



---

Sistema Económico  
Latinoamericano y del Caribe

---

Latin American and Caribbean  
Economic System

---

Sistema Econômico  
Latino-Americano e do Caribe

---

Système Economique  
Latinoaméricain et Caribéen

---

# **Final Report on the Regional Dialogue on Financing for Development and Foreign Debt ahead of the UN High-Level Meeting to review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus. Doha 2008**

*Regional Dialogue on Financing for Development and External Debt ahead of the UN High-Level Meeting  
to review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus. Doha 2008*

*Caracas, Venezuela*

*20 June 2008*

*SPDRFDDE-RANONUCM/IF-08*

Copyright © SELA, June 2008. All rights reserved.  
Printed in the Permanent Secretariat of SELA, Caracas, Venezuela.

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

# C O N T E N T S

<b>I.</b>	<b>RAPPORTEUR'S REPORT</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>A.</b>	<b>DIALOGUE</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>B.</b>	<b>CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>ANNEXES:</b>		
<b>I.</b>	<b>AGENDA</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>II.</b>	<b>SPEECH BY PEDRO PÁEZ, MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC POLICY COORDINATION OF ECUADOR DURING THE OPENING CEREMONY</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>III.</b>	<b>SPEECH BY HIS EXCELLENCY, ERICK MOLINA SANDOVAL, FIRST VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE LATIN AMERICAN COUNCIL AND AMBASSADOR OF GUATEMALA IN VENEZUELA</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>IV.</b>	<b>SPEECH BY DR. JOSÉ FERRER, PRESIDENT (A.I.) OF THE CENTRAL BANK OF VENEZUELA</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>V.</b>	<b>SPEECH BY AMBASSADOR JOSÉ RIVERA BANUET, PERMANENT SECRETARIAT OF THE LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN ECONOMIC SYSTEM (SELA) DURING THE OPENING CEREMONY</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>VI.</b>	<b>LIST OF DOCUMENTS</b>	<b>51</b>
<b>VII.</b>	<b>LIST OF PARTICIPANTS</b>	<b>57</b>

## **I. RAPPORTEUR'S REPORT**

1. The Regional Dialogue on Financing for Development and External Debt ahead of the UN High-Level Meeting to review the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus. Doha 2008, was held in the headquarters of the Permanent Secretariat of SELA, on 20 June 2008.

2. Participants included delegations of the following Member States: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Chile, Ecuador, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Peru, Dominican Republic, Nicaragua, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela; representatives from the following international organizations: Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), Andean Development Corporation (CAF), Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the Secretariat of the Group of 24 (G-24), the United Nations Conference for Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the International Rural Housing Association (IRHA), the European Commission (EC), the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), the Centre for Latin American Monetary Studies (CEMLA), UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), Organization of American States (OEA), UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the Pan-American Health Organization / World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) and the UN Development Programme (UNDP); as well as the President (a.i.) of the Central Bank of Venezuela, Dr. José Ferrer; the Permanent Secretary of SELA, Ambassador José Rivera Banuet, and officials of the Permanent Secretariat. The List of Participants is included in Annex VII.

3. During the opening ceremony, the Minister of Economic Policy Coordination of Ecuador, Dr. Pedro Páez, delivered a welcome speech to participants, saying that, from its inception, SELA has played a key role in the region but it must be updated through efforts by of all its Member States. Páez made emphasis on the great significance of this meeting, because in addition to its analyses about how to manage external financial resources, it will allow for considering deeper aspects of the economies of the region. In this connection, he said that it is necessary to adopt mechanisms to promote both energy and food sovereignty, within the framework of endogenous development policies and a new international and regional financial architecture. His speech is included in Annex II.

Immediately thereafter, His Excellency Mr. Erick Molina Sandoval, First Vice-Chairman of the Latin American Council and Ambassador of Guatemala in Venezuela, took the floor and made emphasis on the importance of this meeting ahead of Doha Conference, and expressed his conviction that it will produce the results expected by the region. His speech is included in Annex III.

Afterwards, the President (a.i.) of the Central Bank of Venezuela, Dr. José Ferrer, delivered a speech saying that there were serious concerns as regards growth sustainability and that a consensus must be reached on the most suitable mechanisms for financing. He stressed that indebtedness is a tool for simple growth but not for development. At present, financing tends to focus more on yields and the assessment of the capacity to repay credits than in attaining national social welfare. In this regard, he stressed that the People's Ministry for Planning and Development of Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela is trying to accomplish sustained growth to redirect resources towards financing education and health, so as to reduce the use of external resources. Ferrer said that the Bank of the South will be able to contribute to building and enhancing such architecture, which, along with the incorporation of the appropriate technologies and the promotion of productive activities, will allow for making strides towards the goal of poverty reduction in the region. Finally, Ferrer considered that it is necessary to develop the region's capital

## 4

markets in order to make it less dependent on extra-regional currencies for its transactions and to help the region to adopt shared criteria for development. The text of his speech is included in Annex IV.

Immediately thereafter, the Permanent Secretary of SELA, Ambassador José Rivera Banuet, delivered a speech to welcome participants. He stressed the importance of the meeting, particularly because, since its adoption, the Monterrey Consensus has become a reference for the debates on cooperation, financing and international development, and it has been identified as an indispensable component for accomplishing the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Rivera explained that, in accordance with the decision made by the UN General Assembly to review the commitments adopted in this Consensus, the Member States of SELA, agreed to analyze the adoption of a common position for the region within the framework of SELA. For this reason, the Permanent Secretariat convened this meeting with the fundamental purpose of making progress towards regional coordination to shape up Latin America and the Caribbean's position in this connection at the Doha Conference.

In this regard, Rivera said that, within the context of international financial stability, the countries of the region are faced with the challenge of transforming the positive economic results obtained during several years of economic growth, into a lasting progress through investment and an increase of their productive capacities – which requires a vigorous presence of the State and the public institutions in charge of financing for development, as well as making progress towards a reform of the international financial architecture with an effective participation of developing countries.

He expressed his conviction that the results of the debated held during the meeting will be a valuable contribution for the countries of the region and for the United Nations Secretariat, in the preparation process for the meeting, which will be held in Doha by year end, and will contribute to strengthening the region's capacity for dialogue vis-à-vis the most important global actors, evidencing regional unity.

In concluding its speech, Rivera underscored the great value, for the Permanent Secretariat of SELA and its Member States, of the contribution made by the Central Bank of Venezuela to organize this important meeting, as well as the presence of high-ranking authorities of the Member States and regional and international organizations. He also reiterated the commitment of the Permanent Secretariat to make progress towards the institutional strengthening of SELA, so as to turn it into an organization that efficiently promotes a consultation and coordination system to support the interests of the region. Rivera's speech is included in Annex V.

### A. DIALOGUE

4. In the morning, the meeting was presided over by the Minister for Economic Coordination Policy of Ecuador, Dr. Pedro Páez, who submitted the Draft Agenda, which was approved without amendments. The Agenda is included in Annex I.

5. The Chairman proceeded to give the floor to the Permanent Secretariat for the presentation of the base document for the meeting, "the Monterrey Consensus Six Years Later and Financing for Development in Latin America and the Caribbean" (SP/DRFDDE-RANONUCM/DT N° 2-08), which was in charge of Dr. Antonio F. Romero, Director for Integration and Cooperation of the Permanent Secretariat. In his presentation, Romero underscored the objectives of the Monterrey Consensus, as well as the opinions expressed

by international actors on the consensus during the preparatory process for the Doha Conference and the main ideas dealt with during the consultations on the implementation of the Consensus. He described the evolution of financing for development and its main elements in the countries of the region during the period 2002-2007.

Finally, Romero submitted a series of conclusions and recommendations stemming from the base document, which had been previously forwarded to the Member States of SELA. Both the document and the presentations made during the meeting are available on SELA's Web page: [www.sela.org](http://www.sela.org). The List of Document is included in Annex VI.

6. Immediately thereafter, participants started with the First Session: "Presentation on the general prospects as regards the subject, in charge of multilateral organizations and the United Nations", which was moderated by the Minister for Economic Policy Coordination of Ecuador, Dr. Pedro Páez, who invited the aforementioned organizations to deliver their presentations.

7. Mr. Amar Bhattacharya, Director of the Secretariat of the Group of 24 (G-24), made a presentation titled "Financing and Development: from Monterrey to Doha", which described the evolution of growth in developing countries and their per capita income over the last few decades, as well as the main risks faced at present by such growth, on a region-by-region (Africa, Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean), with emphasis on the consequences of climate change on development. He also analyzed the evolution of international financing, external debt and its service, and foreign investments and trade in developing countries in general, with particular emphasis on the situation in Latin America and the Caribbean. He presented a series of statistics on the evolution and the components of Official Development Assistance (ODA), the economic sectors that have been benefited, as well as the tendencies seen in prices of raw materials on a global scale. Finally, he described some of the elements of the financing mechanisms applied by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, as well as the possibilities to adapt them to the present circumstances.

8. Mr. Alfredo Calcagno, official of the Globalization and Strategies for Development Division of UNCTAD, made a presentation titled "UNCTAD's vision of financing for development and implementation of the Monterrey Consensus", which emphasized the main aspects of the treatment given by said Consensus since its adoption in the various areas of action of UNCTAD. In this connection, Calcagno pointed out that UNCTAD's Trade and Development Report 2008 focuses on the idea that there are basically two points of view about the necessary conditions for savings and investments. On the one hand, there is the opinion that that it is necessary to increase savings as a requirement for promoting investments. On the other, there is the view – upheld by UNCTAD – that increased savings are the result of an expansion income that generates investments, and consequently, the problem faced by economic policy is not actually how to increase savings first, but how to finance such investment that will increase income for enterprises, households and governments and, therefore, savings. For this reason, UNCTAD reports point to the need to have a macroeconomic policy that supports investments, avoids high real interest rates and overvaluation of national currencies, and maintains public investments as a necessary complement to private investments, on the one hand, On the other hand, UNCTAD underscores the need to have a policy to develop domestic financial systems, with particular emphasis on financing for investment and access to long-term credits for new, small- and medium-sized enterprises.

## 6

With respect to the mobilization of internal resources, Calcagno said that UNCTAD has insisted, over the last few years, that it is necessary for countries the largest possible amount of their special income from higher prices of exported primary goods. This obviously refers to those countries that are mainly exporters of hydrocarbons and minerals, and lately food, whose prices have been increasing too. Another factor is that an increasingly larger portion of ODA has been destined to social expenses, but it should be to the detriment of financing for building productive capital which, in the long term, is what will allow for reducing poverty and fostering development in these countries.

Referring to the chapter of the Monterrey Consensus that deals with the external debt, Calcagno said that, thanks to the debt reduction achieved within the framework of the initiative for highly indebted poor countries and to the fact that the economic situation of developing countries has improved in the last few years – particularly in Latin America – achievements have been made and the burden of the debt as a percentage of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) has decreased. With respect to systemic issues which could significantly affect developing countries, Calcagno underscored the importance of paying attention to fiscal policies, particularly in view of the need to have a certain degree of harmonization as regards the conditions applied to extractive industries or to foreign direct investment. Thus, a regional forum such as SELA can provide a framework for our countries to make efforts to harmonize fiscal policies, at least in certain areas of common interest.

According to Calcagno, another aspect within the international trade system that could pose systemic problems is the proliferation of bilateral treaties between developed and developing countries. To the extent in which these treaties, in addition to the trade clauses, start to include other issues related to economic policy, they could restrict political for developing countries to move ahead with the ongoing development strategies.

9. Mr. Daniel Titelman, Chief of the Development Studies Unit of ECLAC, made a presentation titled “Tendencies and challenges in international cooperation and mobilization of resources for development in Latin America and the Caribbean”. In his presentation, he described the new challenges for average-income countries to ensure their insertion into the international cooperation system, including official assistance and cooperation, the financial architecture and international trade. Titelman dealt with the increase in ODA volumes since the Monterrey Consensus; the fact that it is being aimed at low-income countries; as well as the degree of compliance with the commitments taken on by developed countries. He stressed that, in addition to increasing ODA, developed countries should also improve ODA efficiency. In this connection, Titelman said it is necessary to guarantee reception of official assistance flows on a steady and timely basis; to identify economic and/or social cooperation needs, through joint efforts by both recipient and donor countries; and to establish monitoring mechanisms in recipient countries for effective resource allocation. He said that a consensus-based participation of both developed and developing countries in the definition of official assistance objectives and the allocation of necessary resources would allow developing countries to become more autonomous through the implementation of public policies that are suitable to their specific situation. He added that an increase in the countries’ share in global trade hinges on enforcing multilateral trade rules that take due account of the specific situation of developing countries in order to improve their market access conditions; on the provision of trade assistance; an infrastructure for trade exchange and public goods supply; financing for building trade and export capacities of SMEs; and on trade facilitation.

Titelman said that, in this new context, it is important to make strides to define financing mechanisms for average-income countries, so that the countries of the region regain their position as official assistance recipients, and to improve regional cooperation. He pointed out that the new sources of financing have an important role to play as regards cooperation, and that current private financial flows basically consist of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and migrants' money remittances. This poses new challenges, namely: to keep the region's appeal to foreign investments in view of the new competitors, to continue improving shipment costs of money remittances, and to channel resources towards more productive activities. Finally, he said that the international and regional financial architecture still requires efforts to strengthen their countercyclical and cooperation role.

10. Mr. Jaime Coronado Q., Coordinator of the Capacity Building Programme for Analysis and Debt Strategies of the Centre for Latin American Monetary Studies CEMLA, made a presentation titled "CEMLA: Financing for Development and External Debt", in describing CEMLA, its activities and methodologies, and making a detailed account of indicators of debt sustainability, ODA and capital flows, and the follow-up to the Paris Declaration. Coronado said that debt relief has been important, but external financing might be the most relevant aspect in the current situation, since it cannot be replaced by internal financing if the MDGs and the debt sustainability objectives are to be accomplished. With respect to the volume of financing, Coronado said that ODA inflows to the region have remained stable, but have not increased in the wake of the commitments of the Monterrey Consensus. He said that an assessment of the implementation of the Paris Declaration clearly shows that the countries of the region are receiving lower quality financing, as evidenced by several indicators whose values are below the average for the rest of signatory countries.

Therefore, not only the amount of financing is important; emphasis must also be made on its quality and on counting on appropriate strategies for debt management and financing, including an analysis and ways to solve problems for allocation of resources. In view of these factors, it is necessary to request larger and higher quality amounts of resources from the international community to the region. To this end, it is important to participate in the various events organized in preparation for the Doha Conference, such as the preparatory meeting on the effectiveness of international cooperation, to be held in Accra.

11. Gabriel Duque, Deputy Director for Public Policies and Competitiveness Programmes of CAF, made a presentation titled "Financing for Development". He underscored that Latin America is now going through a period of dynamic economic growth thanks to favourable external conditions. But, historically, growth in the region has been slow and unstable; the gap with respect to industrialized countries continues to grow, and improvements in social conditions have been insufficient. In this connection, he pointed out that external financing is indispensable in order to promote growth, and that multilateral development banks play an important role in view of the low capacity for saving and the strong need for investment in the countries of the region, the volatility of financial markets, and the asymmetries among the countries. In this connection, he referred to the experiences of the Andean Development Corporation in the areas of sustainable development and regional integration, as well as the institutional model that CAF applies for conducting its activities, presenting statistical data on some of the projects that CAF is currently financing, particularly those aimed at regional physical integration in South America.

## 8

12. Patrick Kendall, Research Economist of the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), delivered his "Presentation on the Monterrey Consensus". He described the evolution of official financing in the countries of the Caribbean, the debt burden and its servicing. Referring to the problems posed by financing for development, he deemed it necessary to increase the guarantees given by donor countries, as a means to lower costs and improve access to external financing by reducing risks, and to establish special mechanisms that allow for a more effective debt relief for low-income countries. He also considered it necessary to support an improvement of investment capacity in the public sector, in order to increase efficiency and effectiveness (project planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation).

In his presentation, Kendall emphasized the need to improve assistance in the design and implementation of policies to attract FDI and to build capacities in the private sector, underscoring that donors should comply with their commitment to increase ODA, paying special attention to ensuring equity in the distribution of financing for development, both at the national and sectoral levels. He said that the region should also pursue other goals, such as improving the transfer of technologies to speed up growth, increasing assistance for training human resources as a key element for economic growth and poverty reduction, and adding to the post-Monterrey agenda the strategies aimed at facing the food and energy crises.

13. The moderator thanked the representatives of regional and multilateral organizations for their presentations and gave the floor to the delegations of the Member States.

14. The delegation of Venezuela took the floor and said that the reflections made on this matter cannot be dissociated from the context of the global financial crisis and that it is necessary to take into account other elements that have been mentioned by several speakers, such as the crisis resulting from the increase in food and energy prices.

In this connection, the Venezuelan delegation pointed out that all these problems – the global financial crisis and the increases in oil and food prices – have the same root and are attributable to the United States, which is considered to be the largest economic power of the world. The delegation said that, apparently, thus far the responses to the effects of globalization indicate that it is important to preserve and strengthen regional mechanisms in various areas: namely, in the financial, economic and the political areas. It also stated that it is necessary to review the concept of globalization as such, in comparison with regionalization – which seems to be the best choice – and to evaluate the effects of these crises on the region in terms of the provision of international financial resources.

The Venezuelan delegation said that the region should review the current crisis with greater confidence in its potentials and its own resources, and make efforts to ensure the provision of ODA without conditionalities which may affect the independence of its development.

15. At the request of the Chairman of the Bureau, Antonio Romero explained that the final report of the meeting, which will include conclusions and recommendations, will be sent to the Latin American and Caribbean Group (GRULAC) headquartered in New York, so that it can take advantage of the ideas and suggestions stemming from this debate in the process of preparation of the UN document for the Doha Conference.

16. The second session, “the perspective of some Member States of SELA”, was moderated by His Excellency, Mohammed Ali Odeen Ishmael, Ambassador of Guyana in Venezuela, who gave the floor to the representatives of the countries of Central America, CARICOM, the Andean Community, MERCOSUR and ALBA, so that they could make their presentations.

17. On behalf of Central America, the delegations of Costa Rica and Nicaragua delivered their presentations.

a. Carlos S. Hernández, Chargé d’Affaires a.i. of the Embassy of Costa Rica in Venezuela, made a presentation titled “Perspective of Costa Rica, towards the Costa Rica Consensus; Development as an ethical imperative”. In his presentation, Hernández referred to the origin, components and objectives of the Costa Rica Consensus, saying it is a contribution from its government to the treatment of this issue, based on the conviction that development policies, strategies and priorities cannot be imposed on countries, but should rather be outlined by countries themselves that they can be successful. It is also based on the firm belief that there should be a parallel mechanism to compensate those developing countries with a background that evidences an appropriate use of financial resources.

Hernández pointed out that the Costa Rica Consensus urged all developing countries to make efforts to invest their limited public resources to cover the most urgent social needs, including those referred to in the MDGs. The Consensus acknowledges that the differences and special features existing in developing countries preclude the application of an equal solution for all countries. Nevertheless, it is also based on the fact that many countries not always make their best efforts to face poverty, and its subsequent inequities and diseases, and on the premise that priorities in governmental expenses must be appropriately – and almost exclusively – in line with the most urgent social needs, which pose a challenge for all developing countries.

In addition, Hernández said, the Costa Rica Consensus calls upon all donor countries to compensate those developing countries that have maximized their social expenses, allowing them to qualify for concessional, bilateral or multilateral credits, loans and other assistance for development programmes without an early threshold for completion. In this connection, this initiative is intended to complement already existing assistance for development mechanisms. It is not aimed at reducing aid allocations for low- or average-income countries or at creating a zero-sum competition in view of the scarcity of financing for development. On the contrary, the Consensus states that, in complying with their goal of allocating 0.7 percent of their GDP for development assistance, donor nations should use a fraction of such increase to compensate those developing countries that are appropriately using financial resources. Finally, Hernández stressed that in the absence of a commitment to ensure an ethical use of resources, with shared although differentiated responsibilities on the part of both donor and recipient countries, it will be increasingly more difficult to overcome the obstacles faced by the region to achieve development in today’s interdependent world. Both donor and recipient countries must be moral agents, with duties and responsibilities towards themselves and the society. This is the essence of the Costa Rica Consensus, Hernández added.

b. Maria Esperanza Acevedo Gutiérrez, Vice-Minister of Finances and Public Credit of Nicaragua, made a presentation titled “Nicaragua’s position on financing for development and external debt”. In her presentation, she said that Nicaragua identifies itself with the views expressed by the Rio Group in the base document submitted by SELA

## 10

and endorsed them. Acevedo said it has been proved that economic growth does not automatically lead to poverty reduction. For this reason, Nicaragua is proposing a new approach for economic and financial programmes that allow for both achieving macroeconomic stability and strengthening social expenses in order to improve living standards for the poorest sectors of the population. The achievements made in this area should be assessed by using key indicators for the sectors of health, education, housing, food security and basic services. In addition to strengthening social expenses, this new approach must also attach top priority to investment in strategic areas to promote sustained economic growth, including those areas that might contribute to solve the energy crisis in the short term and to reduce dependency on oil for power generation. The new approach must also prioritize public investments in the infrastructure sector, food production, as well as social investment in health and education, so that they complement private investments.

For this reason, she said, Nicaragua welcomes and joins the new initiatives that have been recently promoted by Latin American and Caribbean countries in the Rio Group, the Bolivarian Alternative for the Peoples of the Americas (ALBA) and SELA. Particularly, Nicaragua supports the ALBA initiative to develop the new modality of grandnational companies, which instead of pursuing immediate, large-scale profit and their repatriation are focused on promoting fair trade and social investment.

Referring to the issue of financing for development, Acevedo considered it necessary to make the private capital flows available to small- and medium-sized entrepreneurs, and said that private-sector multilateral banks should review their internal policies as regards financing in order to make procedures more flexible and to reduce the minimum requirements, so as to ensure access to financing not only to large companies but also to small- and medium-sized enterprises, who have a great weight on production and job generation and have been historically excluded from these initiatives.

With respect to cooperation, Acevedo said that while its effectiveness is crucial to achieve better results in a country's development process, it is also necessary to count on the appropriate volumes of financing flows, because it is not possible to talk about the benefits of aid if resources are insufficient. She pointed out that cooperation should not only be measured in terms of the degree of alignment and harmonization that it has at level of countries, but also in terms of the amount of financial resources allocated for the countries, so as to generate an impact on the strategic goals set as regards infrastructure and economic and social development. In this connection, she stressed that highly indebted countries do not have access to other sources of financing but only concessional credits; and for this reason, such allocations should be greater. Nevertheless, it can be seen, with concern, that they have decreased instead.

Finally, she said that her government fully supports the proposal to expand and improve participation of developing countries in the decision-making process in the main international financial institutions. The directions of these institutions should be restructured, in order to increase the number of seats for least developed countries so that their votes actually have an influence on decision-making, on the formulation of policies and on the performance evaluation standards that these organizations apply to allocate financial resources for development.

18. On behalf of the Caribbean Community, the delegations of Jamaica and Guyana delivered their presentations.

a. Faith Mullings-Williams, Counsellor of the Embassy of Jamaica in Venezuela, made a presentation titled "Jamaica's position on financing and external debt". In her presentation, she expressed her government's recognition to the work conducted by Ambassador José Rivera Banuet and the Permanent Secretariat of SELA in convening this important meeting, as part of the preparation for Latin America and the Caribbean's participation in the 2008 Doha Meeting. She stated that the subject to be dealt with in the meeting – which is of critical importance for Jamaica – has been analyzed in previous meetings of SELA and was a central issue in the presentation of the distinguished representative of the Caribbean Development Bank.

She pointed out that Jamaica ranks fourth in the list of the most indebted countries of the world, both in terms of GDP and population, following Lebanon, Japan and the Seychelles islands, stressing that the cost of servicing such debt dramatically constrains development options for Jamaica. Although the debt relief programmes for highly-indebted poor countries (HIPCs) have benefited some countries, she underscored that there are still many objectives to be accomplished ahead of Doha 2008 and that her government requires the support of the region in this matter.

She considered that the situation of highly-indebted, middle-income countries (MICs) has aggravated due to high energy and food prices and the current weaknesses in the U.S. economy. The international community should continue to support these countries in order to: contribute to eradicate poverty (41% of the people living on less than US\$2 are in MICs); prevent setbacks as regards economic and social progress in these countries; encourage the contribution of MICs to peace, prevention of diseases, financial stability and environmental sustainability; and compensate for the vulnerabilities that characterize MICs, such as those derived from integration into international financial markets and the difficulties to spur sustainable processes for productive and technological development.

She also stressed that each country is the main responsible for its own development and that the quality of aid is as important as its amount. Effectiveness must not be limited to responsibility and governance in developing countries and must not be subject to the conditionalities affecting it either. Therefore, it is desirable for developing countries to have a stronger voice and a more effective participation in the Bretton Woods institutions, with a view to promoting the legitimacy and relevance of the international financial system, while allowing least developed countries to eradicate poverty and to accelerate sustainable economic growth. Advisory in the area of policies, technical assistance and financial support to developing countries should consider a political space that allow them for playing a better role in economic decision making with a global scope as well as a better integration into the global economy, in accordance with national objectives and priorities.

Referring to international trade, Mullings-Williams said that her country considers it to be a crucial factor for wealth creation, poverty reduction and accomplishment of MDGs and other international objectives. The delays in the Doha Round affect compliance with development goals by less favoured countries and are a reason for concern. Hence, it is very important for the region to insist on an early and positive conclusion of the Doha Round, and to fully recognize the dimensions for development in its Work Programme.

For Jamaica and CARICOM, the dimension of development in the Doha Round should include an increase in effective market access in those export areas that are of interest for the region, and the recognition of asymmetries among developing countries and developed nations, which include factors such as the size of the economies in CARICOM, the supply capacity, and the institutional and regulatory capacities. In this regard, she

## 12

said that Jamaica and CARICOM recognize the importance of developing a viable, equitable and open trade regime, which is subject to norms and recognizes the diversity as well as the different levels development and size of the economies, making emphasis on the principle of Special and Differential Treatment. Jamaica and CARICOM also think that it is necessary to improve the rules governing multilateral trade with a view to increasing equity and fairness, through the reduction of agricultural subsidies distorting trade and an institutional and regulatory reform, particularly in the area of services. To this end, governments must have a political space to align multilateral rights and duties under the WTO with national objectives and strategies, in an effort to protect life, preserve tariff fiscal income and promote diversification and competitiveness.

b. His Excellency Odeen Ishmael, Ambassador of Guyana in Venezuela, made a presentation titled "Guyana's position on financing for development and external debt". In his presentation, he described the evolution of the Monterrey Consensus since its adoption and the degree of compliance with the commitments taken on by developed countries, which, in his opinion, has not met the expectations of developing countries. The main criticism is that the United States has failed to comply with it, because the total official assistance granted by that country, although considerable, still accounts for a very small percentage of its GDP. As a matter of fact, the proportion of U.S. assistance compared to its GDP is also well below that of Scandinavian countries. The Monterrey Consensus raised expectations that the IMF, the World Bank and the WTO would become more responsible in view of international political processes and that they would make greater emphasis on poverty eradication and financing for development; but thus far there has not been major progress in compliance with such objectives. There were also expectations that, at a certain time, the Monterrey Consensus would help to make a decision on a debt write-off, but the final result was the Initiative for debt relief of HIPC's. As widely known, this initiative imposes very burdensome economic and political conditions to indebted countries and, in addition, it forces them to pay a substantial portion of their income in debt servicing. Similarly, Ishmael stressed that the proposal to create an International Currency Transaction Tax was rejected because developed countries did not support it, although it was endorsed by developing countries. This tax would have helped to control international monetary speculation, which is seriously affecting the economies of those countries.

In preparing for the upcoming UN Conference in Doha, Ishmael considered that both the problem of food supplies shortage and the increase in raw material prices must definitively be included in the agenda for that important meeting.

With respect to the management of the external debt, in the case of Guyana, he said that the most significant measure taken during 2007 was the implementation of the initiative for relief of the multilateral debt with the IDB, which took the debt to a sustainable level for the first time in 25 years since the delays in the debt servicing began.

The external debt reduction will definitively be a strong incentive for Guyana to accomplish the MDGs concerning poverty reduction, improved education and increased access to basic services, among others. Thus, the country has reached a maximum debt relief level and its servicing has been reduced from 94% its total income in the early 1990s to 4% at present. To a certain extent, based on the Monterrey Consensus, Guyana has made an achievement in terms of debt relief, but in other areas, such as mobilization of FDI and other private flows, it has certainly not been that successful. Finally, Ishmael said that more international support and attention are still necessary in order to improve coherence and consistency of trade, monetary and financial systems, so as to foster economic development in Guyana, among other areas.

19. Representing the Andean Community, the delegations of Colombia and Ecuador delivered their presentations.

a. Gladys Mireya Páez H., Counsellor of the Embassy of Colombia, made a presentation titled "Colombia's compliance with the Monterrey Consensus – Mexico 2002", which dealt with the main elements to reach an agreement on the most suitable guidelines for national and international policies to attain equitable long-term development of nations. In her presentation, she stressed that Colombia has supported each one of the Consensus initiatives, considering it was of the utmost importance to comply with the commitments adopted by the countries that signed this instrument.

With respect to the mobilization of national financial resources for development, Páez informed that the Colombian Government has made substantial efforts to prioritize resources for policies, plans, programmes and projects aimed at economic, social and environmental development of the country. This is demonstrated by its increasing investment in basic services for economic and social infrastructure and social protection, including areas such as education, health, nutrition, housing and social security, as recommended in the Monterrey Conference, and by the strengthening of trade at the national and international levels within the context of financing for development.

As far as ODA is concerned, Páez said that Colombia has insisted on the importance of complying with the goal of allocating 0.7 of developed countries' GDP for ODA, and ensuring that such resources aimed at the poorest countries does not undermine the assistance aimed at middle-income countries. She informed that its country joined the Paris Declaration in November 2007, which allows it to extend and clarify objectives and indicators in order to increase effectiveness of assistance.

Referring to the financial architecture, she said that Colombia considers that the various reforms and policy proposals aimed at renewing the international financial scheme must be in accordance with the needs for financing of developing countries, and must allow for minimizing uncertainties felt by debtors, creditors and investors. Colombia thinks that it is important to support the initiative to create mechanisms based on responsibility shared by both creditors and debtors, in order to avoid situations in which indebtedness and financial conditions reach unsustainable levels.

Páez also said that technical assistance for management and follow-up of external debt, offered by creditors or multilateral banks, is a fundamental tool to ensure sustainability of the debt, and for this reason, efforts in this connection should be reinforced. Similarly, Colombia endorses the debt relief initiative for highly-indebted poor countries, provided that its application does not deteriorate the credit conditions for middle-income countries. She also said that this initiative should be expanded to developing nations, including middle-income countries and economies in transition which may have too high levels of debt and a financial burden that could become unsustainable.

Finally, Páez stressed that her country considers it necessary to reiterate, within the framework of the United Nations System, the need to pursue the objectives set in the Doha Round for Development, overcome obstacles and continue with the trade negotiation process.

b. Pedro Páez, Minister of Coordination of Economic Policy of Ecuador, made a presentation titled "Ecuador's position on financing for development and external debt". In his presentation, he said that in order to discuss the issue of financing for development it

## 14

is fundamental to understand the structural conditions of national productive systems within the framework of a specific international labour division, and to be clear about the elements that allow for sustainability of a process to reorganize international credit and financial flows in general, so as to promote endogenous development processes in the countries of the South.

In this connection, Páez underscored the great importance of the tendencies to strengthen South-South trade, and to foster a relative recovery of the presence of the countries of the South in international trade, mainly those of Latin America and the Caribbean. However, he stressed that it is necessary to conduct an analysis of the current situation, because the improvement in the terms of trade exchange as a result of the increased prices of certain raw materials is the driving force of this recovery of the South's position in the international economy. He considered it fundamental to rethink the support to global trade, but recognizing the role of trade as an instrument for development based on internal development objectives – either national or supranational objectives – and the goals of overcoming poverty and solving major global problems.

Referring to ODA, Paéz said that the causes for the conditions of imbalance that generate the need for provision of assistance for development by the North make it necessary to rearrange the axes of the Monterrey Consensus, so as to give top priority to issue number 3 of the consensus, i.e. international trade as an engine for economic growth.

In dealing with systemic issues, it should be borne in mind that there are major global problems which must be re-assessed not from a paternalistic approach to assistance for development, but from the perspective of an effective North-South cooperation, which does not hinge on specific commercial or geopolitical interests. The financial volatility and the occurrence of economic growth amid conditions of international turmoil – whose dimension and intensity cannot be foreseen thus far – also show the enormous importance of future tasks to deal with systemic issues.

In this connection, he said that a fundamental task is building a new international financial architecture. To this end, it is increasingly urgent to reduce the perceptions of risk and uncertainty at the international level, while trying to recover resources which are now being used with a hyper-speculative rentier mentality, so that they can be invested in real production, job generation and productive capacities to satisfy the population's basic needs. This process must be conducted within the framework of the initiatives that may emerge in the region. In this connection, Páez underscored the main objectives involved in the construction of the Bank of the South – as the driving force for the transformation of multilateral, regional, subregional and national financial institutions, and as a project to overcome the paradigms imposed by neoliberalism at the financial level in the last few decades. The first objective is to develop a new type of central banking system, a network of central banks networks which goes beyond dogmatic visions as regards their role in liquidity management and credit policy making as fundamental elements to overcome backwardness and underdevelopment. The second objective is to create a monetary fund that serves as an alternative to the IMF and provides spaces for building sovereignty without the conditionalities of the Bretton Woods institutions, which strayed from their original intention and, instead, became central elements favouring the subordination of productive systems to transnational financial capital – mainly in the periphery. However, Páez stressed that a new regional financial architecture will not be possible if there aren't new financial systems at the national level. Therefore, it is very important to deal with the issue of mobilization of internal resources towards production and development, as envisaged in the Monterrey Consensus.

Referring to cooperation for development, Páez pointed out that a new type of North-South cooperation requires mechanisms and initiatives that go beyond the new financial architecture and the flows of assistance for development as they are currently conceived. Cooperation for development must necessarily include innovative proposals such as those of Ecuadorian President Rafael Correa; for instance, to keep crude oil under ground as an effective mechanism to reduce gas emissions causing the greenhouse effect which can be applied at the international level, in order to restore certain basic conditions for environmental balance. Correa has also proposed OPEC to establish a tax on hydrocarbons and to use income from such tax to create a fund to finance environmental projects and to institutional support and stability to carbon sequestration markets. This task cannot be undertaken by countries on an individual basis but through commitments aimed at attaining a certain degree of convergence and coordination to avoid a self-destructive situation in the global economy, which is ultimately harmful for all countries.

He also deemed it fundamental to strengthen the role of public banks as central actors for development, and to give a boost to regulatory mechanisms of financial markets in order to change the correlation between the productive and the financial systems. It is also crucial to give a boost to the heterogeneous number of people's financial initiatives which have emerged in the wake of the expansion of the so-called people's economies, in response to their asymmetric and tremendously negative relation with the international scene and the dynamics of local capitalistic economies.

Páez said that FDI as well as the external debt should be viewed in relative terms, in order to face certain macroeconomic problems. In this connection, he considered it necessary to define a new policy on the huge international reserves of the region's countries. He considered that these resources could easily be allocated for productive investment, reconstruction of the productive sector and creation of stable employment based on new schemes for complementarity and coherence of the productive sectors at both national and regional levels. In this connection, it is crucial to expand the role of the Bank of the South to all of Latin America and the Caribbean. Páez estimated that if only a portion of the international reserves resources could be allocated in the short term for productive investment and job creation, new circumstances would emerge which could help to discuss assistance for development in relative terms. This would help the South to make its own sovereign decisions as regards development, based on its interests and proposing solutions to global problems, so as to change the way in which the global economy works.

Similarly, he said that the role of the external debt must be re-assessed. It is not only important to question the debt relief mechanisms, which turn out to be discriminatory for certain sectors and countries, but it is also necessary to recognize that there is a structural internal dynamics that is further increasing the external debt.

Finally, Páez said it is important to re-assess the issue of North-South cooperation as far as the external debt relief programmes are concerned. In this regard, he said, debt relief should be linked to specific programmes and projects to fight poverty, covering aspects ranging from the operation of labour markets – as endogenous elements which contribute to poverty – to the social impacts of natural disasters. It is fundamental to bear in mind that natural disasters affecting the most vulnerable sectors of the population are becoming more intense and frequent.

## 16

20. Representing MERCOSUR, the delegations of Paraguay and Argentina delivered their presentations.

a. Roberto Recalde, Director of the Trade Defence Unit of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Paraguay, made a presentation titled "Paraguay's Position on Financing for Development and External Debt". In his presentation, he said that compliance with the commitments of the Monterrey Consensus by actors and countries has not been satisfactory and that it is necessary to count on more suitable mechanisms to ensure such compliance. He stressed that Paraguay endorses the principles and criteria contained in the base document prepared by SELA and shares the view that international trade is an engine for development. He stressed that the Monterrey Consensus must deal with the problems affecting small island nations and landlocked countries which prevent them from having access to the markets they are more interested in. He added that SELA should study the impact of the U.S. dollar devaluation on the small economies of the region, with special reference to exports of basic and manufactured goods. Finally, he emphasized that Special and Differential Treatment must be the main element of the Doha Round negotiations and reiterated his support to the recommendations of the base document submitted by SELA.

b. Mrs. Maria Fernanda Silva, Advisor of the Embassy of Argentina in Venezuela, made a presentation titled "Argentina's Position on Financing for Development and External Debt". In her presentation, she expressed the her government's support to the adoption of more equitable social policies, which favour a better distribution of resources and each country's sovereignty to choose its own development model, as an alternative to the policies of the International Monetary Fund. She referred to the financial support given by Venezuela to her country, which has allowed for a current 9% economic growth rate. She raised the question: if there is a food crisis, a financial crisis and a triple shock, will it not be possible that for the whole system to be in crisis?

She stressed that her government joins the claims for the region's right to place its agricultural and industrial products in international markets, to eliminate tariff barriers, to establish a fair trade system, and to stand for the region's priorities in Doha. In connection to this latter issue, she considered that SELA should submit these regional positions to the capitals and international organizations.

Mrs. Silva deemed it necessary to create a new regional and domestic financial architecture and endorsed the concepts included in SELA's base document as regards the degree of compliance with the commitments of the Monterrey Consensus.

21. Referring to the ALBA, the delegations of Cuba and Bolivia made their presentations.

a. The delegation of Cuba made a presentation recalling the background and evolution of the Bolivarian Alternative for the Peoples of the Americas (ALBA), as well as the characteristics and elements of cooperation projects in various economic and social areas which have encouraged synergies among the member countries through substantial social investment. The delegation stressed that ALBA was first proposed by His Excellency, Commander Hugo Chávez Frías, President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, during the III Summit of the Association of Caribbean States, held on Margarita Island, Venezuela, in December 2001, as an alternative to the FTAA project, to search for solutions to our region's problems. In December 2004, Commanders Hugo Chávez and Fidel Castro held a meeting in Havana, during which they adopted a Political Declaration and a series of agreements for establishing ALBA. In April 2005, Cuba

and Venezuela held a bilateral meeting to agree on a programme with social and economic objectives, with special emphasis on health, education and others economic areas. Signatory countries are already taking advantage of their benefits. In 2006, when Evo Morales took office as President, Bolivia became the third member of ALBA. With the electoral victory of Commander Daniel Ortega in 2007, Nicaragua joined the initiative, and more recently, in January 2008, the Commonwealth of Dominica also became a member of ALBA.

The delegation said that ALBA ratifies the view that only the countries can solve their own problems and, therefore, he deemed it advisable to take into account the achievements, results and projects within the framework of ALBA. In this connection, in the area of education, the delegation underscored that Venezuela has successfully eradicated illiteracy – an objective that Bolivia and Ecuador are also about to reach. In the area of health, thanks to “Mission Milagro”, more than a million people in several countries of the region have undergone eye surgeries. Among the various initiatives undertaken as part of ALBA, the delegation emphasized the creation of the ALBA Bank, PETROCARIBE and the Bank of the South.

b. The delegation of Bolivia stressed the need to eliminate the conditionalities imposed by international financial organizations to grant credits and official assistance, which are included in the request's terms of reference. The delegation dealt with the characteristics and nature of the projects being carried out within the framework of ALBA, which are aimed at eminently humanitarian and social objectives. It made particular emphasis on the fact that the ALBA projects do not include any intermediation, which has generally posed difficulties for trade and increased products' prices. It also emphasized the importance of the Peoples' Trade Treaty, proposed by His Excellency Evo Morales, President of Bolivia, which includes social issues in participating countries.

22. The Third Session: “New Projects on financing for development and integration in Latin America and the Caribbean” included individual presentations on the ALBA Bank (BALBA) and the Bank of the South, followed by a debate.

23. Gustavo Hernández, Vice-Minister of Finance for Endogenous Development of the People's Ministry for Finance of Venezuela, made a presentation titled “The ALBA Bank and the Bank of the South”. In his presentation, he dealt with the institutional characteristics of both banks, the process that led to their creation and their prospects.

a. Referring to the ALBA Bank, Hernández stressed that it is aimed at promoting economic development in key sectors of the economy of the ALBA countries, in order to improve productivity and efficiency of the productive sector, generate employment, foster scientific and technological development, as well as complementarity and development of productive chains. The Bank is also aimed at promoting social development in the areas of health, education, housing, social security, communitarian development and social economy; while strengthening the expansion and connection of infrastructure in the ALBA countries; as well as binational or grandnational companies, or any other modality of associative organization to promote investment of mutual interest, within the scope of the Bank. The bank will also have the power to create, promote and manage funds to provide reimbursable or non-reimbursable financing to foster economic, social and environmental development; to supply resources for technical assistance, pre-investment studies, research and development, as well as technology transfer and absorption; and to develop and promote practices for fair trade of goods and services.

## 18

To this end, Hernández explained that the Bank will conduct the following operations: to grant credits, credit lines, deposits, endorsements and other types of guarantees; to issue, place and manage all types of debentures; and to provide services, mechanisms and instruments for the settlement and payment compensation of economic, commercial and financial transactions. It will also provide services such as portfolio management, establishment, organization and management of trust funds, execution of mandates, commission agent, securities custodian, treasury services for governmental, intergovernmental and international organizations, public and private enterprises and general banking operations.

Finally, Hernández said that at present, the Bank already has a portfolio of projects proposed by the countries in the areas of education, health, science and technology, food, transport, environment, industry, telecommunications, energy, fair trade, tourism, mining and the financial sector.

b. Referring to the Bank of the South, Hernández said that it is intended to finance social and economic development in its member countries, strengthen regional integration, reduce asymmetries and promote an equitable distribution of investments, with a view to consolidating UNASUR. Hernández stressed that it was created in view of the need to face unfair conditions of the current regional and international financial architecture, including: the fact that the region's savings are financing developed economies to the detriment of regional economies; the fact that international monetary reserves are being deposited outside the region and they are returned in the form of loans with very high interest rates; and the fact that the economic and financial structures of South America show poor development and their financial markets are very weak. He also said that the region requires considerable amounts of resources for infrastructure development and social investment, and needs to diversify its financing sources and instruments so as to integrate and deepen its financial markets and promote a balance between savings and investments within the framework of UNASUR. In this connection, he pointed out that the Bank will try to redefine South America's financial architecture, strengthen the region's financial links, and contribute to the transformation of the current model characterized by the region's financial dependence, dispersion and fragmentation.

Hernández emphasized that poor development of financial markets causes the migration of national savings to more developed economies, prejudicing the region, because such resources could be invested in national projects to increase liquidity, revitalize investment, correct asymmetries, develop integration infrastructure, promote employment and activate a virtuous circle which is crucial for the economic and political transformation of the region. He said this could also boost economic growth rates, strengthen domestic markets, improve living standards of the population in a substantial way in order to revert migratory trends, pursue social justice, and reduce concentration of income. He also underscore the need for a new regional financial architecture which is based on an institution exclusively dedicated to the promotion of regional development under the sovereign control of South American countries; and to establish institutional and political mechanisms that offer a more appropriate level of financial and political autonomy to the region.

For this purpose, the Bank intends to promote regional economic stability in order to strengthen the region's negotiating power and promote more equitable international economic relations, a more appropriate and independent management of external debt, and strategies for economic and social development that guarantee political governance and help bridge social gaps. The Bank is also intended to face volatility and

contagion resulting from the evolution of international capital markets. It will offer an alternative to diversify saving mechanisms for international monetary reserves and encourage domestic savings for the benefit of the region, thus promoting South American endogenous development, reducing asymmetries among countries, fostering and ensuring sustained growth, and promoting the provision of basic services, such as education and health, among others. Hernández said that this institution will actually contribute to redistributing income, to substantially reduce poverty, to bridge other social gaps, to democratize economic, social and political participation of the population, and to promote development of small- and medium-sized enterprises.

Hernández pointed out that financial Integration must form part of an institutional transformation process that contributes to the full establishment of UNASUR, thereby strengthening South-South relations.

24. The moderator thanked the delegations for their presentations and gave the floor to the representatives of the Member States.

25. The delegation of Venezuela thanked speakers for their presentations and the Permanent Secretariat for the document submitted, which, in its opinion, sends a clear political signal from the region, and from SELA specifically, to the meetings that will follow up the Doha process. The delegation considered that the document is an excellent contribution to assess the status of the Monterrey process, in view of its analyses, the research it is based on and its balance in presenting the various positions – or dissensions – at the global level as regards the Monterrey Consensus. In the delegation's opinion, the Conference that will take place in Doha by year end could provide an opportunity to determine how much progress has been made and to reaffirm the development goals from a perspective which takes due account of the necessities and interests of developing nations. The delegation also hopes that such event is not subject to manipulations which might distort the spirit of Monterrey, and that no additional burdens are added to developing countries as regards each one of the six pillars of the Consensus.

Referring to the mobilization of national resources for development, the delegation underscored the urgent need to preserve political spaces that allow the States to undertake development programmes that take account of their specific features and real needs, for which it deemed it necessary – as stated in paragraph 11 of the Consensus – to respond to the necessities of the population, to make progress in poverty eradication and to assume the general commitment of building fair and democratic societies. In this regard, the delegation said that even though the private sector can make significant contributions to comply with the tasks to attain development, associations between the public and private sectors cannot overrule the States' sovereign authority to plan, execute, manage, control and evaluate public policies aimed at facing the problem of poverty. At the same time, the States' supervisory capacity is considered to be an important engine for the mobilization of domestic resources, in accordance with the national development programmes, and fiscal policies must be transparent and reliable, and should be aimed at favouring social interests.

With respect to the mobilization of international resources for development, the Venezuelan delegation considered that foreign investment must be adjusted to the national judicial framework and development strategies of each country. In case such investments are aimed at the productive processes, they must endorse those initiatives favouring access to unconditional productive financing mechanisms that allow for improving living standards in developing countries.

## 20

Referring to external financing sources, the delegation said that such sources must not entail conditionalities that might undermine national sovereignty; instead, they must be in line with the development interests of each country and respect environmental and labour standards of the countries receiving investment, as well as the context in which trade activities are being carried out. The delegation pointed out that even though the Venezuelan government supports the establishment of innovative financing mechanisms, it considers that they cannot involve excessive or additional burdens for developing countries – as stated in paragraph 44 of the Monterrey Consensus – but must rather be in accordance with development needs as a result of a differentiated evaluation of each country.

The Venezuelan delegation said that its government favours solutions aimed at reducing the weight of the external debt on national budgets, provided that they do not imply new commitments or conditionalities for countries in arrears, and supports the claims of developing countries for a transparent, all-inclusive and democratic reform of the international financial architecture and for an improved right to express opinions and vote in the international economic decision-making process. Venezuela also supports the demands for donor countries to comply with their commitment to allocate 0.7% of their GDP for ODA free from conditionalities. Referring to the importance of managing assistance in a more efficient way, the delegation stressed that its government does not recognize the Paris Declaration as an appropriate framework for dealing with the issue of the effectiveness of assistance for development, and rejects the biased way in which the notion of governance at the national and international levels has been dealt with. The delegation strongly rejected the unilateral strategies establishing criteria for good governance as new forms of conditionalities in granting assistance for development.

Finally, the delegation considered that for Venezuela the South-South Cooperation and a sound regional integration continue to be the fundamental pillars of development tasks, and in this connection, it will continue to working in the region on initiatives that allow for strengthening integration links. The delegation said that, for Venezuela, financial integration, energy cooperation, social cooperation and humanitarian aid are the three main axes of its policy on cooperation for development, in which important achievements can already be seen. In this regard, the delegation mentioned the Bank of the South, the ALBA Bank, Petrocaribe, Petroandina, the “Robinson” Mission and “Milagro” Mission as joint efforts undertaken with other countries of the region, as well as the humanitarian work conducted in numerous countries, for which Venezuela will continue to make huge efforts.

In concluding its intervention, the Venezuela delegation said that even though the Monterrey Consensus paved a way for the mobilization of resources for development, there is not a universal or unique recipe to obtain better and greater levels of well-being for the population. The Venezuelan government expects these issues to be dealt with in the Doha Conference and ratifies its commitment to continue to work with SELA and all the interested Member States, in order to move ahead with the development goals of eradicating poverty and paving a way towards a more equitable and balanced world, based on solidarity.

26. Ricardo Espina, of the Office of Financing for Development of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA), took the floor to thank Ambassador Rivera Banuet and SELA for organizing this important meeting, for the excellent base document submitted and for giving UN-DESA the opportunity to participate in the event.

Immediately afterwards, Espina described the way that stretches out ahead towards the Doha Conference and the destiny of the document that may emerge from this current meeting. In this connection, Espina stressed that when the UN General Assembly decided to convene the meeting to follow up the Doha process, it entrusted the President of the General Assembly with the responsibility of conducting such follow-up, and he appointed one named two co-facilitators, the Ambassador of Norway and the Ambassador of Egypt, who have improved the follow-up process since they started to work.

As part of this process, Espina said, a series of consultations have been conducted with all interested parties in New York, on the six chapters of the Monterrey Consensus, and since February there have been six different meetings which have discussed the viewpoints expressed by all the delegations, whose results will be used to draft the document that will be submitted in the Doha Conference. The co-facilitators have prepared summaries of each one of the meetings and they will be used for drafting final document.

The same resolution in which the General Assembly decided to convene the Doha Conference, called upon international organizations – particularly those with a regional scope such as SELA, ECLAC – so that they make substantial contributions to the preparation process, as they have done in this meeting. These contributions will also be taken into consideration by the co-facilitators and the President of the UN General Assembly in drafting the final document.

Finally, Espina thanked the meeting for requesting the DESA to submit the final document of this meeting to the co-facilitators and the President of the General Assembly, but he considered that, since SELA is an organization accredited to the United Nations, it would be advisable for it to send the document, signed by the Permanent Secretary, directly to the co-facilitators and the President of the General Assembly, as a contribution to the review of the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus. That is, SELA should formally send this Final Report to the United Nations, with a copy to DESA.

With respect to the first draft of the UN document, the co-facilitators committed themselves to have it ready by the end of July, in order to distribute it and begin the negotiations in New York during the second week of September. Therefore, Espina thinks, there is still time to contribute with some ideas on this matter.

Espina concluded by recommending to send the conclusions and recommendations of this meeting to the President of the UN General Assembly, with copies to the Group of 77, the Caribbean countries, and the Group of Rio, which has been actively working in this area.

## **B. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Based on the presentations, speeches and debates dealing with the base document submitted by SELA, the meeting adopted the following conclusions and recommendations:

1. Participants in the Regional Dialogue on Financing for Development and External Debt ahead of the UN High Level Meeting to review the implementation of Monterrey Consensus, held in the headquarters of SELA (Caracas, 20 June 2008), took note with interest of the document drafted by the Permanent Secretariat, titled "The Monterrey Consensus Six Years Later and Financing for Development in Latin America and the Caribbean" (SP/DRFDDE-RANONUCM/DT No 2-08), which served as the base for the discussions that took place among the representatives of the Member States.

## 22

2. The delegates congratulated the Permanent Secretariat for the analysis and valuable proposals contained in the study. They also underscored the usefulness of the remarks – and the subsequent debates – made by the representatives of the Secretariat of the Group of 24, UNCTAD, ECLAC, CEMLA, CAF and the CDB. Similarly, they thanked for the presentation made by the Vice-Minister of Finance for Endogenous Development, of the People's Ministry for Finance of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela on the ALBA Bank and the Bank of the South.

3. The most relevant issues discussed by the delegates of the Member States of SELA included the following:

a) It is fundamental to include various elements concerning the dimension of development in order to achieve a successful conclusion of the WTO Doha Round. In this connection, the existing asymmetries between developed and developing countries must be taken into consideration, thereby, incorporating disciplines related to special and differential treatment in accordance with the current conditions of the global economy. This would also entail establishing equitable and fair rules within the multilateral trade system and the elimination of agricultural protectionism in developed countries.

b) Official Development Assistance (ODA) is crucial to enable many developing countries to reduce poverty and comply with the Millennium Development Goals. Nevertheless, the levels of ODA provided by developed countries with respect to their gross domestic product (GDP) are still below the goal agreed to. Considering the problems regarding the effectiveness of the assistance is as important as making it available in sufficient amounts.

c) It is necessary to adopt a long-term approach on external debt sustainability since the current framework has limitations. For instance, the debt relief mechanism for highly indebted poor countries has implied a reduction of the concessional resource flows received by these nations.

d) There is a lack of inter-institutional coordination at the international level to ensure a stable global economic system, which promotes economic development.

e) It is important to make concrete progress to achieve a more equitable participation by developing countries in decision-making processes in multilateral financial organizations and in the United Nations system.

f) It is necessary to ensure an active participation of regional financial institutions in order to contribute to domestic development efforts. Latin America and the Caribbean have positive experiences in this area, and the region's institutions (such as CAF and the development banks promoting trade among existing integration groups), along with other recent initiatives such as the ALBA Bank and the Bank of the South, should continue to make efforts to improve their contributions in this area.

4. The representatives of the Member States of SELA took note with interest of the presentation made by the delegation of Costa Rica, which dealt with a proposal made by its government, called the "Costa Rica Consensus". It envisages the creation of debt write-off mechanisms and supporting developing countries with financial resources so that they start to invest more money in health, education and housing for their populations, and less money in weapons.

5. Some delegations stressed that, in facing the challenges posed by development in Latin America and the Caribbean, integration and cooperation processes turn out to be crucial, since they are mechanisms that help to solve vulnerability problems and to build spaces for financial, energy and food sovereignty at the regional level. Similarly, the delegations pointed out that private capital flows coming from abroad – particularly FDI flows – must be selective and encourage technology transfers, while contributing to generate jobs in recipient countries. They pointed out that in providing resources, international financial organizations must respect national sovereignty and, therefore, they should not have conditionalities attached. They also emphasized that, in the international economic negotiations, political spaces must be preserved so that countries can design and implement national development strategies.

6. Several delegations underscored the transcendence of the new cooperation and integration initiatives that have been recently undertaken in LAC – such as Petrocaribe, the Bolivarian Alternative for the Peoples of Our Americas (ALBA) and the Bank of the South, among others – which represent novel mechanisms for South-South Cooperation and support national development efforts based on alternative notions replacing traditional ones.

7. According to several representatives of the Member States of SELA, it is necessary to adopt a new international financial architecture that reduces the levels of risk and uncertainties in the global economy. Part of that new international architecture is related to the creation of regional monetary and financial schemes with new institutional modalities at the domestic level. In this connection, some delegations pointed to the importance that private flows leave spaces that should be complemented by public investments.

8. The delegates of the Member States of SELA stated that the discussions to be held on the review of the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus should consider the following proposals:

- To support the creation of investment funds in Latin America and the Caribbean aimed at supporting micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises in the region.
- To analyze the possibility to use part of the substantial monetary reserves accumulated by LAC for financing integration projects and regional economic development, and to promote actions to pursue integration of capital markets in the region.
- To consider the convenience of analyzing, negotiating and implementing a Regional Agreement for facilitation and promotion of Foreign Direct Investment within Latin America and the Caribbean.
- To make emphasis, during the UN High-Level International Conference in Doha, on the need for the donor countries that provide resources for development and are members of the Development Assistance Committee to comply with their commitment to allocate 0.7% of their national income for ODA, and to reject conditionalities for accessing external financial flows.
- To efficiently incorporate middle-income countries into the international cooperation system, both in their capacity as aid recipient nations and in South-South cooperation projects.

## 24

- To give priority to the participation of the region in the upcoming International Conference on Cooperation for Development, which will take place in Accra, capital of Ghana, in September 2008. In this connection, it should be borne in mind that the principles of alignment, harmonization and appropriation are necessary to take advantage of the benefits of an effective cooperation, but it should respect national sovereignty in executing and managing the projects involved. Cooperation should be used to finance projects established under the leadership of national governments, in accordance with their development priorities.
- To propose the creation of new credit mechanisms and facilities which include a concessional treatment to existing debt in developing countries, in order to face the new international situation. These new mechanisms or facilities should benefit highly-indebted middle-income countries.
- To pay special attention to the specific characteristics of small island states in the Caribbean, which face huge challenges in view of the current international economic context and the recurrent impacts of natural disasters, as well as the specific characteristics of landlocked States.
- As far as landlocked countries are concerned, emphasis must be made on the need to guarantee access to external markets for them, for which it is crucial to develop physical infrastructure for trade. Similarly, these States must be supported by the international community so that they can strengthen their key productive sectors, with a view to reducing their economic vulnerability. Within this context, participants urged countries to comply with the commitments adopted in the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation, held in Almaty, Kazakhstan, in August 2003.
- To make emphasis on the need for greater IMF supervision of the economic performance of industrialized countries, and on strengthening the mechanism for follow up of the agreements reached in Monterrey in order to ensure an integral evaluation of their implementation.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

Participants in the Regional Dialogue on Financing for Development and External Debt ahead of the UN High Level Meeting to review the implementation of Monterrey Consensus made the following recommendations to the Permanent Secretariat of SELA:

1. To send the final report of this meeting to the GRULAC, in New York, and to request the UN Office of Financing for Development to forward this document to the General Secretariat so that it is taken into consideration in the process to draft the final document for the UN High Level Conference to review the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus.
2. To convene a regional meeting, in early 2009, to evaluate the results and commitments adopted in the High-Level Conference of Doha.
3. To incorporate the analyses contained in this document, as well as the conclusions and recommendations of this Regional Dialogue, to the proposals to be discussed during the Meeting of International Cooperation Directors for LAC, organized by SELA.

4. To promote, in SELA, training projects to support public policies for management of FDI and foreign trade flows, so as to contribute to development in LAC.
5. To organize a regional meeting for consultation in SELA during the second half of 2008 in order to analyze the status of the WTO Doha Round negotiations.
6. To convene a regional meeting to analyze the impacts of the current international economic architecture on the region's development and the feasibility of taking full advantage of regional cooperation experiences in these different areas.
7. In facing the current triple shock – in the areas of financing, energy and food – the Permanent Secretariat of SELA should work to outline a coherent Latin American and Caribbean strategy, which recognizes existing asymmetries and promotes regional security mechanisms in those three areas.
8. Participants congratulated the Permanent Secretariat of SELA for its work to conduct this important meeting, and thanked international and regional organizations for their cooperation and participation in the meeting.

## **Agenda**

**Friday, 20 June 2008**

Morning

Presiding: His Excellency, Mr. Pedro Páez, Minister for Economic Policy Coordination, Republic of Ecuador

08:30 a.m. – 09:00 a.m.

Registration of participants

09:00 a.m. – 09:15 a.m.

Opening ceremony

- Speech by the Minister for Economic Policy Coordination of Ecuador, Mr. Pedro Páez
- Speech by the First Vice-Chairman of the Latin American Council and Ambassador of Guatemala, His Excellency, Mr. Erick Molina Sandoval
- Speech by the President (a.i.) of the Central Bank of Venezuela, Mr. José Ferrer
- Speech by the Permanent Secretary of SELA, Ambassador José Rivera Banuet

09:15 a.m. – 09:30 a.m.

Coffee Break

09:30 a.m.- 09:45 a.m.

Presentation by the Permanent Secretariat on the background and general context of the UN Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus

09:45 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

Presentation on the general prospects as regards the subject, in charge of multilateral organizations and the United Nations

- **Group of 24.** Amar Bhattacharya, Director of the G-24 Secretariat
- **UNCTAD** (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development). Alfredo Calcagno, Globalization and Strategies for Development Division
- **ECLAC** (Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean). Daniel Titelman, Chief of the Development Studies Unit
- **CEMLA** (Centre for Latin American Monetary Studies) Jaime Coronado, Coordinator of the Capacity Building Programme

10:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Debate

11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

The perspective of the subregional and regional organizations

**30**

- **CAF** (Andean Development Corporation)  
Gabriel Duque, Deputy Director of the Office  
for Public Policies and Competitiveness
- **CDB** (Caribbean Development Bank)  
Patrick Kendall, Research Economist

11:30 a.m. – 01:00 p.m.

Debate

01:00 p.m. – 03:00 p.m.

Free time for lunch

Afternoon

Presiding: His Excellency, Mr. Mohammed Ali Odeen  
Ishmael, Ambassador of Guyana in Venezuela

03:00 p.m. – 04:00 p.m.

The perspective of some Member States of SELA

- Central America (Costa Rica and Nicaragua)
- CARICOM (Jamaica, Haiti and Guyana)
- Andean Community (Colombia and Ecuador)
- MERCOSUR (Argentina and Paraguay)
- ALBA (Bolivia and Cuba)

04:00 p.m. – 04:45 p.m.

New Projects on financing for development and  
integration in LAC

- **BALBA** (Bank of ALBA)  
Gustavo Hernández, Vice-Minister of Financing for  
Endogenous Development, Venezuelan People's  
Ministry of Finance
- **Bank of the South**  
Gustavo Hernández, Vice-Minister of Financing for  
Endogenous Development, Venezuelan People's  
Ministry of Finance

04.45 p.m. – 05:30 p.m.

Debate

05:30 p.m. – 06:00 p.m.

Summary and conclusions

**Speech by Pedro Páez, Minister for Economic Policy Coordination of Ecuador  
during the Opening Ceremony**

Good Morning, ladies and gentlemen:

First of all, I would like to thank the organizers of this meeting for inviting me to participate in this meeting of SELA, to open such an important working session in which we are now engaged.

Thanks to all the participants for their enthusiasm in undertaking this working session, which requires a process of deep reflection, demanded by our peoples, in order to break with a year-long lethargy from the intellectual and the institutional standpoints.

I believe that the current international crisis – whose intensity, depth and diversification we have not yet grasped – poses a series of questions with respect to crucial issues which are related to the tasks that our peoples must undertake and structure, as defence mechanisms, in case the countries of the North might want to “pin the blame” on us, as we say in our country.

The food crisis, the energy crisis, the financial and monetary crisis are posing a series of questions with respect to the role of the South. Which is the role of Latin America and the Caribbean in the process to overcome the crisis? Or what should the region do if the crisis worsens? In this latter case, our countries and peoples will probably become even more dependent, backwarded and vulnerable than they have been over the last few decades.

I believe it is fundamental to intensely work in a process of collective reflection, which requires making quality progress in terms of the line of thought in our region. And in such process, the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System can play a crucial role. That is the role that inspired those people who founded this institution several decades ago, that is the role they expected. I believe that the time has come to update this effort, and that each one of the member States must provide support to pursue a collective debate, which should be open and pluralist, but at the same time rigorous and highly responsible.

There is evidence that the current crisis can go beyond a situation related to merely bad management, bad judgments as regards investments, or bad regulatory mechanisms, because it seems to be due to much deeper problems in the operation of the economy at the international level. The current crisis even leads us to question the accumulation system that we have followed over the last few decades.

In the case of Latin America and the Caribbean, all of our countries have felt frustration with such accumulation system, and this poses a challenge as regards the political transformations that have occurred in our continent. But such transformations cannot materialize if they are not defined as feasible alternatives for our peoples, that is, economically functional alternatives to meet the needs of our countries, which give priority to the preservation of life and the conditions for pacific coexistence.

I strongly believe that integration – conceived in the terms and challenges imposed by Capitalism in the 21<sup>st</sup> century – requires building spaces for supranational sovereignty. In response to the food crisis, it is necessary to create mechanisms for supranational sovereignty, and the same treatment must be given to the questions and challenges posed by the current energy crisis. This is the reason why our region requires mechanisms to ensure energy sovereignty, sovereignty in the monetary and financial areas, and therefore, sovereignty as regards financing for development. Hence, it is crucial to build

**34**

supranational mechanisms for economic sovereignty, in order to enable our region to face external problems and shocks. But this must occur simultaneously with the construction of endogenous mechanisms for development.

There is a proposal under analysis, and today we are going to talk about the need for a new regional financial architecture that can establish the guidelines for a new international financial architecture. I believe that this can be a central element to successfully pave the way towards new spaces for cooperation, development and alternatives that allow our economies to generate real prospects and hope for all sectors of the population. And, at the same time, this can provide the opportunity and the space to define a new type of relation in terms of cooperation between the North and the South, based on these initiatives, on this collective construction at the intellectual, pragmatic and institutional levels.

I hope this working day will be very fruitful, and once again I congratulate SELA for timely convening this meeting.

Thank you very much.

**Speech by His Excellency, Erick Molina Sandoval, First Vice-Chairman  
of the Latin American Council and Ambassador of Guatemala in Venezuela**

- His Excellency, Ambassador José Rivera Banuet, Permanent Secretary of SELA
- His Excellency, Pedro Páez, Minister for Economic Policy Coordination of Ecuador
- Dr. José Ferrer, President of the Central Bank
- Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, Ambassadors accredited to the country
- Distinguished Representatives of National Institutions and International Organizations:

Good Morning,

First of all, I would like to thank God for allowing us to gather here to deal with such an important and serious issue as the Regional Dialogue on Financing for Development and External Debt ahead of the UN High-Level Meeting to review the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus.

I hope this effort will bring about the expected results, as has been the case with previous events. God willing, we will reach the hearts and minds of developed countries, so that they start to think a little bit more about Latin America and the Caribbean and help us to overcome the difficulties currently faced by our region.

Thank you very much.

**Speech by Dr. José Ferrer, President (a.i.) of the Central Bank of Venezuela**

It is an honour for me to participate in this dialogue, organized by SELA, to deal with one of the most crucial challenges for our countries: financing for development and the key issue of dealing with the external debt.

A major concern in dealing with the issue of economic development of our countries is how solid are the factors determining growth, which should be aimed at improving living standards of the population and fighting poverty, whose multiple causes are of a structural nature, as we already know.

In this connection, there seems to be a consensus that a better access to resources and a diversification of financing sources can open new opportunities to imprint dynamism to growth, foster productive employment and promote social policies and synergies. Financing not always takes account of the most suitable model for development, from a long-term perspective, and thus indebtedness seems to have been used, in principle, as a tool for growth, but it has not been linked to the countries' development in accordance with their own features.

As a matter of fact, current trends for granting credits in this phase of globalized Capitalism, are more focused on yields and repayment capacity valuations than on benefits and external conditions to attain national social well-being. The current pattern imposes – particularly on developing countries with underlying difficulties in terms of domestic savings and investment – excessively heavy conditionalities to their debt with the rest of the world, thus favouring the countries that enjoy a better insertion into the global financial networks and the most profitable projects, and depriving developing countries from opportunities to invest in key projects for their development.

Almost all of our countries in Latin America and the Caribbean have lived this reality to a greater or lesser extent. We had to contract increasingly heavier external debts, including direct assistance from multilateral financial organizations, as a mechanism to alleviate our macroeconomic vulnerability. Not to mention the fact that, in value-added terms, in most of the cases, a much greater amount of net resources have been drained in various ways from our economies towards other countries than the amount of resources that we have received through our sovereign debt bonds, or through credit lines with foreign financial institutions – due to the lack of confidence in our own development, an inadequate distribution of national income, and the fact that our region has not taken advantage of intra-regional financing opportunities.

This phenomenon can be explained in many other ways. We could mention, for instance, the theory of capital and growth, and the remarkable contributions made by Schumpeter, Knight, Harrod or Solow, or in Latin America, by Furtado, Prebisch, Sumkel or by the ECLAC, among others, in order to find explanations on how the structural model of growth we have chosen and its deformations have prevented national development. But most probably, the theory of the endogenous growth model, which emerged in the eighties, is the one that gives more importance to human capital and technological progress as fundamental factors for underpinning a healthy economic growth, providing the necessary guidelines for public policies to support endogenous development.

In the case of Venezuela, at present, the endogenous development model followed by the government, is intended to not only promote – through macroeconomic policies – a high, sustained and widespread growth by means of greater internal incentives for savings and investment, technological progress and generation of employment and

## 42

training at the national level, but also to direct oil income resources to finance real productive investment, education, health, in order to reduce the need to resort to external financing sources as a necessary condition within the national development strategy. This model has been endorsed by the Central Bank of Venezuela, within its area of competence.

Based on the above, it is obvious that the fact that opportunities for development are limited to the reception of monetary resources to finance growth is only one of the enormous challenges faced by the region in ensuring its economic and human development, particularly within a context of huge gaps in terms of growth between developed and developing countries and increasing social demands as a result of the accumulated inequities caused by the structural asymmetries of national economies.

In the case of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, our Constitution recognizes the importance of all these factors within the country's social and economic regime, since it is based on "...social justice, democracy, efficiency, free competition, environmental protection, productivity and solidarity, in order to ensure integral human development and a dignified and fruitful existence for the people."

For this reason, it is necessary to point out that, while the external debt is a tool to support growth, reducing the external vulnerability of our economies due to their dependence on the current hegemonic financial model depends on improving sustainability levels and lowering debt-income coefficients in order to have a greater amount of resources for development.

At the same time, it is necessary to explore mechanisms, in a more effective and efficient way, to ensure access to international financial markets, amid conditions of greater equality and lower costs, so as to take advantage of official development assistance and demand a more serious commitment to development by international financial organizations, through their credit policies – which would allow for changing the current situation that prevents many countries from making strides beyond the agendas of the various multilateral financial organizations.

Other action mechanisms are focused on expanding the traditional schemes with new financing for development formulas, which give priority to approaches based on true development and pay less attention to the payment capacity, creating appropriate indicators for each case. It is also necessary to study the possibility of increasing debt write-offs, particularly for those countries in which an additional debt relief would have a positive impact on the allocation of resources for domestic production, investment in infrastructure and social protection for people.

In this connection, it would be worthwhile to analyze the proposal of the Bank of the South, as a complement to the outstanding work carried out by the Andean Development Corporation and the Inter-American Development Bank, because it stands out as a unique opportunity to lay the foundations for an endogenous model of financing for regional development. As a matter of fact, the Bank of the South emerges as an innovative mechanism to raise resources in the region and allocate them for financing economic and social development projects which enable the region, among other things: to build or renew physical infrastructure to support production and interregional trade; to promote the development and/or adoption of new technologies; to timely provide services in the areas of education and health care to low-income classes; and to develop productive activities in all the sectors of the economy so as to reduce unemployment and poverty. In addition, this new financial mechanism should also serve

to support the creation of a regional capital market, in which securities denominated in local currencies can be negotiated, as an important step to make strides towards a regional payment system to reduce our dependence on extra-regional currencies to pay for transactions. In a nutshell, this new financial mechanism should help to create the conditions to overcome asymmetries among the economies of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Mention must also be made of the recent creation of the ALBA Bank, a multilateral institution whose main objective is to promote development in key economic sectors of the ALBA countries, by financing projects aimed at improving productivity and efficiency of the productive system, generating employment, and fostering scientific and technological development, among other things. It is also aimed at fostering social development. Thus, it is the duty of the ALBA Bank to design innovative mechanisms for channelling resources to support communitarian development and social economy, two segments of the market which have traditionally been ignored by existing international financial institutions.

Finally, it is necessary for the Latin American and Caribbean region to unify criteria and stand with a single voice to make joint proposals to finance its own development, making emphasizing on the appropriate use of its resources, with a view to actively participate in the High-Level Dialogue of the General Assembly of the United Nations on Financing for Development. We are confident that this will be the message prevailing in that meeting.

Thank you very much.

**Speech by Ambassador José Rivera Banuet, Permanent Secretary  
of the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA)  
during the opening ceremony**

Dr. Pedro Páez, Minister for Economic Policy Coordination of Ecuador;

His Excellency, Erick Molina Sandoval, Ambassador of the Republic of Guatemala  
And First Vice-Chairman of the Latin American Council;

Dr. José Ferrer, President (a.i.) of the Central Bank of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela;

Dr. María Esperanza Acevedo, Vice-Minister of Finance and Public Credit of Nicaragua;

Dr. Huáscar Ajata, Vice-Minister of Foreign Trade of Bolivia;

Dr. Rafael Recalde, Director of Trade Defence of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of  
Paraguay;

Ambassadors and delegates of the Member States of SELA;

Representative of the Office of Financing for Development of the UN Department for  
Economic and Social Affairs;

Distinguished representatives of the Secretariat of the Group of 24, UNCTAD, ECLAC,  
CEMLA, CAF, the Caribbean Development Bank, the ALBA Bank and the Bank of the  
South,

Ladies and gentlemen:

It is a great honour for me to open this Regional Dialogue on Financing for Development  
and External Debt ahead of the United Nations High-Level Meeting to review the  
implementation of the Monterrey Consensus.

The Monterrey Consensus summarizes the commitments adopted by the international  
community as a result of the United Nations International Conference on Financing for  
Development, held in March 2002.

Since its very adoption, this Consensus has been a key reference for the debates on  
cooperation, financing and development at the international level, and it is identified as  
an indispensable component to comply with the Millennium Development Goals.

Last year, the United Nations General Assembly agreed that it was necessary to review  
the commitments adopted in the Monterrey Conference and for that purpose it  
convened a high-level meeting, which will take place in Doha from 29 November to 2  
December of this year.

On the other hand, during the Regional Dialogue of Latin America and the Caribbean at  
UNCTAD XII, held in March, our Member States decided to analyze, within the framework  
of SELA, a proposal made by the region on financing for development and external debt,  
and concluded that "these proposals should be developed by SELA within the framework  
of the preparatory work for the United Nations High-Level Conference on Financing for  
Development, which will take place in Doha".

For this reason, the Permanent Secretariat of SELA convened this meeting, whose  
fundamental objective is to make strides towards regional coordination to respond to the

## 48

need for access to external financing and to contribute to the adoption of a common position for Latin America and the Caribbean ahead of the Doha Conference.

In support to the work for our meeting, the Permanent Secretariat of SELA has drafted the document “the Monterrey Consensus Six Years Later and Financing for Development in Latin America and the Caribbean”, which will be submitted right after this opening ceremony.

The structure of the Monterrey Consensus responded to the need to have a global association so as to cover necessities of financing for development.

This association World be based on six pillars: i) mobilizing domestic financial resources; ii) attracting international resources flows; iii) promoting international trade; iv) international cooperation; v) sustainable management of external debt, as well as debt relief efforts; and vi) increasing coherence and consistency of the international monetary, financial and trade system.

An evaluation of the compliance with the above-mentioned commitments will surely reveal different results for each one of the countries of the region. Nevertheless, there are issues that have an impact on all the nations of Latin America and the Caribbean.

In order to make progress towards compliance with the objectives of the Monterrey Conference, it is necessary to take the following aspects into consideration:

Within a framework of international financial stability, the challenge for our countries is to turn the positive economic results that it has achieved throughout several years of economic growth into lasting progress by making investments and increasing the productive capacity.

I think that the accomplishment of this objective requires a strong presence of the State and of public organizations which provide financing for development.

In addition, we expect foreign direct investment flows to involve social responsibility and to be aimed at financing investment and trade, so that they can turn themselves into reliable sources of financing for development.

In the last few years, international investment flows have been mainly destined to other regions of the world – a trend that should change if we strengthen the regional integration processes, turning itself into an important element to attract external resources.

Trade is an engine for the countries' sustainable development.

A successful conclusion of the Doha Round, within the framework of the World Trade Organization, is a fundamental requirement for developing countries – including those of the Latin American and Caribbean region – to take advantage of the potentials derived from international trade in support to national development efforts.

It is crucially important, in concluding the Doha Round, to make emphasis on those aspects which are effectively aimed at development, particularly those that include the commitment by industrialized countries to eliminate farm subsidies which distort markets and affect developing nations.

It is urgent to make progress in this direction, particularly in view of the current food crisis.

Official Development Assistance plays an important role for economic growth in developing countries.

For this reason, we are concerned about the reduction seen in ODA flows to our region over the last few years – a trend that must be reverted. Similarly, we stress that donor countries providing resources for development must comply with the goal of allocating 0.7% of their Gross Domestic Product for ODA.

We agree on the need to be creative in order to find new financing mechanisms, which might involve the creation of new taxes and the global funds to promote development.

In light of the current situation, special attention must be paid to the worrisome fact that food aid for development aimed at Latin America and the Caribbean has decreased from US\$ 1,086 million in 2002 to 891 million in 2007.

While global indicators on the external debt could show some improvement, for some countries of the Latin American and Caribbean region the levels of accumulated debt and its servicing represent an obstacle to satisfactorily comply with their objectives of fighting poverty and promoting social development.

The framework of sustainability of the current external debt turns out to be insufficient to meet the requirements of a large number of developing countries, as is the case of the Caribbean States, which face enormous challenges in view of the current international economic situation and the recurrent effects of natural disasters.

As a complement, it is necessary to make progress towards a reform of the international financial architecture, with an effective participation of developing countries that includes changes of voting rules in the Bretton Woods institutions.

It is essential to ensure a better monitoring by the International Monetary Fund of the economic performance of industrialized countries, which has a direct impact on the international markets and the evolution of developing nations, as has been evidenced with the recent crisis of the subprime mortgage loans in the United States.

The results of the debates of this meeting will represent a contribution to the countries of the region and to the United Nations Secretariat in the preparation for the meeting to be held in Doha by year end.

## 50

It is also advisable to indicate that, in order to support development, the international institutional framework requires an interaction with national and regional organizations.

The Latin American and Caribbean region has lived through interesting experiences in creating financial institutions with a regional scope, development banks and institutions to promote trade within the existing subregional integration groups, in addition to other innovative projects to finance development and integration.

For this reason, we have included in our agenda for today a session to analyze the views and proposals of regional financing agencies such as the Andean Development Corporation, the Caribbean Development Bank, the Bank of the South and the ALBA Bank.

I am confident that the results of this meeting will contribute to strengthening the capacity for dialogue in Latin America and the Caribbean vis-à-vis the most important global actors, thereby showing regional unity.

The objective of sustainable development with social equity can be accomplished if we are able to promote and materialize specific mechanisms for cooperation and integration among the Latin American and Caribbean nations. Today, more than ever, this is an urgent goal in view of the triple impact threatening our countries: the financial, food and energy crises.

In concluding my speech, I wish to make emphasis on the great value for the Permanent Secretariat of SELA and for its Member States of the contribution made by the Central Bank of Venezuela in organizing this important meeting.

I reiterate before you all the Permanent Secretariat's commitment to make progress towards the institutional strengthening of SELA, so that it turns itself into an organization that efficiently promotes a system for consultation and coordination to support the interests of our region.

Thank you very much.

## **List of Documents**

## Conclusions and Recommendations

SP/DRFDDE-RANONUCM/PCR No. 1-08

### Work Documents:

#### **Provisional Agenda**

[Diálogo Regional sobre Financiamiento al Desarrollo y Deuda Externa en vísperas de la Reunión de Alto Nivel de la ONU encargada de examinar la aplicación del Consenso de Monterrey. Doha 2008](#)

SP/DRFDDE-RANONUCM/DT No. 1-08

#### **Base Document**

[El Consenso de Monterrey seis años después y la financiación al desarrollo en América Latina y el Caribe](#)

SP/DRFDDE-RANONUCM/DT N° 2/Rev.1-08

### Informative documents:

**Informative document:** [Diálogo Regional sobre Financiamiento al Desarrollo y Deuda Externa en vísperas de la Reunión de Alto Nivel de la ONU encargada de examinar la aplicación del Consenso de Monterrey. Doha 2008](#)

SP/DRFDDE-RANONUCM/Di No. 1-08

[Palabras del Embajador José Rivera Banuet, Secretario Permanente del SELA](#)

SP/DRFDDE-RANONUCM/Di No. 2-08

["El Consenso de Monterrey seis años después y la financiación al desarrollo en América Latina y el Caribe"](#)

Dr. Antonio Romero, Director of Relations for Integration and Cooperation of SELA

SP/DRFDDE-RANONUCM/Di No. 3-08

[Perspectiva costarricense.](#)

[Hacia el consenso de Costa Rica: Desarrollo como un imperativo ético](#)

Charles S. Hernández Viale, Chargé d' Affaires, a.i., of the Embassy of Costa Rica in Venezuela

SP/DRFDDE-RANONUCM/Di No. 4-08

[Tendencias y desafíos en la cooperación internacional y la movilización de recursos para el desarrollo en América Latina y el Caribe](#)

Daniel Titelman, Chief of the Development Studies Unit of ECLAC

SP/DRFDDE-RANONUCM/Di No. 5-08

**CEMLA:** [Financiamiento al desarrollo y deuda externa](#)

Jaime Coronado Q., Coordinator of the Capacity Building Programme for Analysis and Debt Strategies of CEMLA

SP/DRFDDE-RANONUCM/Di No. 6-08

[Presentation on the Monterrey Consensus](#)

Patrick Kendall, Research Economist, Caribbean Development Bank (CDB)

SP/DRFDDE-RANONUCM/Di No. 7-08

## 54

### [Financing for Development: From Monterrey to Doha](#)

Amar Bhattacharya, G-24 Secretariat  
SP/DRFDDE-RANONUCM/Di No. 8 -08

### [Financiamiento para el desarrollo](#)

Gabriel Duque, Deputy Director of Competitiveness Programmes  
Andean Development Corporation (CAF)  
SP/DRFDDE-RANONUCM/Di No. 9-08

### [Banco del ALBA y el financiamiento al desarrollo](#)

Gustavo Hernández, Vice-Minister of Financing for Endogenous Development  
of the People's Ministry for Finance of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela  
SP/DRFDDE-RANONUCM/Di No. 10-08

### [Banco del Sur y el desarrollo económico y social](#)

Gustavo Hernández, Vice-Minister of Financing for Endogenous Development  
of the People's Ministry for Finance of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela  
SP/DRFDDE-RANONUCM/Di No. 11-08

### [Remarks by His Excellency Odeen Ishmael, Ambassador of Guyana in Venezuela](#)

SP/DRFDDE-RANONUCM/Di No. 12 -08

### [Colombia y su cumplimiento al Consenso de Monterrey – Mexico 2002](#)

“Acuerdo sobre las orientaciones de política nacional e internacional más adecuadas  
para fomentar el desarrollo equitativo y de largo plazo de las naciones”  
SP/DRFDDE-RANONUCM/Di No. 13-08

### [Posición de Nicaragua sobre el financiamiento al desarrollo y la deuda externa](#)

María Esperanza Acevedo Gutiérrez, Vice-Minister of Finance and Public Credit of  
Nicaragua  
SP/DRFDDE-RANONUCM/Di No.14-08

### **Speech by Pedro Páez, Minister for Economic Policy Coordination of Ecuador, during the opening ceremony**

SP/DRFDDE-RANONUCM/Di No.15-08

### [Nueva arquitectura financiera](#)

Pedro Páez, Minister for Economic Policy Coordination of Ecuador  
SP/DRFDDE-RANONUCM/Di No. 16-08

### **Visión de la UNCTAD sobre la financiación del desarrollo y la aplicación del Consenso de Monterrey.**

Alfredo, Calcagno, Division for Globalization and Development Strategies  
SP/DRFDDE-RANONUCM/Di No. 17-08

### **Speech by Mr. José Ferrer, President (a.i.) of the Central Bank of Venezuela during the opening ceremony**

SP/DRFDDE-RANONUCM/Di No. 18-08

### **Presentation by Jamaica**

Faith Mullings-Williams, Embassy of Jamaica in Venezuela.  
SP/DRFDDE-RANONUCM/Di No. 19-08

**Presentation by Paraguay**

Roberto Recalde, Minister, Advisor of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Paraguay  
SP/DRFDDE-RANONUCM/Di No. 20-08

**List of Participants**

SP/DRFDDE-RANONUCM/Di No. 21-08

**Other documents:**

**Contributions by the Government of Costa Rica:**

- Hacia el Consenso de Costa Rica: Desarrollo como un Imperativo Ético.  
Informative Document, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cult of Costa Rica. March 2007.
- Oscar Arias pide apoyo a la iniciativa de perdón de deudas a países en desarrollo.  
Press release (EFE, 20 March 2007).
- Costa Rica pide incentivos para quienes cuiden ecología. Press release (AP, 22  
October 2007).

**Reference documents:**

SELA Document: [El Consenso de Monterrey: análisis, propuestas y seguimiento](#)  
Executive Summary  
May 2002 (SP/Di No. 15 - 02)

[Consenso de Monterrey: De la Conferencia Internacional sobre la Financiación para el  
Desarrollo](#)  
Monterrey, Mexico. 21 and 22 March 2002

## **List of Participants**

## MEMBER STATES

### ARGENTINA

Alicia Castro  
Ambassador  
Embassy of Argentina in Venezuela  
Avenida El Empalme,  
Edificio FEDECAMARAS; Piso 3. El Bosque  
Telephone: (58-212) 731-3311  
Fax: (58-212) 731-2659

María Fernanda Silva  
Counsellor  
Embassy of Argentina in Venezuela  
Caracas  
Telephones: (58-212) 731-3311  
Fax: (58-212) 731-2659  
E-mail: [silvadosantos@yahoo.com.ar](mailto:silvadosantos@yahoo.com.ar)

### BOLIVIA

Huáscar Ajata Guerrero  
Viceminister for Foreign Trade of Bolivia  
La Paz, Bolivia  
Telephone y fax: (591)762.08970  
E-mail: [huascar\\_ajata@gmail.com](mailto:huascar_ajata@gmail.com)  
Web Site: [comercioproduccion.gob.bo](http://comercioproduccion.gob.bo)

Jorge Alvarado Rivas  
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.  
Embassy of Bolivia  
Av. Luis Roche con 6ta. Transversal  
Qta. "Embassy of Bolivia"  
Urbanización Altamira  
Telephones: (58-212)263 3015(0412)  
544.1410  
Fax: (58-212) 261-3386  
E-mail: [joralva43@gmail.com](mailto:joralva43@gmail.com)

Martha Montaña  
Counsellor  
Embassy of Bolivia  
Av. Luis Roche con 6ta. Transversal  
Qta. "Embassy of Bolivia"  
Urbanización Altamira  
Telephone: (58-212)263 3015  
Fax: (58-212) 261-3386  
E-mail: [marimontaña@hotmail.com](mailto:marimontaña@hotmail.com)  
Web Site: [www.boliviapresente.com](http://www.boliviapresente.com)

### BRAZIL

Audo Araujo Faleiro  
Counsellor  
Embassy of Brazil in Venezuela  
Calle Los Chaguaramos con Avenida  
Mohedano  
Centro Gerencial Mohedano, Piso 6  
Urbanización La Castellana  
Telephone: (58-212)261.6529 / 261.7553 /  
5505  
Fax: (58-212)261.9601  
E-mail: [audo@embajadabrasil.org](mailto:audo@embajadabrasil.org)

### COLOMBIA

Gilberto Castilla Solano  
Plenipotentiary Minister  
Embassy of Colombia in Venezuela  
2da. Avenida Campo Alegre con  
Avenida Francisco de Miranda, Torre  
Credival, Piso 11  
Urbanización Campo Alegre  
Telephones: (58-212)(D)263.0794 /  
216.9596 /263- 6238  
Fax: (58-212)263-8974 / 261.1358  
E-mail: [politica@net-uno.net](mailto:politica@net-uno.net)

Gladys Mireya Páez H.  
Counsellor  
Embassy of Colombia in Venezuela  
2da. Avenida Campo Alegre con  
Avenida Francisco de Miranda, Torre  
Credival, Piso 11  
Urbanización Campo Alegre  
Telephones: (D)(58-212)263.0794/  
216.9596 /263- 6238  
Fax: (58-212)263-8974 / 261.1358

### COSTA RICA

Charles S. Hernández Viale.  
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.  
Embassy of Costa Rica in Venezuela  
Avenida San Juan Bosco  
Entre 1era. y 2da. Transversal  
Edif. For You, P.H. Urbanización Altamira  
Telephone: (58-212) 265-7889  
Fax: (58-212) 265-1015  
E-mail: [embaricavene@yahoo.com](mailto:embaricavene@yahoo.com)  
Web Site: [www.rree.go.cr](http://www.rree.go.cr)

**60****CHILE**

Rolando Drago Rodríguez  
 Ambassador  
 Embassy of Chile in Venezuela  
 Paseo Enrique Eraso  
 Torre La Noria, Piso 10  
 Urbanización Las Mercedes  
 Telephones: (58-212) 992-3378 / 991-3014  
 Fax: (58-212) 992-0614  
 E-mail: [echileve@cantv.net](mailto:echileve@cantv.net)

Mario Arriagada  
 First Secretary  
 Embassy of Chile in Venezuela  
 Paseo Enrique Eraso  
 Torre La Noria, Piso 10  
 Urbanización Las Mercedes  
 Telephones: (58-212) 992-3378 / 991-3014  
 Fax: (58-212) 992-0614  
 E-mail: [mariagada@cantv.net](mailto:mariagada@cantv.net);  
[echileve@cantv.net](mailto:echileve@cantv.net)

**CUBA**

Marcos Nieto Lara  
 Embassy of Cuba in Venezuela  
 Economic Counsellor  
 Calle Roraima entre Río de Janeiro y  
 Choróni  
 Quinta Marina  
 Urbanización Chuao  
 Telephones: (58-212) 9935646  
 Fax: (58-212) 993-5646  
 E-mail:  
[Counsellornieto@embajadacuba.com.ve](mailto:Counsellornieto@embajadacuba.com.ve)

**ECUADOR**

Pedro Páez  
 Ministro de Coordinación de Política  
 Económica del Ecuador  
 Seymon N° 509  
 Quito, Ecuador  
 Telephone:(5932) 2248901  
 E-mail: [ppaez@bce.ec](mailto:ppaez@bce.ec)

**GUATEMALA**

Erick Roberto Molina Sandoval  
 Ambassador  
 Avda. Francisco de Miranda, Torre  
 DOZSA, Piso 1, Urbanización El Rosal  
 Telephones(58-212)952.5247/ 954.0146/  
 954.0831  
 Fax: (58-212)954.0051  
 E-mail: [emolina@minex.gob.gt](mailto:emolina@minex.gob.gt)

Verónica Araujo Samayoa  
 Counsellor Minister  
 Embassy of Guatemala  
 Caracas  
 Telephone: (58-212) 952.5247  
 Fax: (58-212) 954.0051  
 E-mail: [jaraujo@minex.gob.gt](mailto:jaraujo@minex.gob.gt)

**GUYANA**

Mohammed Ali Odeen Ishmael  
 Ambassador  
 Embassy of Guyana  
 Quinta Roraima, Avenida El Paseo  
 Urbanización Prados del Este  
 Telephones: (58-212) 977.1158 / 75.3687+  
 Fax: (58-212)976.3765  
 E-mail: [embguy@cantv.net](mailto:embguy@cantv.net);  
 Web Site:[www.guyana.org](http://www.guyana.org)

Roxanne Vandeyar  
 Executive Official  
 Quinta Roraima, Avenida El Paseo  
 Urbanización Prados del Este  
 Telephones: (58-212)977.1158 / 975.3687+  
 Fax@58-212)976.3765  
 E-mail: [embguy@cantv.net](mailto:embguy@cantv.net)  
[www.guyana.org](http://www.guyana.org)

**HAITI**

Antoine H. Eliacin  
 Chargé d'Affaires a.i.  
 Embassy of Haiti in Venezuela  
 Avenida Las Rosas, Quinta Flor N° 59  
 Urbanización San Rafael de La Florida  
 Caracas  
 Telephones: (58-212) 730-1735 / 7220  
 Fax: (58-212) 730-4605  
 E-mail: [aeliacin@cantv.net](mailto:aeliacin@cantv.net)

Nathalie Gutiérrez  
Assistant  
Embassy of Haiti in Venezuela  
Avenida Las Rosas, Quinta Flor N° 59  
Urbanización San Rafael de La Florida  
Telephones: (58-212) 730-1735 / 7220  
Fax: (58-212) 730-4605  
E-mail: [nathaliegeurope@yahoo.com](mailto:nathaliegeurope@yahoo.com)

### **JAMAICA**

Faith Mullings-Williams  
Counsellor  
Embassy of Jamaica in Venezuela  
Calle La Guairita, Edif. Los Frailes, Piso 5  
Urbanización Chuao  
Telephones: (58-212) 991-6133  
Fax: (58-212) 991-6055

### **MEXICO**

Mario Chacón Carrillo  
Ambassador  
Embassy of Mexico  
Calle Guaicaipuro con Avenida Principal  
de Las Mercedes  
Edificio FORUM, Piso 5  
Urbanización El Rosal  
Telephones: (58-212) 952-5777 / 3850 /  
8594 / 4673/ 7064/ 3003  
Fax: (58-212) 952-2408  
E-mail: [mexico@embamex.com.ve](mailto:mexico@embamex.com.ve)

Eduardo Baca Cuenca  
Minister  
Embassy of Mexico  
Calle Guaicaipuro con Avenida Principal  
de Las Mercedes  
Edificio FORUM, Piso 5  
Urbanización El Rosal  
Telephones: (58-212)952-5777 / 3850 /  
8594 / 4673/ 7064/ 3003  
Fax: (58-212)952-2408  
E-mail: [ebaca@embamex.com.ve](mailto:ebaca@embamex.com.ve)

Nayeli Damián Gutiérrez  
Third Secretary  
Embassy of Mexico  
Calle Guaicaipuro con Avenida Principal  
de Las Mercedes  
Edificio FORUM, Piso 5  
Urbanización El Rosal  
Telephones: (58-212)952-5777 / 3850 /  
8594 / 4673/ 7064/ 3003  
Fax: (58-212) 952-2408  
E-mail: [ndamian@embamex.com.ve](mailto:ndamian@embamex.com.ve)

### **NICARAGUA**

María Esperanza Acevedo Gutiérrez  
Vice-Minister of Finance and Public  
Credit of Nicaragua  
Avenida Bolívar frente a la Asamblea  
Nacional  
Managua, Nicaragua  
Telephone: (505) 222.7170  
E-mail: [maria.acevedo@mhcp.gob.ni](mailto:maria.acevedo@mhcp.gob.ni)

Uriel Perez Acuña  
General Director for Public Credit  
of the Ministry of Finance and Public  
Credit of Nicaragua  
Avenida Bolívar frente a la Asamblea  
Nacional  
Managua, Nicaragua  
Telephone: (505) 228-1136  
E-mail: [Uriel.Perez@mhcp.gob.ni](mailto:Uriel.Perez@mhcp.gob.ni)

Ramón Leets Castillo  
Ambassador  
Embassy of Nicaragua in Venezuela  
Qta. Doña Dilia, Av. El Paseo  
Urbanización Prados del Este  
Telephones: (58-212) 977-3270 / 3289  
Fax: (58-212) 977-3973  
E-mail: [moncholeets@msn.com](mailto:moncholeets@msn.com)

### **PANAMA**

Jaime G. Serrano  
Chargé d'Affaires  
Embassy of Panama in Venezuela  
Centro Profesional Eurobuilding  
Piso 8, Oficina 8-D  
Urbanización Chuao  
Telephones: (58-212) 992-9182 / 9093  
Fax: (58-212) 992-8421  
E-mail: [jaimeserrano46@hotmail.com](mailto:jaimeserrano46@hotmail.com)

**62**

Yolanda Alemán de Baccarani  
 Commercial Attaché  
 Embassy of Panama in Venezuela  
 Centro Profesional Eurobuilding  
 Piso 8, Oficina 8-D  
 Urbanización Chuao  
 Telephones: (58-212) 992-9182 / 9093  
 Fax: (58-212) 992-4819  
 E-mail: [aleman09@cantv.net](mailto:aleman09@cantv.net)

María Rosa Salazar  
 Cultural Attaché  
 Embassy of Panama in Venezuela  
 Centro Profesional Eurobuilding  
 Piso 8, Oficina 8-D  
 Urbanización Chuao  
 Telephones: (58-212) 992-9182 // 9093  
 Fax: (58-212) 992-8421

**PARAGUAY**

Federico A. González  
 Ambassador  
 Embassy of Paraguay in Venezuela  
 4ta. Avenida entre 7ma. y 8va.  
 Transversal  
 Qta. Helechales N° 4204  
 Urbanización Altamira  
 Telefax: (58-212) 263-2559 // 267-5543  
 E-mail: [embaparven@cantv.net](mailto:embaparven@cantv.net)

Roberto Recalde, Minister  
 Advisor  
 Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
 Palma y 14 de mayo  
 Telephone: (595-21) 443520  
 Fax: (595-21) 441115/ 493928  
 Asunción, Paraguay  
 E-mail: [rrecalde@mre.gov.py](mailto:rrecalde@mre.gov.py)  
 Web Site: [www.mre.gov.py](http://www.mre.gov.py)

Miguel Angel Romero Alvarez  
 Counsellor  
 Embassy of Paraguay in Venezuela  
 4ta. Avenida entre 7ma. y 8va.  
 Transversal  
 Qta. Helechales N° 4204  
 Urbanización Altamira  
 Telefax: (58-212) 263-2559 // 267-5543  
 E-mail: [embaparven@cantv.net](mailto:embaparven@cantv.net)  
[romero@mre.gov.py](mailto:romero@mre.gov.py)

**PERU**

Edwin Gutiérrez Padrón  
 Minister, Head of the Foreign Affairs  
 Ministry  
 Embassy of Peru in Venezuela  
 Av. San Juan Bosco con 2nda.  
 Transversal  
 Edificio San Juan, Piso 5, Urbanización  
 Altamira  
 Telephone: (58-212) 264-0868  
 Fax: (58-212) 265-7592  
 E-mail: [embaperu528@cantv.net](mailto:embaperu528@cantv.net)

**DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

Jaime Durán Hernando  
 Ambassador  
 Embassy of Dominican Republic  
 in Venezuela  
 Edificio Argentum - PB-1  
 2da. Transversal  
 Entre 1ra. Avenida y Avenida Andrés  
 Bello, Los Palos Grandes  
 Caracas  
 Telephones: (58-212) 283-9279 / 9524  
 Fax: (58-212) 283-3965

Juan Moreta  
 Counsellor Minister  
 Embassy of Dominican Republic  
 Edificio Argentum – PB -1  
 2da. Transversal, entre 1ra. Avenida y  
 Avenida Andrés Bello  
 Los Palos Grandes, Caracas  
 Telephones: (58-212) 283-9279 // 9524  
 E-mail: [moretaidol@hotmail.com](mailto:moretaidol@hotmail.com)  
[moretaidol@gmail.com](mailto:moretaidol@gmail.com)

Félix Amézquita  
 Counsellor Minister  
 Embassy of Dominican Republic  
 Edificio Argentum PB -1  
 2da. Transversal, entre 1ra. Avenida y  
 Avenida Andrés Bello, Los Palos Grandes  
 Caracas  
 Telephones: (58-212) 283-9279 // 9524

Eduardo Duarte  
Counsellor  
Embassy of Dominican Republic  
Edificio Argentum – PB -1  
2da. Transversal, entre 1ra. Avenida y  
Avenida Andrés Bello, Los Palos Grandes  
Caracas  
Telephones: (58-212) 283-9279 // 9524

### **SURINAME**

Samuel Pawironadi  
Ambassador  
4ta Avenida de Altamira,  
Entre 7ma y 8va Transversal, Quinta N° 41  
Urbanización Altamira  
Telephones: (58-212)261.2724 / 283.3428/  
263.1554  
Fax: 263.9006  
E-mail: [embsur1@cantv.net](mailto:embsur1@cantv.net)  
[embsur2@cantv.net](mailto:embsur2@cantv.net)

Fred M. Reid  
Counsellor  
Embassy of Suriname in Venezuela  
Telephones: (58-212) 261.2724 / 263.1554  
Fax: (58-212) 263.9006  
E-mail: [embsur1@cantv.net](mailto:embsur1@cantv.net)  
[embsur2@cantv.net](mailto:embsur2@cantv.net)

### **TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO**

Keith Kerwood  
Counsellor  
Embassy of Trinidad and Tobago  
3ra. Avenida Altamira Norte  
entre 6ta. y 7ma. Transversal  
Quinta "Poshika"  
Urbanización Altamira  
Telephone: (58-212) 261-3748/5145  
Fax: (58-212) 261-9801  
E-mail: [embassytt@cantv.net](mailto:embassytt@cantv.net)

### **URUGUAY**

Magdalena Germán Pereira  
Commercial Advisor  
Embassy of Uruguay  
Telephone: (58-212) 285.1648  
E-mail: [uruvene@cantv.net](mailto:uruvene@cantv.net)

### **VENEZUELA**

Ilenia Medina  
Counsellor Minister  
Coordinator of the Direction for Integral  
Cooperation, Economy  
and International Trade  
People's Ministry for Foreign Affairs  
Torre MRE  
Caracas, Venezuela  
Telephone: (58-212)- 8064585  
E-mail: [medinaile@yahoo.com](mailto:medinaile@yahoo.com)

Jorge Reyes  
Advisor  
People's Ministry for Foreign Affairs  
Torre MRE  
Caracas, Venezuela  
Telephone: (58-212)806.4585  
E-mail: [jarturoreyes@gmail.com](mailto:jarturoreyes@gmail.com)

Pedro Albarrán  
Coordinator of Foreign Affairs  
of the Office of the Vice Ministry  
for Multilateral, North and  
Latin America Affairs  
People's Ministry for Foreign Affairs  
Torre MRE  
Caracas, Venezuela

## ORGANIZATIONS PARTICIPATING WITH SPEAKERS

### Caribbean Development Bank

Denny Lewis-Bynoe  
 Director of the Economy Department  
 (a.i.)  
 Caribbean Development Bank (CDB)  
 St. Michel, Barbados, W.I.  
 Telephone: (246) 431.1745  
 Fax: (246) 426.7269  
 E-mail: [bynoed@caribank.org](mailto:bynoed@caribank.org)

Patrick Kendall, Economist  
 Research Economist  
 Caribbean Development Bank  
 Wildey, St. Michael, P.O.Box 408  
 St. Michel, Barbados, W.I.  
 Telephone: (246) 431.1918  
 Fax: (246) 426.7269  
 E-mail: [kendallp@caribank.org](mailto:kendallp@caribank.org)

### Andean Development Corporation (CAF)

Gabriel Duque  
 Deputy Director of Competitiveness  
 Programmes  
 Ave. Luis Roche, Torre CAF  
 Altamira  
 Caracas, Venezuela  
 Telephone: (58-212)209-6571  
 E-mail: [gduque@caf.com](mailto:gduque@caf.com)  
 Web Site: [www.caf.com](http://www.caf.com)

### CEMLA

Jaime O. Coronado  
 Coordinator of the Capacity Building  
 Programme for Analysis and Debt  
 Strategies  
 Centre for Latin American Monetary  
 Studies (CEMLA)  
 Durango 54, Colonia Roma,  
 06700 México D.F.  
 Telephone: (52-55) 5061.6692  
 Fax: (52-55) 5061.6694  
 E-mail: [jcoronadoq@cemla.org](mailto:jcoronadoq@cemla.org)  
 Web Site: [www.cemla.org](http://www.cemla.org)

### ECLAC

Daniel Titelman,  
 Chief of the Development Studies Unit  
 ECLAC  
 Telephone: (562) 2988344  
 Santiago, Chile  
 E-mail: [daniel.titelman@cepal.org](mailto:daniel.titelman@cepal.org)

### GROUP OF 24 (G-24)

Amar Bhattacharya,  
 Director of the Secretariat  
 of the Group of 24  
 Washington  
 Telephone: (1-202) 623.6065  
 Fax: (1-202) 623-6000  
 E-mail: [abhattacharya@g24.org](mailto:abhattacharya@g24.org)  
 Web Site: [www.24.org](http://www.24.org)

### Ministry of Finance of Venezuela

Economist Gustavo Hernández  
 Viceminister  
 People's Ministry of Finance  
 Caracas  
 Telephone: (58-212) 802.2105  
 E-mail: [karikris@gmail.com](mailto:karikris@gmail.com)

### UNCTAD

Alfredo Calcagno  
 Main Office for Economic Affairs  
 UNCTAD, United Nations  
 Palais des Nations, Office E-10.002  
 Geneva, Switzerland  
 Telephone: (4122)-9175401  
 E-mail: [alfredo.calcagno@unctad.org](mailto:alfredo.calcagno@unctad.org)  
 Web Site: [www.unctad.org](http://www.unctad.org)

## OBSERVERS

Ricardo Espina  
Official for Economic Affairs  
United Nations Department of Economic  
and Social Affairs (UN-DESA)  
1365 York Ave. Apto. 12-C  
New York, N.Y.  
Telephone: (1-917)367.5738  
Fax: (1-212) 963.0443  
E-mail: [espinar@un.org](mailto:espinar@un.org)  
[www.un.org/esa/ffd](http://www.un.org/esa/ffd)

### ORGANIZATIONS IN CARACAS

#### Central Bank of Venezuela (BCV)

José Ferrer Nava  
Acting President)  
Central Bank of Venezuela  
Telephones: (58-212) 801.5090/5018  
Fax: (58-212) 536.9252  
E-mail: [jferrer@bcv.org.ve](mailto:jferrer@bcv.org.ve)

José Felix Rivas Alvarado  
Director  
Central Bank of Venezuela  
Telephone: (58-212) 801.8747  
E-mail: [jorivas@bcv.org.ve](mailto:jorivas@bcv.org.ve)

Rubín Villavicencio  
International Relations Manager  
Central Bank of Venezuela  
Telephone: (58-212) 801.8635  
Fax: (58-212) 801.8714  
E-mail: [rvillavi@bcv.org.ve](mailto:rvillavi@bcv.org.ve)

Vladimir López Ríos  
Senior Economics Researcher  
Central Bank of Venezuela  
Telephone: (58-212)-8015211  
E-mail: [vlopez@bcv.org.ve](mailto:vlopez@bcv.org.ve)  
Web Site: [www.bcv.org.ve](http://www.bcv.org.ve)

Maria Bernadette Días  
Economics Researcher  
Central Bank of Venezuela  
Telephone: (58-212)-8015524  
E-mail: [mbdiaz@bcv.org.ve](mailto:mbdiaz@bcv.org.ve)

Victor A. Mejías H.  
International Affairs Analyst  
International Relations Management  
Central Bank of Venezuela  
Avenida Urdaneta, Torre BCV, Piso 19  
Telephone: (58-212)-8015661  
Fax: (58-212) 801 8714  
E-mail: [vmejias@bcv.org.ve](mailto:vmejias@bcv.org.ve)

María Eugenia Velásquez  
Coordinator of the Office  
for International Studies  
Central Bank of Venezuela  
Esquina de Carmelitas, Av. Urdaneta  
Telephone: (58-212)-8015780  
E-mail: [mavelasq@bcv.org.ve](mailto:mavelasq@bcv.org.ve)

Blas Regnault  
Office for Economic Research  
Central Bank of Venezuela  
Telephone: (58-212)-8015207  
E-mail: [bregnaul@bcv.org.ve](mailto:bregnaul@bcv.org.ve)

Javier Rylly  
Financial Analyst  
Central Bank of Venezuela  
Telephone: (58-212)-8015207  
E-mail: [jrilly@bcv.org.ve](mailto:jrilly@bcv.org.ve)

Jaime Luis Socas  
Technical Coordinator  
International Relations Management  
Central Bank of Venezuela  
Telephone: (58-212)-8018633  
Fax: (58-212) 801.8714  
E-mail: [jluis@bcv.org.ve](mailto:jluis@bcv.org.ve)

Orlando Cárdenas  
Official attached to the Department  
of International Liabilities  
Central Bank of Venezuela  
Esquina de Carmelitas, Torre financiera,  
Piso 8  
Telephone: (58-212)-8018265  
Fax: (58-212) 801.8488  
E-mail: [ocardenas@bcv.org.ve](mailto:ocardenas@bcv.org.ve)  
Web Site: [www.bcv.org.ve](http://www.bcv.org.ve)

**66****International Rural Housing Association (IRHA)**

Pola Ortiz  
 President  
 Avenida Libertador con Maripérez  
 Edificio Zulia, PB  
 Telephone: (58-212) 574-2586  
 Fax: (58-212) 576-1909  
 E-mail: [interrural@cantv.net](mailto:interrural@cantv.net)

**European Commission (EC)**

Heydee Márquez  
 Economic Advisor  
 Avenida Orinoco, Qta. Unión Europea,  
 Las Mercedes  
 Telephone: (58-212) 991.5133  
 Fax: (58-212) 993.5573  
 E-mail: [hmarques-zabala@ce.europa.eu](mailto:hmarques-zabala@ce.europa.eu)

**Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)**

Isabel Balcázar  
 Specialist in Policies and Trade  
 IICA in Venezuela  
 Centro Empresarial "Villasmil"  
 Piso 11, Oficina 1102  
 Parque Carabobo  
 Telephone: 571.8055 / 572.1243 / 572.0776  
 Fax: 576.3150 / 577.1356  
 E-mail: [ibalcazar@iica.int.ve](mailto:ibalcazar@iica.int.ve);  
[act@iica.int.ve](mailto:act@iica.int.ve);  
 Web Site: [www.iica.int.ve](http://www.iica.int.ve)

**Organization of American States (OAS)**

Salvador E. Rodezno Fuentes  
 Representative  
 Avenida Orinoco Sur  
 Edif. Arbicenter, piso 1, Oficinas 4 y5  
 Las Mercedes  
 Telephone: (58-212) 992.1422  
 Fax: (58-212) 992.1480  
 E-mail: [srodezno@oas.org](mailto:srodezno@oas.org)  
 Web Site: [www.oas.org](http://www.oas.org)

**United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)**

Francisco Roberto Arias Milla  
 Representative in Venezuela /  
 FAO Head of Mission  
 Av. Libertador entre Calle Elice y José  
 Félix Sosa  
 Edificio Nuevo Centro, Piso 3  
 Telephone: (58-212)201.9900/ 01 / 02  
 Fax: (58-212) 201.9908/ 09  
 E-mail: [francisco.ariasmillafao.org](mailto:francisco.ariasmillafao.org)

**Pan-American Health Organization / World Health Organization (PAHO / WHO)**

Renato Gusmão  
 Head of Mission  
 Pan-American Health Office  
 PAHO / WHO Representative for the  
 Netherlands Antilles, Aruba and  
 Venezuela  
 Avda. 6ª. Entre 5ª. y 6ª. Transversal N° 43  
 Urbanización Altamira  
 Caracas  
 Telephone: (58-212) 206-5022  
 Fax: (58-212) 261-6069  
 E-mail: [email@ven.ops-oms.org](mailto:email@ven.ops-oms.org)

**United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**

Luiza Carbalho  
 Deputy Resident Representative  
 United Nations Development Programme  
 Avda. Francisco de Miranda  
 Torre HP, Oficina 6-A  
 Urbanización Los Palos Grandes  
 Telephone: (58-212) 208.4444 (Exchange)  
 Fax: (58-212)263.8179 (Master)  
 E-mail: [luiza.carvalho@undp.org](mailto:luiza.carvalho@undp.org)  
 Web Site: [www.pnud.org.ve](http://www.pnud.org.ve)

### Permanent Secretariat of SELA

José Rivera Banuet  
Permanent Secretary  
Telephone: (58-212) 955.7101  
Fax: (58-212) 951.5292 / 6901  
E-mail: [jrivera@sela.org](mailto:jrivera@sela.org)

Antonio Romero  
Director for Integration and Cooperation  
Telephone: (58-212) 955.7115  
Fax: (58-212) 951.5292 / 6901  
E-mail: [aromero@sela.org](mailto:aromero@sela.org)

Saadia Sánchez  
Director of the Information and  
Knowledge Network  
Telephone: (58-212) 955.7110  
Fax: (58-212) 951.5292 / 6901  
E-mail: [ssanchez@sela.org](mailto:ssanchez@sela.org)

Carmen Gabriela Menéndez  
Coordinator of Relations with Member  
States  
Telephone: (58-212) 955.7114  
Fax: (58-212) 951.5292 / 6901  
E-mail: [cmenendez@sela.org](mailto:cmenendez@sela.org)

Telasco Pulgar  
Specialist in Studies and Proposals  
Telephone: (58-212) 955.7153  
Fax: (58-212) 951.5292 / 6901  
E-mail: [tpulgar@sela.org](mailto:tpulgar@sela.org)

Fernando Guglielmelli  
Head of the Office of the Permanent  
Secretary  
Telephone: (58-212) 955.7123  
Fax: (58-212) 951.5292 / 6901  
E-mail: [fguglielmelli@sela.org](mailto:fguglielmelli@sela.org)

Javier Gordon  
Relations Analyst  
Telephone: (58-212) 955.7137  
Fax: (58-212) 951.5292 / 6901  
E-mail: [jgordon@sela.org](mailto:jgordon@sela.org)

Francisco Ibarra  
Project Assistant  
Telephone: (58-212) 955.7141  
Fax: (58-212) 951.5292 / 6901  
E-mail: [fibarra@sela.org](mailto:fibarra@sela.org)

Zenaida Lugo  
Press Official  
Telephone: (58-212) 955.7143  
Fax: (58-212) 951.5292 / 6901  
E-mail: [zlugo@sela.org](mailto:zlugo@sela.org)

Lissette Carrillo  
Informatics and Technology Official  
Telephone: (58-212) 955.7125  
Fax: (58-212) 951.5292 / 6901  
E-mail: [lcarrillo@sela.org](mailto:lcarrillo@sela.org)

### SELA-IBERPYPME PROGRAMME

Gonzalo Capriles  
Coordinator  
Telephone: (58-212) 955.7108  
E-mail: [gcapriles@sela.org](mailto:gcapriles@sela.org)

Germán Caires  
Assistant  
Telephone: (58-212) 955.7146  
E-mail: [gcaires@sela.org](mailto:gcaires@sela.org)