human development;

**49. Reflect** on the shift towards digital environments, which was accelerated by the pandemic and makes it possible for youth to find new forms of growth, innovation and social participation;

**50. Recognize** that the malicious use of new technologies has promoted transnational organized crime and misconducts that threaten the well-being and integral development of children and adolescents, such as child sexual abuse, gender violence and human trafficking. Likewise, disinformation and the visible increase in cyber-attacks, including those through artificial intelligence and the use of algorithms, create risks to the stability of the essential infrastructure of States, companies and the well-being of people. **We stress** the need to improve coordination and cooperation between States in the fight against the use of information and communication technologies for criminal purposes;

**51. Agree** that disinformation on social networks can create parallel realities and induce political radicalization, creating a threat to democratic values and the rule of law and the stability of the social contract. For this reason, we **highlight** the need to expand cooperation and coordination between States to advance in the fight against disinformation and illegal content on the Internet;

**52. Reflect** on the use of technologies in the military field, whose implementation includes certain automated forms of decision-making and how these applications must be regulated, given that in certain circumstances they can cause, contribute or facilitate the commission of violations and abuses of international humanitarian law. In this spirit, we **celebrate** the holding of the Regional Conference on the social and humanitarian impact of autonomous weapons, to be held from February 23 to 24, 2023, in San José, Costa Rica.

## **INFRASTRUCTURE FOR INTEGRATION**

**53. Highlight**, in particular, the Bi-Oceanic Corridors, as very relevant, concrete projects for the region, with high strategic value that seek the socio-economic development of the countries, increase physical integration, trade, investment, tourism, and thereby provide greater job opportunities and better quality of life for the people, as well as promote regional complementarity in all aspects of society. In this sense, **we highlight** the initiatives that will facilitate land connections between the Pacific and Atlantic oceans, such as the Bi-Oceanic Integration Rail Corridor Project that unites Brazil, Bolivia, Paraguay and Peru and the Bi-Oceanic

Road Corridor Puerto Murtinho (Brazil) - Carmelo Peralta (Paraguay) - Misión la Paz (Argentina) - Puertos del Norte (Chile), whose importance will make foreign trade logistics viable, generating economic growth in the region, reducing transportation costs and times. Said circumstance requires adding support from representatives of local communities and parliamentarians from States, provinces, and regions directly linked to the development of infrastructure and integration works;

- 54. Reaffirm** the importance of the Paraguay-Paraná Waterway as a navigable water system that facilitates regional integration and constitutes a concrete way to enable navigation and commercial transport on equal terms, as well as favor development, modernization and efficiency, allowing access under competitive conditions to overseas markets;
- 55. Reiterate** the importance of sub-regional integration mechanisms in the area of fluvial navigation, based on the freedom of navigation and transit of vessels, goods and people through international rivers, in accordance with domestic legislation and international law. **We highlight** the relevance of guaranteeing competitive access to regional and overseas markets for landlocked countries, in order to consolidate river transport as a factor in the development of international trade;
- 56. Recognize** the importance of promoting regional connectivity through the development of energy integration infrastructure projects that have an impact on the economic performance of Latin America and the Caribbean, taking advantage of the complementarity and availability of energy resources in the region. Within this framework, **we agree** to evaluate regional electrical interconnection projects in accordance with the sovereign rights of the countries to establish criteria that ensure sustainable development in the use of their natural resources and national capacities;

## **SITUATION OF WOMEN, YOUTH AND GIRLS**

- 57. Recognize** that the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated pre-existing socioeconomic and other gaps, evidencing a differentiated impact based on gender, the decisive role of paid and unpaid domestic and care work for the sustainability of life, society and the economy, and exposing the increase in levels of domestic and other gender related violence, and the inequitable distribution of care work as one of the main causes of gender inequalities that hinder the exercise of rights and economic autonomy of women, adolescents and girls;
- 58. Acknowledge** with concern the persistence of gaps between men and women in the labor market, decent work wages, quality employment, full and effective participation in strategic sectors within the labor market

and access to protection and social security, as well as a social organization that assigns paid and unpaid domestic and care work to women, adolescents and girls, together with the insufficiency of care policies and services that ensure gender co-responsibility;

- 59. Affirm** that equality in care arises from international obligations enshrined in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child among others, and **advocate** to continue promoting the recognition of the right to care, and the development of public policies that ensure access to care and co-responsibility following the principles of equality, equity and non-discrimination;

## **YOUTH**

- 60. Stress** the importance of incorporating the voice of the youth of the region in the strategies that promote social welfare and equal opportunities. Likewise, we **reaffirm** the commitment to give continuity to the "Council of Youth of Latin America and the Caribbean" as a privileged instance to foster participation in the agendas of the governments of the region and the problems raised by the youth are taken into account in the design and adoption of public policies;
- 61. Recognize** that youth are part of a segment of the population with high rates of precariousness and job instability, high indebtedness and lack of financial education, especially youth in rural areas and women, adolescents and girls who dedicate most of their time to care duties from an early age. Likewise, we **underscore** the importance of guaranteeing access to justice in cases of gender violence in all its forms and the need for greater investment in the education system, with a perspective based on human, gender and health rights, in pursuit of personal, labor and social development of the youth of the region;

## **AFRO-DESCENDANTS**

- 62. Ratify** the commitment to promote, respect, guarantee and protect the rights of Afro-descendants and **reiterate** our support for the work of the CELAC Working Group for Afro-descendants in favor of social, cultural, economic and political reparation for the descendants of the victims of the transatlantic slave trade. We **reaffirm**, likewise, the objective of deepening the processes of eradication of all forms of racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance, in search of societies with higher levels of equity and racial justice;

- 63. Welcome** the holding of the First Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on People of African Descent, which was held in Geneva, from the 5<sup>th</sup> to the 8<sup>th</sup> of December 2022;

## **INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES**

- 64. Highlight** the “Regional Launch of the International Decade of Indigenous Languages 2022-2032”, which has been configured to make visible, conserve, revitalize and promote the active, free and spontaneous use of indigenous languages at the local, national and regional level; and **reaffirm** our willingness to continue developing, in close partnership with indigenous peoples, public policies and international actions that integrate aspects of linguistic diversity and multilingualism in the efforts of sustainable development, and thus contribute to the success of the Decade;
- 65. Welcome** the establishment of the Ibero-American Institute of Indigenous Languages to promote the use, conservation and development of the indigenous languages spoken in Latin America and the Caribbean, working from the States, in guaranteeing the cultural and linguistic rights. Likewise, **we invite** the States of Latin America and the Caribbean to be part of the creation and strengthening of the Ibero-American Institute of Indigenous Languages, and that cooperation efforts can be added to support this initiative;
- 66. Ratify** our commitment to the provisions of the special declaration on the International Decade of Indigenous Languages 2022-2032, issued within the framework of the VI CELAC Summit, held on September 18, 2021 in Mexico City, in which their individual and collective rights are recognized, including the right of indigenous peoples to revitalize, use, promote and transmit to future generations the languages and oral and philosophical traditions, their writing systems and their literature, therefore **we recognize** the importance of establishing alliances to coordinate joint actions in this regard;

## **MIGRATION**

- 67. Agree** that migration is a social process that contributes positively to the social, cultural and economic development, both in host countries and in countries of origin and transit of migrants, and that it must be addressed from a comprehensive point of view, in order to maximize its benefits and reduce the risks and challenges to response capacity that migratory flows through irregular channels entail, as well as promote national and regional migration policies for their adequate socioeconomic integration. In this sense, we **express** our commitment to continue advancing in the promotion of the integration and insertion of migrants,

prevention against transnational networks of smuggling of migrants and assistance to host communities, including new agents of change, such as local governments, in the management;

- 68. Reaffirm** our commitment to safe, orderly, and regular migration, while we reiterate our willingness to continue working to keep countering the multidimensional causes of migration through irregular channels. Likewise we **highlight** the need to count with permanent principles for international migration management, such as full respect of the human rights of migrants regardless of their immigration status, as well as the integration of said migrants through adequate and expeditious procedures to access migration regularity and, the safe and dignified voluntary return to the countries of origin or habitual address, as the basis of national and regional migration policies;
- 69.** Within this framework, we **reject** all forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, hate speech and other related forms of discrimination and intolerance against migrants. Likewise, we **underline** the importance of maintaining a fluid and permanent dialogue on migration governance in the established specialized forums, to promote the principles of solidarity, international cooperation and shared responsibility in the management of migrations, in accordance with domestic law and the migratory policies of each country;
- 70. Recognize** the relevance of reactivating the CELAC Meetings on Migration and the CELAC-EU Structured and Integral Dialogue on Migration, allowing the renewal of previously established commitments;

## **DISABILITY**

- 71. Celebrate** the inclusion in the CELAC agenda of the subject of the Human Rights of people with disabilities; through the holding of a Seminar and the adoption of the first Declaration on the matter. We **stress** that it is the duty of States to adopt all necessary measures to guarantee effective access to human rights for people with disabilities and the removal of physical and attitudinal barriers that prevent their effective exercise;

## **EDUCATION**

- 72. Reaffirm** that education, at all levels is a fundamental human right and the basis for the effective realization of other rights. We **sustain** that guaranteeing inclusive, equitable and quality education is an essential condition for peace, sustainable development and socio-economic growth. In this sense, we **recognize** that

education, from the initial level to the higher level, is a public and social good whose main guarantor is the State;

- 73. Agree** that education is a key tool in the regional integration project to promote the well-being of individuals, communities and Nations, through the construction of democratic citizenship, social justice, the democratization of knowledge and access to new technologies and economic resources for its financing, with priority given to the most vulnerable and low-income socioeconomic groups;
- 74. Recognize** that to improve the situation of education in the region urgent decisions and transformations that assign a central role for the educational community must be promoted, considering the cultural relevance and historical contributions of indigenous and Afro-descendant peoples. We **underscore** the importance of having adequate financing for education and that it occupies a prominent place on the public agenda of our States. Likewise, we **agree** on the relevance of preparing students for life and for job placement, ensuring a full face-to-face development that, together with the valuable contribution of virtual education, adds to the strengthening of content and learning from areas that incorporate the issue of human rights and gender equality;
- 75. Welcome** the adoption of the "Declaration of the III CELAC Ministerial Meeting on Education", whose objective is to strengthen educational systems, at all levels, to move towards inclusive, equitable and quality education. Therefore, we **agree** that the challenges of an educational policy agenda require the presence and leadership of the States and the articulation between the national and local governments, in addition to the participation of civil society and the inclusion of education stakeholders, educational communities, as applicable;

## **CULTURE**

- 76. Emphasize** the role of culture and the arts in the advancing of regional unity and integration of democratic, peaceful and inclusive societies, recognizing them as constituent forms of cultural diversity and as the ideal instrument for the expression of the diverse and plural Cultural Heritage of Latin America and the Caribbean, thus reaffirming the regional identity through the learning of our own history for self-determination. We **take note** of the efforts countries make to strengthen their regulations, training, and standardization of inventories of cultural assets to prevent and combat their illicit trafficking;

- 77. Value** the terms and actions contained in the “Declaration of Buenos Aires of the V Meeting of Ministers of Culture of CELAC”, as well as the “Special Declaration for the Strengthening of the Cultural and Creative Economy”, which recognize the role of the cultural sector in advancing the social and economic development of our societies. In addition, **we pointed out** that cultural dynamics are a determining factor of mutual enrichment in strengthening the values of democracy and coexistence in societies, as well as it is a fundamental axis of the processes of reconstruction, equality and social inclusion, essential to achieve sustainable regional development;
- 78. Celebrate** the “Film Week For Young Filmmakers Of CELAC”, the commemoration of the “Bicentennial of the "Hug of Guayaquil", and the meetings of the technical bodies and cultural agents of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, within the framework of the “X edition of the Market of Cultural Industries of Argentina (MICA)”;
- 79. Highlight** the innovation of the cultural sector during COVID, therefore, **we make a call** to continue using technological tools to carry out virtual cultural events and tours to museums, libraries, archaeological sites, fairs, festivals and any event that promotes and strengthens the culture of our peoples;
- 80. Recognize** the relevance of the UNESCO World Conference on Cultural Policies and Sustainable Development, whose Final Declaration acknowledges culture as a global public good and offers a guide for the work of UNESCO and its Member States in the field of cultural policies and sustainable development. Likewise, it defines a set of cultural rights to be integrated into public policies, from the social and economic rights of artists to the right of indigenous peoples to safeguard and transmit ancestral knowledge, and the protection and promotion of cultural and natural heritage;

#### **COOPERATION BETWEEN DIPLOMATIC ACADEMIES**

- 81. Acknowledge** the importance of the cooperation program regarding the teaching of the Spanish language for diplomatic officials of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) implemented during the year 2022 by the Institute of the Foreign Service of the Nation (ISEN) of the Argentine Republic and **recommend** its continuity in the time as a concrete and permanent integration tool. Likewise, **we congratulate ourselves** on the successful organization in Buenos Aires of the second edition of the “Update and Training Program for young diplomats on the CELAC-EU strategic association”, jointly organized by the EU-LAC Foundation and the Institute of the Foreign Service of the Nation (ISEN);



82. **We value** the implementation of the Spanish Course for Beginners, carried out in collaboration with the Organization of Ibero-American States for Education, Science and Culture (OEI) aimed at English-speaking public officials and agents from the Caribbean countries, as a strategic tool to bring together the countries of the CELAC through language;
83. **Insist** on deepening cooperation and exchange between the diplomatic academies of the member States, in order to share instruments, best practices and relevant information, particularly for the promotion of knowledge on regional integration and the role of CELAC in the current international situation;

### **COOPERATION ON SPACE AND NUCLEAR MATTERS**

84. **Highlight** the importance of advancing in space cooperation in order to address the challenges and opportunities that the use of space technology and its applications represent for the achievement of the SDGs in the region. In this sense, we **appreciate** that the dialogues held between the countries of the region on the interests and opportunities for cooperation in space matters and, which we aspire to see embodied in the future Latin American and Caribbean Space Agency (ALCE);
85. **Value** the adoption of the “Joint Action Plan for Cooperation on peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology for sustainable development (2022-2023)” between CELAC Member States and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and **commit ourselves** to work on existing capacities at the regional level, including through the Regional Cooperation Agreement for the Promotion of Nuclear Science and Technology in Latin America and the Caribbean (ARCAL), with a view to providing concrete responses to the challenges posed by their application in the fields of health, agriculture, food safety, the environment and energy, among others;

### **PUBLIC INTEGRITY PREVENTION AND FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION**

86. **Highlight** the relevance of generating and consolidating a culture of public integrity with a focus on people that allows the prevention, prosecution and punishment of breaches of integrity and acts of corruption. Likewise, we **express** that this objective needs to be addressed in a multidimensional way, including measures that consider, public transparency, the good use of public resources, the reinforcement of the public function, and responsible participation of the private sector, according to the legislation of each State;

- 87. Stress** the constant compromise assumed by the mechanism to strengthen the preventive approach in the fight against corruption, in order to reflect the particular problems that arise in the countries of the region and the consequences that affect their development, as well as to establish joint actions that allow for more efficient cooperation, designed within the Specialized Working Group on Prevention and Fight against Corruption. We **endorse** our commitment to the Joint Declaration emanating from the V Meeting of Ministers, Ministers and High Authorities for the Prevention and Fight against Corruption, held in Mexico City on October 27, 2021;
- 88. Highlight** the implementation of effective mechanisms such as corruption alerts, the promotion of reporting culture and protection of whistleblowers, the development of training in anti-corruption matters and the construction of strategies for a better detection and prevention of cases, increased confidence within the population and a regional focus;
- 89. Reaffirm** that, through transparency, accountability, access to public information, citizen participation and the use of technologies, key initiatives have been presented in the prevention and control of corruption. For this reason, we **emphasized** the importance of collaboration between the relevant interested parties, including public officials, the private sector, civil society and citizens;
- 90. Reiterate** the obligation of the States to advance in the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption and its mechanism, commemorating in 2023 the twentieth anniversary of its entry into force. We **welcome** the Political Declaration emanating from the Special Session of the General Assembly against corruption on the challenges and measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthen international cooperation (UNGASS2021);
- 91. Highlight** the need to strengthen cooperation, the exchange of best practices and timely analysis of information, to deal with Transnational Organized Crime and the emerging forms of crimes committed by criminal networks, including through information and communication technologies, to promote the prevention and confrontation of corruption and money laundering, among other scourges;

## **INTERVENTION IN MULTILATERAL FORUMS AND COORDINATION WITH REGIONAL ORGANISMS**

- 92. Recognize** the importance of intervening jointly and presenting agreed initiatives in the different multilateral forums, strengthening the position of the region and contributing to our legitimate interests being duly considered in the international sphere;

- 93. Promote** the holding of a greater number of joint interventions in all multilateral venues, on issues of common interest, convinced that this will directly contribute to strengthening the role and leadership of the region in international organizations;
- 94. Express** our commitment to consolidate CELAC's presence in the global sphere, promoting the expansion and strengthening of the bloc's ties with international, regional and sub-regional organizations. In this sense, we **value** the development of strategic alliances and joint work with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC); the Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean (CAF); the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA); the Association of Caribbean States (ACS), the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS); the Caribbean Community (CARICOM); the Central American Integration System (SICA); the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA); and the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA); among others; We **highlight** the holding of the CELAC-CAF International Seminar "Latin America and the Caribbean: Unity in Diversity", held on August 18, 2022, as a valuable contribution to the reflection on the challenges and projections of regional integration;
- 95. Recognize** the excellent work carried out by the Dominican Republic as Pro Tempore Secretariat of the Ibero-American Conference in the last biennium. We **wish** success for the XXVIII Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government, which will take place on March 25, in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic;
- 96. Congratulate** Cuba for its election as President of the Group of 77 and China in 2023. We **trust** that during its administration the interests of our region will be promoted and the relations of cooperation and solidarity of the Member States will be consolidated for the benefit of our peoples;
- 97. Welcome** the candidacy of the city of San Carlos de Bariloche, Argentina, to host the Specialized Expo 2027/28 of the Bureau International des Expositions (BIE), and **celebrate** the application of a Latin American and Caribbean country to be the venue of said crucial event, under the motto "Nature + Technology = A new beginning", topics of high interest and cooperation for our peoples;

## **DIALOGUE WITH EXTRA-REGIONAL PARTNERS**

- 98. Congratulate ourselves** for the progress made in terms of deepening the political dialogue of Latin America and the Caribbean with extra-regional partners, including the European Union, China, India, the African Union and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN);
- 99. Value**, within the framework of the “2022-2024 Action Plan of the CELAC-China Forum”, the holding of specialized meetings, a number of them at ministerial level, on transportation; development and poverty reduction; digital technology; disaster risk management and science, technology and innovation; as well as the holding of the China-CELAC Forum Summit in 2024, on the occasion of the celebration of the tenth anniversary of the establishment of that important space for cooperation and exchange;
- 100. Congratulate ourselves** on the holding of the III Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the CELAC with the European Union, which made it possible to reactivate the inclusive dialogue between the blocs of both regions, after more than four years, to recover the bi-regional cooperation spaces and adopt a 2022-2023 Roadmap to enrich exchanges and contribute to the main axes of the bi-regional work in preparation for the III Summit of Heads of State and Government during 2023;

## HAITI

- 101. Reaffirm** the "CELAC Special Declaration on the need to provide support to the Republic of Haiti due to its implications for peace and security in the region" adopted on September 19, 2022. In this regard, we **reiterate** our deep concern over the progressive deterioration of the public security and humanitarian situation in the Republic of Haiti, calling on all Haitian political and social actors to reach the necessary consensus to address the serious humanitarian and security crisis that afflicts the country. We **recognize** the need to reach regional and extra-regional consensus that, based on the international cooperation principle and with the consent and participation of Haiti, allow the provision of support to face the proliferation of organized crime, combat illicit arms trafficking and strengthen citizen security. Likewise, **we highlight** the sub-regional, regional and international efforts to accompany the dialogue process between the government and the different political parties and institutions of Haitian society with the aim of outlining a roadmap that will allow them to emerge from the complex crisis that afflicts them;
- 102. Take note** of the ongoing efforts of the Haitian government to further broaden the consensus between Haitian political actors and civil society. We **welcome** the signing on December 21, 2022 of the document entitled "National Consensus for an Inclusive Transition and Transparent Elections." We **urge** the government to continue with its open policy towards the various sectors of national life, with a view to

making democratic institutions operational as soon as possible, as soon as the security environment and technical means allow it. We **encourage** member countries that have the possibility to study the options presented by the Secretary General of the United Nations in his letter of September 8, 2022 addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2022/747), with a view to participate in the specialized multinational force requested by Haiti, to help the Haitian security forces fight against the proliferation of organized crime and the illicit trafficking of arms and ammunition, eradicate the gangs that have taken the country hostage, preventing the free circulation of people and goods, limiting the access of the vulnerable population to humanitarian aid and health care and hindering the preparations for the organization of free, transparent and inclusive elections. We **recognize** the need to achieve consensus at the regional and extra-regional level, based on the principle of regional cooperation, with the consent and participation of the Republic of Haiti;

#### **CUBA**

- 103. Reiterate** the call of the United Nations General Assembly to put an end to the economic, commercial and financial blockade against Cuba, which in addition to being contrary to international law, causes serious damage to the well-being of the Cuban people. Likewise, we **reiterate** our rejection of the unilateral lists and certifications that affect Latin American and Caribbean countries. In this regard, we **request** the exclusion of Cuba from the unilateral list of countries that allegedly sponsor international terrorism;

#### **VENEZUELA**

- 104. Welcome** the agreements reached on November 26, 2022 within the framework of the dialogue and negotiation process between the Government of Venezuela and the Unitary Platform of Venezuela, promoted by the governments of Mexico and Norway. In this sense, we **welcome** the support of the international community to the implementation of said agreements;

#### **MALVINAS**

- 105. Pledge** to continue working within the framework of International Law, and in particular, Resolution 1514 (XV) of the United Nations General Assembly of December 14, 1960, to ensure that the region of Latin American and the Caribbean is a territory free of colonialism and colonies;
- 106. Reiterate** the strongest regional support for the legitimate rights of the Argentine Republic in the sovereignty dispute over the Malvinas, South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime spaces,

as well as the permanent interest of the countries of the region in the resumption of negotiations between the Argentine Republic and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in order to find, as soon as possible, a final and peaceful solution to this dispute, in accordance with the provisions of the Resolution 31/49 of the General Assembly of the United Nations;

## **PUERTO RICO**

- 107. Reaffirm** the Latin American and Caribbean character of Puerto Rico and recognize the efforts made and the resolutions adopted by the United Nations Special Committee on Decolonization on the situation in Puerto Rico. We **reiterate** that this is a matter of high interest for CELAC;

## **GENERAL DISPOSITIONS**

- 108. Congratulate** ourselves for the positive exchange of views on the institutional functioning of the mechanism and the contributions regarding the improvement of internal procedures, rotation of the presidencies, and full participation and representativeness of all member States;
- 109. Celebrate** the reincorporation of Brazil to CELAC and its participation in the VII Summit of Heads of State and Government, as a sign of Brazil's commitment to unity and the joint work in the region;
- 110. Value and appreciate** the work and effort made by the Argentine Republic during its presidency, in compliance with the mandates issued from the 2022 Action Plan and we **thank** the Argentine Government for the call to the VII CELAC Summit of Heads of State and Government, which made it possible to consolidate the political initiative of the region, unify the plurality of perspectives in a strengthened regional voice and reaffirm the inalienable commitment to the regional integration process;
- 111. Salute** the incoming Pro Tempore Presidency of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, first country of the Anglophone Caribbean to assume said responsibility, we **assure** our full support and wish success in the performance of the function assumed.

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