



---

Sistema Económico  
Latinoamericano y del Caribe  
Latin American and Caribbean  
Economic System

---

Sistema Económico  
Latino-Americano e do Caribe  
Système Economique  
Latinoaméricain et Caribéen

---

# Draft Work Programme for the year 2011

*XXXVI Regular Meeting of the Latin American Council  
Caracas, Venezuela  
27 to 29 October 2010  
SP/CL/XXXVI.O/DT N° 4-10*

Copyright © SELA, October 2010. 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 [difusion@sela.org](mailto:difusion@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

## *FOREWORD*

<b>AREA I.</b>	<b>INTRA-REGIONAL RELATIONS: INTEGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT POLICES IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (LAC)</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>PROJECT I.1.</b>	<b>Support to Latin American and Caribbean integration. Deepening of coordination and convergence</b>	<b>3</b>
Activity I.1.1.	Permanent follow-up and analysis of the regional integration process	3
Activity I.1.2.	Inter-agency collaboration among Integration and Cooperation Secretariats of the region	5
Activity I.1.3.	Institutional architecture of integration	6
Activity I.1.4.	Regional Seminar: Trade Facilitation for Integration and Competitiveness of Latin America and the Caribbean	7
Activity I.1.5.	Regional Seminar: Physical Infrastructure for Integration and Competitiveness of Latin America and the Caribbean	9
<b>PROJECT I.2.</b>	<b>Integration and Convergence of Latin America and the Caribbean in the area of health</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>PROJECT I.3.</b>	<b>Knowledge and ICTs for development and integration in Latin America and the Caribbean</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>PROJECT I.4.</b>	<b>Development of a Regional Software Industry in Latin America and the Caribbean</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>PROJECT I.5.</b>	<b>Development of Foreign Trade Single Windows within the context of International Trade Facilitation and Cross-Border Paperless Trade</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>PROJECT I.6.</b>	<b>Forecasting analysis on long-term economic growth in Latin America and the Caribbean</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>AREA II.</b>	<b>ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>PROJECT II.1.</b>	<b>Strengthening economic and technical cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean</b>	<b>19</b>
Activity II.1.1.	XXII Meeting of International Cooperation Directors for Latin America and the Caribbean	20
Activity II.1.2.	Regional Workshop on Public Policies for Food Security in Latin America and the Caribbean	22
Activity II.1.3.	Regional Workshop on funds and instruments for financing South-South Cooperation projects in Latin America and the Caribbean	24
Activity II.1.4.	Regional Cooperation for Promotion and Development of the Creative Economy in Latin America and the Caribbean	26

<b>PROJECT II.2.</b>	<b>Technical assistance to contribute to economic and social development in LAC</b>	28
Activity II.2.1.	Meeting of SELA's Working Group on Trade and Competition	28
Activity II.2.2.	Contribution of the Private Sector to Disaster Risk Reduction. Opportunities for Cooperation available to Governments	29
Activity II.2.3.	UNCTAD face-to-face Training Course on the Legal Aspects of Electronic Commerce	31
Activity II.2.4.	Sustainable development in Latin America and the Caribbean: The role of territories and local governments	34
<b>PROJECT II.3.</b>	<b>Ibero-American Programme of Inter-Institutional Cooperation for the Development of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (IBERPYPME Programme)</b>	35
Activity II.3.1.	IBERPYPME Programme 2011	37
Activity II.3.2.	IBERPYPME-Caribbean Programme 2011	40
Activity II.3.3.	Tasks related to AECID's open and permanent call for cooperation projects (CAP)	41
<b>AREA III.</b>	<b>EXTRA-REGIONAL RELATIONS</b>	42
<b>PROJECT III.1.</b>	<b>The VI Bi-regional Summit of Madrid, the recessive dynamics in some European countries and prospects for the economic relations between LAC and the EU</b>	42
<b>PROJECT III.2.</b>	<b>Evolution and prospects of the Economic Relations between the United States and the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean</b>	43
<b>PROJECT III.3.</b>	<b>International trade, the multilateral trade system and development in Latin America and the Caribbean</b>	45
<b>PROJECT III.4.</b>	<b>Diversification of foreign economic relations of Latin America and the Caribbean</b>	46

---

**F O R E W O R D**

---

*This Draft Work Programme of the Permanent Secretariat for the year 2011 follows the guidelines set forth by the XXVIII Latin American Council in Decision N° 440, whereby the organization's activities are classified into three areas, namely: intra-regional relations, technical and economic cooperation and extra-regional relations.*

*In preparing this Draft Work Programme, the Permanent Secretariat conducted an analysis of the compliance with the objectives of the Work Programme for 2010, and included the proposals stemming from the conclusions and recommendations adopted by the Member States in the various activities and meetings conducted during the year. The Secretariat also took into account the opinions and proposals made by the representatives of the Member States during the process of permanent consultation on the work of the organization.*

*The activities of this Work Programme will be financed with resources from the regular budget of the Permanent Secretariat. They could also be financed with resources stemming from the payments of outstanding debts by the Member States, extra-budgetary income and cooperation resources from international and regional organizations.*

**AREA I. INTRA-REGIONAL RELATIONS: Integration and Development policies  
In Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC)**

**PROJECT I.1. Support to Latin American and Caribbean integration.  
Deepening of coordination and convergence**

The objectives of this project are:

1. To support efforts to accomplish the gradual coordination and convergence of the various integration processes existing in the region, pursuant to Article 5 of the Panama Convention.
2. To continue with a systematic analysis of the dynamics of regional integration, particularly of the factors directly affecting the level and quality of intra-regional economic and commercial relations.
3. To promote cooperation for integration, by supporting actions that lead to its consolidation, deepening and social projection.
4. To support the implementation of the Montego Bay Plan of Action, within the framework of the work of the Summit of Latin America and the Caribbean on Integration and Development (CALC).

These general objectives of the project will be accomplished by conducting the five key activities detailed below, as well as other support actions that the Member States of SELA might recommend during the year, or actions stemming from the recommendations made during other related activities foreseen in the Work Programme.

**Activity I.1.1 Permanent follow-up and analysis of the regional integration process**

**A. Background and justification**

The Permanent Secretariat of SELA has been conducting systematic analyses of the integration process in the region, covering its main aspects and inter-relations, based on the recommendations and requests of the Member States, official reports, statistics and studies prepared by the various integration and cooperation bodies in the region, the direct contacts established with them, as well as the reports released by specialized agencies.

Since the guidelines for the regional integration and cooperation processes are derived from consultation and coordination with the Heads of State and Government, the analysis of the direction and the implementation of the mandates issued by the Summit of Latin America and the Caribbean on Integration and Development (CALC) and other Presidential Summits also forms part of an updated vision of the regional integration process, which will be provided by the Permanent Secretariat of SELA to its Member States.

In this connection, it should be pointed out that the Permanent Secretariat keeps a database with information and analyses on trade and investment flows in the region. The creation of the Digital Information and Knowledge Centre (CEDIC-SELA) in 2006 – which is

## 4

regularly updated – has helped identify the main economic and commercial links existing among the countries of the region, which contributes to detecting critical factors for making progress in the process of convergence and coordination of regional integration.

Concerning the productive dimension of the regional integration process, it should be noted there are significant analytical and methodological limitations particularly in terms of intra-regional investment flows. There are serious difficulties in terms of consistency of information on these flows, which is essential for analysis and preparation of proposals aimed at strengthening regional integration.

### B. Objectives

1. To conduct a permanent analysis of the evolution of the integration process, with emphasis on the regional and subregional levels, while taking into account its multidimensional nature, in order to gain knowledge about its progress and the obstacles it faces.
2. To provide Member States with a timely vision of the progress made in the regional integration process, as well as an appraisal of the actual possibilities for coordination and convergence of the ongoing integration processes.
3. To conduct a permanent follow-up of the agreements and mandates stemming from the Summit of Latin America and the Caribbean on Integration and Development (CALC). Also, if necessary, to support the mandates and activities stemming from the various regional and subregional Summits, by keeping updated information on the subject at CEDIC-SELA, available to those Member States and regional and subregional organizations that may need it.
4. To conduct a Regional Meeting on productive integration, economic complementarity and intra-regional investments in Latin America and the Caribbean.
5. To systematically update the database on trade flows among the countries of the Caribbean, Central America and South America, within the context of CEDIC-SELA.

### C. Expected results

1. Submittal to the Member States of an Annual Report on the **Evolution of the Regional Integration Process**, which includes its status, progress and difficulties faced by the process in its various fields of action, namely: International context, institutional changes, international economic negotiations, trade in goods, trade in services, investments, financial and monetary cooperation, the problem of asymmetries and social dimension, covering CALC and the regional, subregional and plurilateral summits. In addition, the report should include the evolution of cooperation programmes to boost integration, in its various expressions and scopes, in areas such as food security, health, physical infrastructure, energy and environment, among others. The report could also include, in accordance with the technical requirements, contributions from experts of Latin American and Caribbean countries in specialized subjects.
2. Regular analyses of the main results of the CALC process and the regional and subregional summits that will be held from November 2010 to September 2011, making emphasis on an assessment of their impact on the regional integration process.
3. Publication of the monthly “Bulletin on Regional Integration” and of the fortnightly bulletin “Avances”, which provide summaries of the evolution of the integration and

cooperation process and the main activities carried out within the context of SELA and each regional and subregional integration scheme.

4. Conduction of a Regional Meeting on productive integration, economic complementarity and intra-regional investments in Latin America and the Caribbean.

5. Systematization of relevant and timely statistical information on regional integration by CEDIC-SELA, as well as permanent updating of the Database on Foreign Trade.

#### D. Activities and schedule

Activities	Dates
– Follow-up on the regional integration process	Permanent activity
– Preparation and convening of the Regional Meeting on productive integration, economic complementarity and intra-regional investments in Latin America and the Caribbean	March – May
– Holding of Regional Meeting	July
– Submittal of “Report on the Evolution of Regional Integration, 2010 – 2011”	October
– Bulletin on the evolution of regional integration	Monthly
– “Avances” Bulletin	Fortnightly
– Special reports on the CALC process and other summits on integration and cooperation	As convenient

#### Activity I.1.2 Inter-agency collaboration among Integration and Cooperation Secretariats of the region

##### A. Background and justification

The current situation and prospects of regional integration amid the new political and economic circumstances, as well as the role of SELA as an institution for inter-institutional consultation and cooperation, while avoiding duplication of efforts, substantiate the need to keep and promote collaboration among the Integration and Cooperation Secretariats in Latin America and the Caribbean.

This is in line with the mandates issued by the CALC – stemming from the Montego Bay Plan of Action (November 2009) and the Unity Summit held in Cancun (February 2010) – according to which it is necessary to intensify dialogue, interaction and synergies among the regional and subregional integration organizations in Latin America and the Caribbean, with the explicit purpose of deepening integration and speeding up development through the coordination of common and complementary projects.

In this connection, the meetings to be held by SELA, or those which might be organized in any other venues with the purpose of promoting inter-institutional cooperation, should include the Secretariats of the Association of Caribbean States (ACS), the Latin American Integration Association (ALADI), the Andean Community (CAN), the Central American Integration System (SICA), the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the Organization of

## 6

Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the Common Market of the South (MERCOSUR), the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR), the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of the Americas - Peoples' Trade Agreement (ALBA-TCP) and the Mesoamerica Project.

### B. Objective

The main objective of this activity is to strengthen a permanent inter-institutional coordination, synergies, cooperation, strategic alliances and dialogue, in order to support the corresponding integration processes, with the purpose of deepening their coordination and convergence through mutual collaboration actions among the various Secretariats.

### C. Expected results

Effective participation of all the aforementioned Secretariats – or some of them in accordance with the issues dealt with – in the meetings to be held by SELA, or vice versa, in order to exchange viewpoints on their corresponding work programmes, identify possible areas for coordination and cooperation, and make concrete proposals for actions to improve mutual collaboration.

### D. Activities and schedule

Activities	Dates
- Consultations and participation in inter-institutional coordination meetings	Permanent activity
- Preparation of documents on issues suggested in inter-institutional meetings or requested by Member States	As convenient

#### Activity I.1.3 Institutional architecture of integration

##### A. Background and justification

The important achievements and the new modalities adopted in the regional integration process, as well as the need to support the implementation of the Montego Bay Plan of Action within the framework of the CALC, pose specific demands to SELA and point to the advisability of conducting new analytical efforts in order to support the corresponding tasks concerning the institutional architecture of integration, and to provide the Member States with new elements for actions in their efforts to consolidate and deepen regional integration.

This is a permanent activity which must necessarily cover more than one Work Programme and should be carried out by the Permanent Secretariat in consultation and collaboration with the governments of the Member States and the organizations responsible for conducting the various regional and subregional integration processes.

##### B. Objectives

1. To conduct analyses on the current architecture of the institutional framework for regional integration, covering its new regional and subregional institutions, including cooperation agencies pursuing integration.

2. To carry out the studies and consultations required for the analysis and preparation of proposals related to the development of the institutional framework for regional integration, so as to meet the needs stemming from the current reality in line with the interests of the Member States.

### C. Expected results

1. A comprehensive study of the current architecture of the institutional framework for regional integration, including the evolution of the new regional and subregional organizations created in the last few years.

2. Formulation of proposals with a regional scope, that can be applied in the medium term, in order to support the progressive coordination and convergence of integration processes in the region.

3. Identification of possible modalities for action and new thematic areas that may enrich previous proposals in the area of the institutional framework for integration in Latin America and the Caribbean.

### D. Activities and schedule

This activity is conceived as a medium-term process. During 2011, the study will be conducted, new thematic areas will be defined and a Regional Meeting on the institutional architecture of integration will be held in Caracas, based on the aforementioned analytical study.

Activities	Dates
Study on the institutional architecture of regional integration	February – April
Regional Meeting on the institutional architecture of integration	May

#### Activity I.1.4 Regional Seminar: Trade Facilitation for Integration and Competitiveness of Latin America and the Caribbean

##### A. Background and justification

International studies indicate that Latin America and the Caribbean is lagging behind in terms of competitiveness, which limits its capacity as participant in global trade and destination of foreign investment. Whereas logistics costs – which are costs incurred in conducting the processes of distribution of goods and services from the production site to consumers – range from 9% to 10% of GDP in OECD countries, in the rest of Latin America and the Caribbean they are between 18% and 40%.<sup>1</sup>

The development of competition promotes economic growth and helps to reap the benefits derived from economies of scale and specialization. Therefore, the regional integration of physical infrastructure (transport, energy and communications sectors) and the complementary policies related to the development of logistics and trade facilitation are key factors for growth, increased well-being and for the creation of a broad regional economic space.

<sup>1</sup> WORLD BANK, IDB, ECLAC. Bridging integration gaps. Policy brief. Lima, Peru, 28 May 2010.

## 8

The importance of enhancing international competitiveness and reducing transaction costs and delays in international trade has lately encouraged a growing interest in Latin American and Caribbean countries for the development of tools for trade facilitation. Nevertheless, it is difficult to find comprehensive analyses on the status of competitiveness in LAC. Therefore, it is important to explore national, bilateral or subregional initiatives in order to expedite customs procedures for trade in goods and cross-border movement of vehicles and people, while maintaining the necessary security standards, and to promote cross-border trade and the insertion of the region into international trade.

### B. Objectives

Based on the integration goals of the Member States, the objectives of this activity are as follows:

1. To review the achievements and needs in the area of trade facilitation and logistics in the region's international position, by improving its competitiveness in accordance with international standards.
2. To propose lines of action with a regional scope aimed at boosting trade facilitation, as part of the efforts to promote integration and a better and more dynamic international insertion.

In this connection, the following issues are proposed for discussion:

- Foreign Trade Single Windows
- Digital Certificates of Origin
- Customs Procedures
- Recognition and Homologation of Sanitary and Technical Certificates
- Migration Procedures
- Temporary Transit Permits for Vehicles
- Security and Control Mechanisms
- Border Crossings
- Express Package Shipping
- International "Roaming"

### C. Expected results

1. A study on the current situation and prospects of the most important projects being carried out as regards Trade Facilitation.
2. Conduction of a Regional Seminar with representatives of Member States of SELA, specialized organizations and technical experts from the region.
3. Proposals for consideration of the Member States.

### D. Activities and schedule

Activities	Dates
Terms of reference and hiring of consultant	March - April
Preparation of the study	May - July
Convening of Regional Seminar	July
Conduction of Regional Seminar	August

### **Activity I.1.5      Regional Seminar: Physical Infrastructure for Integration and Competitiveness of Latin America and the Caribbean**

#### **A.    Background and justification**

Despite the economic resilience of Latin America and the Caribbean to the recent international crisis, the region is lagging behind in terms of competitiveness. This is partly due to the lack of progress in the areas of regional integration, infrastructure, logistics, education and technology.

However, there are some factors which suggest that the region could gain strength in terms of its intra-regional trade and its international insertion during the next ten years, e.i., from 2010 to 2020. Such factors are as follows:

- The completion of major works for physical integration (roads, ports, airports, power supply interconnection and digital communications, and border crossings) foreseen in the Mesoamerica and IIRSA projects, and other national projects being conducted by the countries in the region.
- The pending tariff reduction schedules, and those currently under negotiation among countries in the region, should be in effect by the year 2018.
- The gradual creation of a broad regional space in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- The continuously growing intra- and extra-regional investment flows targeted at all productive sectors, including telecommunications, energy, mining, food, construction, automotive, financial, health, tourism, logistics and transportation.
- The population growth, the expected improvements in average income, and greater social inclusion in the countries of the region.

According to ECLAC,<sup>2</sup> historically, “estimates for Latin America indicate greater growth in demand for transport infrastructure than in supply, because in terms of GDP, the total investment in transport has been halved over the past two decades, unlike other regions such as Asia”. However, the Mesoamerica and IIRSA projects, as well as many other national activities for development and improvement of physical infrastructure are intended to offset this trend to the greatest possible extent.

The weaknesses in the current transport infrastructure in the region pose significant challenges, such as the following:

- Coverage of the road network is 156 km per 1,000 km<sup>2</sup> in area, while the world average is 241 km.
- The proportion of paved roads (16%) is well below the global level (57%).
- Only 0.2% of intra-regional trade in South America is carried out by rail, while 40% is conducted by land.
- Customs delays for trade in goods increase transport costs between 4% and 12%.
- Geographical distance and poor road conditions increase transport costs between 8% and 19%.
- There are administrative limitations at border crossings as regards document processing, information management and control mechanisms.
- Maritime transport faces congestion problems, and requires adaptation to the expansion and deeper draft capacity of the Panama Canal and the development of regional short haul flights.

---

<sup>2</sup> FAL Bulletin, Facilitation of Trade and Transport in Latin America and the Caribbean. Edition No. 276, August 2009.

## 10

- Non-competitive conditions of air transport.
- Delays in regulations and promotion of multimodal transportation.

### B. Objectives

Based on the national and regional projects on physical infrastructure for competitiveness, the objective is to review the region's achievements and needs in the area of physical infrastructure development, in view of the plans of the authorities and international agencies in the area of the region's integration and international insertion during the next ten years. In this connection, it is necessary to find answers to the following questions:

- Are the Mesoamerica and IIRSA projects sufficient to cover Latin America's present and potential needs for the next 10 years?
- How do these projects relate with those concerning the Caribbean?
- Which activities should be carried out to link these schemes?
- What would be the requirements of Latin America and the Caribbean for development and convergence of the sectors of Transport, Power Supply Interconnection, Telecommunications and Digital Integration for the year 2020?

### C. Expected results

1. A study on the current situation and prospects of the most important projects being conducted in the region as regards physical infrastructure.
2. Conduction of a Regional Seminar with representatives in charge of planning in the Member States of SELA, specialized organizations and technical experts in the region.
3. Proposals to be submitted for consideration of the Member States.

### D. Activities and schedule

Activities	Dates
Terms of Reference and hiring of consultant	March – April
Preparation of the study	May – July
Convening the participating authorities and organizations	July
Regional Seminar	August

## PROJECT I.2. Integration and Convergence of Latin America and the Caribbean in the area of health

### A. Background and justification

It is necessary to strengthen regional integration and cooperation efforts in areas related to the reduction of poverty and social inequity, while ensuring that the social dimension is well coordinated with the other areas of domestic economic policy and foreign relations policy.

In line with this, the Latin American Council approved in 2008 the Regional Programme on the Social Dimension of Integration in LAC, and agreed that the Permanent Secretariat would organize and conduct systematic analyses, proposals and assessments of public policies for integration in specific areas of the social dimension of development,

highlighting among them those concerning the health sector. For this reason, the past Latin American Council adopted Decision No. 512, so that SELA – in cooperation with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) – conducts a medium-term project for regional integration and convergence in the health sector.

The general objective of this project is to contribute to reducing social inequity, by promoting initiatives for regional and subregional integration in order to improve access to health goods and high quality health services for the vast majority of the population.

In compliance with this mandate, the Permanent Secretariat prepared and distributed among its Member States and the various regional and subregional integration and cooperation organizations the study “Cooperation experiences in the health sector in Latin America and the Caribbean: Critical assessment and proposals for actions with a regional scope” (SP/RRC-ICSALC/DT No. 2-10), which provided the basis for discussions at the Regional Consultation Meeting on Integration and Convergence for Health in Latin America and the Caribbean” (Caracas, 22 and 23 July 2010).

As a result of this meeting, the delegates considered that the Permanent Secretariat should prepare a proposal with lines of action to contribute to strengthening the regional mechanisms of integration and cooperation in the health sector, focusing on the following issues: a) trade policies applied and trade policy commitments taken on within the context of the integration and cooperation processes in the area of health; b) rules and disciplines related to the protection of intellectual property rights and their link with regional integration and cooperation in the health sector; c) training of human resources for health and regional integration and cooperation; and d) information and communication technologies and cooperation and integration of LAC in the area of health.

As part of the mandate issued in Decision No. 512, which established the Programme “Integration and Convergence for Health in Latin America and the Caribbean” in 2010, the Permanent Secretariat will conduct three related activities. In addition to the II Regional Consultation Meeting described here, SELA will also carry out the II Seminar on “E-Health and Telemedicine: Realities and pending Challenges” (see Project I.3 of this Draft Work Programme) and the XXII Meeting of International Cooperation Directors for Latin America and the Caribbean, to be held in Panama City, whose central topic will be “Integration, Cooperation and Cooperation for Health in Latin America and the Caribbean” (see Activity II.1.1 of Project II.1 of the Work Programme).

## **B. Objectives**

The objectives of the specific activity foreseen in this project – the II Regional Consultation Meeting on Integration and Convergence for Health in Latin America and the Caribbean – would be as follows:

1. Discuss a consensus-based draft work programme with the various activities that could be conducted within the framework of SELA’s INCOSALC Project the medium term, based on the proposals made by the participants in the previous Regional Consultation Meeting on Integration and Convergence for Health in Latin America and the Caribbean (Caracas, 22 and 23 July 2010).
2. Conduct an analysis of the trade policies of the countries of the region in order to strengthen mutual cooperation in the area of health.

## 12

### C. Expected results

1. Preparation and distribution of the document summarizing the main ideas and possible medium-term actions of the INCOSALC Project, based on the proposals of the previous Regional Consultation Meeting, held in July 2010.
2. Discussion among representatives of the Member States and regional and subregional organizations specialized in the subject in order to exchange experiences as regards trade policies in the countries of the region and strengthen cooperation in the health sector.

### D. Activities and schedule

Activities	Dates
Preparation of document summarizing the proposals for specific actions of the INCOSALC Project	January - February
Consultations with Member States and specialized regional institutions	March
Organization and convening of the II Regional Consultation Meeting of the INCOSALC Project	April
Conduction of the II Regional Consultation Meeting	June

### Project I.3. Knowledge and ICTs for development and integration in Latin America and the Caribbean

#### A. Background and justification

At present, the economy and society itself are conceived in accordance with a new techno-economic and productive paradigm of "flexible networks", which are the central cohesive element of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs), with substantial impacts on the changes seen in different spheres of the socio-economic, cultural, political and communicational life of nations and peoples. Unquestionably, ICTs have an inexorable, cross-cutting effect on the social fabric at the global level. However, as in the case of globalization, the impacts of the incorporation of technologies into the productive and social processes are also characterized by deep inequities. For developing countries as a whole, the impacts of new technologies are distributed in an asymmetrical and fragmented way throughout the social fabric, thus deepening asymmetries within LAC and with respect to the rest of the world.

In view of the above, designing public policies to encourage innovation capabilities, the creation and transfer of knowledge, and the use of ICTs, as enabling technologies for such processes, is now recognized as a decisive factor for reducing poverty and a key factor for the economic and social development of nations with huge potentials, and for contributing to the regional integration processes.

Therefore, a proposal is made to create a strategic regional vision supported by coordinated actions among countries, aimed at outlining regional policies to effectively incorporate ICTs into productive and social processes, generating digital contents that reflect the region's traditional knowledge, creating and systematizing strategic information, promoting innovation as a highly relevant competitive factor, and fostering partnership, complementary integration, inter-operability and inter-activity on the basis of

shared standards within the context of digital integration, in order to contribute to social integration efforts in the region.

Over the last few years, the Permanent Secretariat has followed a working agenda of an operational, organizational and strategic nature within the framework of Information and Communication Technologies for Development (ICTfD). In this context, the Secretariat has further developed a comprehensive platform with relevant and strategic information. This was materialized in the newly designed Web site of the organization, which is easier to use, access and navigate. Its contents are regularly updated, with access to information about the strategic actions conducted by the Permanent Secretariat, thematic databases and observatories on topics related to the activities of the organization which are of great interest for the Member States, including the database on "Public Policies (programmes, projects and services) aimed at combating and reducing poverty in Latin America and the Caribbean" – which is truly unique in its kind – the Observatory of Regional Summits, as well as the databases on Public Policies for the promotion of SMEs and on Foreign Trade Flows, among others.

According to its strategic agenda, the Permanent Secretariat, in compliance with the mandates received, intends to continue and consolidate initiatives foreseen in the Work Programmes corresponding to previous years and undertake new actions concerning emerging issues in the area of ICTs for Development (ICTfD) in the region, as well as digital integration as the key component to support cooperation and integration processes.

## **B. Objectives**

1. Promote digital inclusion in LAC in key areas for the region's social and economic evolution, such as: e-Health and Telemedicine, production of interactive digital contents on the different technological platforms in new media and communication systems, promotion of cross-border paperless trade based on inter-operability and the use of appropriate judicial and legal standards and frameworks within the context of electronic governance, promotion of a regional software industry, and other key issues related to the incorporation of technology into productive and social processes.
2. Promote the optimization of processes of generation, retrieval and transfer of information that is relevant for the efforts to achieve social and economic development, social integration and regional cooperation.

## **C. Expected results**

1. Conduction of a technical meeting to discuss and build a regional dialogue on critical emerging issues relating to Telecommunications and Social Networks, their impact on the cultural and socio-economic development and their sustainability.
2. Conduction of a Training Workshop on Interactive Digital Contents that allows for using interactive tools within the context of social networks, in order to generate local contents in line with emerging technologies (Web 2.0) and digital convergence.
3. Conduction of a Regional Seminar to analyze the evolution and current status of e-Health and Telemedicine and its challenges ahead, within the framework of the Project "Integration and Convergence in Latin America and the Caribbean in the area of Health".
4. Design and implementation of value-added information products, such as Observatories and thematic databases in the areas of interest for Member States.

## 14

### D. Activities and schedule

The activities foreseen in this project are as follows:

1. Conduction of the III Forum: Trends in telecommunications and social networks: Impact on cultural and socio-economic development and their sustainability.
2. Conduction of the III Workshop: Interactive digital contents: Tools for interactivity and exchange in social networks as spaces for community rapprochement.
3. Conduction of the II Regional Seminar: E-Health and Telemedicine: Realities and pending Challenges.
4. Permanent updating of the database on "Public Policies (programmes, projects and services) aimed at combating and reducing poverty in Latin America and the Caribbean", as well as other databases that can be accessed through the organization's Web site: [www.sela.org](http://www.sela.org).
5. Permanent updating of the Observatory of Regional Summits.

Activities	Dates
Workshop on Interactive Digital Contents in LAC	June
II Technical Meeting on the Trends in telecommunications and social networks: Impact on cultural and socio-economic development and their sustainability	September
II Regional Seminar: E-Health and Telemedicine: Realities and pending Challenges	October

### PROJECT 1.4. Development of a Regional Software Industry in Latin America and the Caribbean

#### A. Background and justification

During the XXXIV and XXXV Regular Meetings of the Latin American Council, the Member States recommended the Permanent Secretariat to carry out actions aimed at developing a software industry with a regional scope, based on the potential complementarities in the production chain and the competitive advantages already achieved by several countries in the region, and to deal with the promotion of public policies and business strategies that allow this sector to introduce itself into international markets in a successful and steady manner.

The proposals to promote a regional software industry have been included into various scenarios, and form part of the goals of the Regional Action Plan eLAC 2010, under Chapter V, Productive Sector, as well as the objectives and recommendations of the First International Seminar on Software and Information Technology Services: Public policies and business strategies, held in Sao Paulo, Brazil, on 11 and 12 February 2010. This event was organized by the eLAC 2010 Working Group on Software and coordinated by the Department of Innovation of the Ministry of Development, Industry and Foreign Trade of Brazil, with the institutional support of the Permanent Secretariat. Similarly, the proposals are in line with the recommendations stemming from the "Regional Seminar on Networks and Digital Integration: Digital contents, applications and uses of ICTs in Latin America

and the Caribbean", held at the headquarters of the Permanent Secretariat of SELA on 27 and 28 October 2008.

Therefore, the Permanent Secretariat proposes to continue and strengthen the initiatives for the development of the Regional Software Industry in Latin America and the Caribbean, with emphasis, on the one hand, on the exchange of experiences and best practices in the area of public policies and business strategies in the software industry, in view of the emerging trends in innovation of products and services within this industry, and on the other hand, on capacity building as regards issues identified as being crucial for the development of this industry, such as quality certifications and improvement of software processes.

## **B. Objectives**

1. To gain knowledge about the experiences of those countries in the region with a significantly developed software industry, and identify possible areas for convergence through an exchange of information, analyses, experiences and best practices as regards the software industry in the region.
2. To spread information about the most relevant experiences and best practices at the regional level that may contribute to boost development of the software industry.
3. To provide support, through training activities, in order to build on institutional capacities of the Member States of SELA and the various existing integration and cooperation organizations of the region to improve software quality.

## **C. Expected results**

1. Conduction of the II Regional Seminar on the Development of the Software Industry in Latin America and the Caribbean, with the participation of public and private organizations, academic centres, research and development (R&D) institutions and key agencies, for an exchange of opinions and proposals as regards the software industry.
2. Conduction of the First Training Workshop aimed at public sector officials and SMEs of the Member States of SELA related to the design, implementation and quality management and evaluation of national programmes for the development of the software industry.

## **D. Activities and schedule**

The activities foreseen in this project are as follows:

1. Conduction of the II Regional Seminar on the Development of the Software Industry in Latin America and the Caribbean: Public policies and business strategies.
2. Conduction of the First Training Workshop for evaluation of software quality and improvement of processes.

Activities	Dates
First Training Workshop for evaluation of software quality and improvement of processes	March
II Regional Seminar on the Development of the Software Industry in Latin America and the Caribbean	September

**PROJECT I.5. Development of Foreign Trade Single Windows within the context of International Trade Facilitation and Cross-Border Paperless Trade**

**A. Background and justification**

The Permanent Secretariat is contributing to promote digital integration in the region emphasizing the importance of interoperability, as reflected in the harmonization of procedures, the compatibility of systems and formats in accordance with international standards of cross-border paperless trade, with a focus on the development of Foreign Trade Single Windows.

With this purpose, the “First Latin American and Caribbean Regional Meeting on Foreign Trade Single Windows” was held in Bogotá on 25 and 26 March 2010, organized with the support of the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Tourism of Colombia and the International Finance Corporation of the World Bank Group. The conclusions and recommendations of the meeting underscored that SELA, in synergy with other relevant organizations, should continue with the analytical efforts for regional coordination that started with this first meeting. A recommendation was made that “the Permanent Secretariat of SELA should support the initiatives aimed at strengthening the efforts to promote trade facilitation in each country of the region and particularly the processes related to the digitalization and coordination of the foreign trade procedures, making emphasis on the creation and consolidation of Foreign Trade Single Windows”. The conclusions also stressed that it is necessary to promote the legal framework that supports Foreign Trade Single Windows as well as the use of digital signatures, guarantees its sustainability and provides legal, technical and responsibility security to its users and promoters, in order to guarantee the authenticity of the attributes of the documents arising from the procedures being managed by the Single Windows, and in general any public and private matters achieving the level of functional equivalence of the signature written by hand in those processes where it is required.

It was also recommended that a model of electronic foreign trade should be promoted, which should form part of the electronic governance strategies of the States of the region, benefiting the countries so that they can effectively conduct trade operations in the complex international environments, and contributing to the reduction of intra-regional asymmetries.

From the perspective of digital integration within the framework of regional integration, it is clearly important to promote the exchange of knowledge about the requirements for the consolidation of interoperability mechanisms, and convergence of technologies and standards of Foreign Trade Single Windows, in order to achieve greater efficiency in technology transfer and more effective cooperation among the different applications to enable new services, thereby contributing to better e-governance and management, facilitation of intra- and inter-regional trade, and the construction of a regional

environment that facilitates the competitive insertion of Latin American countries into the global economy.

In view of the above, it has been considered of primary interest for the governments to contribute to the development and consolidation of Foreign Trade Single Windows and concomitant foreign trade procedures (e.g. digital signatures), as crucial tools for an effective, efficient, transparent and secure international trade and cross-border paperless trade in Latin America and the Caribbean.

## **B. Objectives**

1. Promote the exchange of information, analyses and discussions of internationally recognized best practices for Foreign Trade Single Windows, emphasizing those aspects that might contribute to improving Single Windows already established in project in the countries of the region.
2. Contribute to the gradual coordination of the various efforts underway at the regional level in Latin America and the Caribbean as regards the development of Foreign Trade Single Windows and digitalization of foreign trade procedures, in accordance with international standards for cross-border paperless trade facilitation in the countries of the region.
3. Suggest elements to reinforce the impact of the development of Foreign Trade Single Windows within the context of electronic business processes and facilitation of intra-regional trade and with other regions.

## **C. Expected results**

Based on the objectives stated above, the following results are expected from the initial phase of development:

1. A study on the development of Foreign Trade Single Windows and the digitization of foreign trade procedures in Latin America and the Caribbean, within the framework of a regional strategy: considerations and proposals.
2. A Regional Meeting on the development of Foreign Trade Single Windows to deal with the achievements and regional strategy, with the participation of representatives of Member States in Latin America and the Caribbean related to the design and implementation of Single Windows and the digitization of foreign trade procedures, as well as representatives of international organizations such as ECLAC, UN/CEFACT, IDB, CAF and others related to these processes.

## **D. Activities and schedule**

The activities foreseen in this project are as follows:

1. Preparation of the study on the "Development of Foreign Trade Single Windows and the digitization of foreign trade procedures in Latin America and the Caribbean, within the framework of a regional strategy: considerations and proposals".
2. Conduction of the III Latin American and Caribbean Regional Meeting on Foreign Trade Single Windows: Achievements and regional strategy.

## 18

Activities	Dates
Study: "Development of Foreign Trade Single Windows and the digitization of foreign trade procedures in Latin America and the Caribbean, within the framework of a regional strategy: considerations and proposals"	January-April
III Latin American and Caribbean Regional Meeting on Foreign Trade Single Windows: Achievements and regional strategy	May

**PROJECT I.6. Forecasting analysis on long-term economic growth in Latin America and the Caribbean**

**A. Background and justification**

Latin America and the Caribbean requires forecasting studies on its long-term economic growth which go beyond more common analyses and projections that focus almost exclusively on the temporary or short-term economic problems that the region has faced in recent times.

While such studies represent a major challenge in technical and intellectual terms, due to the changing situation of the regional and international economy, they are necessary in order to forecast economic and commercial scenarios that could turn out to be adverse for the region. Similarly, they are very useful for the design and implementation of strategies and policies for economic and social development, which are aimed at changing the structural trends that have characterized development in our region.

By forecasting these scenarios of economic growth in the medium and long term, countries can have an idea of the conditions that their economies will face in the years to come. Obviously, this type of research and intelligence analysis is particularly useful for public officials responsible for the design of policies and economic decision making, as well as international negotiators.

The current international economic crisis has shown that uncertainty has increased in the current environment, and that unforeseen events can have undesirable effects on the global economy. In view of this reality, the preparation of a regional forecasting of long-term economic growth can be very useful as a support to SELA's Member States.

**B. Objective**

The objective of this project is to submit to the Member States a regional forecasting analysis of the dynamics of economic growth in Latin America and the Caribbean, its links with global growth and with certain sectors, markets, regions and countries, particularly with the United States, China, India and the European Union. This is essential for making progress towards the creation of development models to ensure economic growth, social inclusion and environmental sustainability.

**C. Expected results**

1. A study containing the methodological bases, analysis structure, projections and results for the region, which will be submitted for consideration of a group of renowned Latin

American and Caribbean experts from universities, academic centres and economic forecasting research institutes, as well as regional and investment banks.

2. A Meeting of Experts in Economic Forecasting from Latin America and the Caribbean.

#### D. Activities and schedule

Activities	Dates
Identification of experts	January - February
Selection of consultant or consulting firm to be in charge of preparing the study for the Meeting of Experts	Late February
Convening and conduction of the Meeting of Experts on Economic Forecasting for Latin America and the Caribbean	September

## AREA II. ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION

### PROJECT II.1. Strengthening economic and technical cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean

The Project "Strengthening economic and technical cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean" has the following fundamental objectives:

- To encourage reflection among the Member States with a view to identifying common interests in the area of international cooperation for sustainable development.
- To promote joint initiatives and activities in the area of international cooperation among Latin American and Caribbean countries.
- To foster a permanent dialogue among the various national officials in charge of international cooperation in the Member States of SELA and their extra-regional counterparts.
- To promote possible actions for South-South Cooperation between Latin America and the Caribbean and other regions, such as Africa and Asia.
- To support technical update and specialized training in the area of international cooperation for regional integration and sustainable development.
- To support Member States in the implementation and follow-up of the commitments entered into at the various regional forums and summits, related to the main issues on the Latin American and Caribbean agenda in fields of competence for international cooperation.

Even though activities in the area of regional cooperation have been carried out within the framework of SELA since its inception in 1975, it was in 1987 when the organization began to hold the meetings of International Cooperation Directors for Latin America and

## 20

the Caribbean, with the purpose of addressing the complex subject of economic and technical cooperation among developing countries (Horizontal Cooperation – South-South Cooperation) and the potential that such type of cooperation holds for Latin American and Caribbean countries.

In its capacity as the regional focal point for international cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Permanent Secretary has promoted and strengthened these annual meetings, which discuss a variety of issues and sectors in the area of international cooperation and South-South Cooperation.

### **Activity II.1.1      XXII Meeting of International Cooperation Directors for Latin America and the Caribbean**

#### **A.    Background and justification**

The "XXI Meeting of International Cooperation Directors for Latin America and the Caribbean", whose central topic was "International cooperation to support micro, small and medium-sized enterprises in Latin America and the Caribbean", was held in Paramaribo, Suriname, on 29 and 30 July. This meeting was organized by the Permanent Secretariat and the Government of Suriname, through the Ministry of Planning and Development Cooperation.

During this regional meeting, the Government of Panama, through the Ministry of Economy and Finance, offered to host the "XXII Meeting of International Cooperation Directors for Latin America and the Caribbean", whose central topic would be "Cooperation, integration and convergence in the health sector in Latin America and the Caribbean".

There is no doubt that cooperation in the area of health has become particularly relevant for the countries of the region, since this sector has been given priority on the social agenda of all the governments in the region, as ratified on numerous occasions by the Heads of State and Government of the region.

The Permanent Secretariat began to analyze this issue in the "Regional Consultation Meeting: Integration and Convergence for Health in Latin America and the Caribbean", which took place in Caracas on 22 and 23 July 2010. On that occasion, the Permanent Secretariat prepared a base document titled Cooperation experiences in the health sector in Latin America and the Caribbean: Critical assessment and proposals for actions with a regional scope" (SP/RRC-ICSALC/DT No 2-10).

These activities in the area of cooperation, integration and convergence in the health sector were foreseen in Decision 512 "Integration and Convergence for Health in Latin America and the Caribbean (INCOSALC)", which was adopted by the Latin American Council during its XXXV Regular Meeting, held from 27 to 29 October 2009. They are being conducted in coordination with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO).

It should be noted that in order to ensure additional resources required for conducting the "XXII Meeting of International Cooperation Directors for Latin America and the Caribbean", the Permanent Secretariat submitted for consideration of the Perez-Guerrero Trust Fund (PGTF) the Project "Cooperation, integration and convergence for Health in Latin America and the Caribbean", which is being evaluated for possible implementation in the year 2011.

Finally, it should also be mentioned that the Government of Belize offered to host the XXIII Meeting of International Cooperation Directors for Latin America and the Caribbean in the year 2012.

## **B. Objectives**

The general objectives of the Meeting of International Cooperation Directors for Latin America and the Caribbean are as follows:

1. Provide an overview of the policies and initiatives underway in the countries of the region in areas related to the health sector and the role that the regional and subregional integration mechanisms are playing in strengthening such cooperation.
2. Systematize and spread information about specific cases of cooperation in the health sector underway inside and outside the region.
3. Identify and exchange information about the triangulation opportunities offered by bilateral and multilateral development agencies for South-South Cooperation in the health sector.
4. Promote the exchange of offers and demands for cooperation in the health sector among participants in the meeting.

## **C. Expected results**

The expected results from the meeting are as follows:

1. A study on the main initiatives as regards international cooperation and South-South Cooperation being conducted in the region, both by countries and by regional and international agencies, particularly by the subregional institutions specialized in the area of health.
2. Exchange of offers and demands as regards South-South Cooperation and possibilities for triangulation with bilateral and multilateral agencies for development of the health sector.

## **D. Activities and schedule**

Participants in the XXII Meeting of International Cooperation Directors for Latin America and the Caribbean will include officials in charge of international cooperation in the Member States of SELA, officials in charge of foreign cooperation in the ministries of health, representatives of regional and international organizations as well as bilateral and multilateral development agencies, experts, academicians and other cooperation partners. Participants will also include representatives of regional and subregional institutions specialized in health issues.

Activities	Dates
Preparation of a study on the main international cooperation initiatives and South-South Cooperation	May
Convening of the XXII Meeting of International Cooperation Directors for Latin America and the Caribbean	June
Conduction of the XXII Meeting of International Cooperation Directors for Latin America and the Caribbean	September

### **Activity II.1.2. Regional Workshop on Public Policies for Food Security in Latin America and the Caribbean**

#### **A. Background and justification**

In its XXXIV Regular Meeting, held from 25 to 27 November 2008 in Caracas, the Latin American Council adopted Decision No. 495 on the "Regional Cooperation Programme on Food Security in Latin America and the Caribbean", to be implemented during the period 2009-2011.

In implementing this Programme, on 30 May 2008, the Secretariat convened the "Regional High-Level Meeting on Food Security in Latin America and the Caribbean" to analyze the depth, magnitude and impact of the world food crisis as a result of the increase in food prices in the countries of the region. On that occasion, the Permanent Secretariat submitted the document titled "The increase in food prices: SELA's response" (SP/RRAN-SAALC/DT No 2 - 08), which served as the basis for the debates that took place in that regional meeting.

During the debates, participants underscored the need to strengthen various aspects of public policies on agriculture and food security in Latin America and the Caribbean.

In addition, the representatives of the Member States recommended the Permanent Secretariat to organize and convene a meeting to follow up the "High-Level Conference on World Food Security: Challenges posed by Climate Change and Bioenergy", held by FAO in Rome (3 to 5 June 2008), in order to analyze its results and make strides with the regional strategy on this issue.

Thus, the "Regional Meeting on the Challenges of the adverse international economic situation for Latin America and the Caribbean" was held in Caracas on 30 October 2008. On that occasion, the Permanent Secretariat prepared the studies titled "The increase in food prices; Follow-up to the FAO High-Level Conference on World Food Security, Rome 3 to 5 June 2008" (SP/RRLDAEEI-ALC/DT. No. 2 - 08), and "The financial crisis of 2008: SELA's analysis and proposals" (SP/RRLDAEEI-ALC/DT. No. 3 - 08).

In compliance with the Regional Cooperation Programme on Food Security in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Permanent Secretariat, in conjunction with the Interamerican Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), held in Caracas, on 17 and 18 September 2009, the "Meeting for Consultation and Coordination on Food Prices and Food Security in Latin America and the Caribbean". On that occasion, the Permanent Secretariat prepared and distributed the document entitled "Food Crisis in Latin America

and the Caribbean. Proposal for action at regional level" (SP/RCC-PAYSAALC/DT N° 2-09).

On that occasion, the participating Member States reaffirmed the need to coordinate the development of horizontal cooperation actions in Latin America and the Caribbean on public policies and food security policies, following a multidimensional approach and in coordination with regional institutions specializing in this subject, particularly with FAO, IICA and WFP and other international organizations, cooperation agencies and regional and subregional integration groups.

In order to maintain a permanent follow-up of this issue of great significance and impact for the region, during the second half of 2010 the Permanent Secretariat conducted a study on "Food Security and Food Prices in Latin America and the Caribbean: Current Situation and Prospects"(SP/CL/XXXVI.O/Di No. 11-10), which was distributed among Member States.

The issue of food security in Latin America and the Caribbean remains a priority on the countries' national agendas. According to FAO, by 2010, the estimated number of people suffering hunger in the world amounts to 925 million. This represents a 9.6% decrease compared to 2009. Such decline is mainly due to the renewed economic growth experienced by the major economies since the second half of 2009 and the fall in food prices since mid-2008. However, the recent increase in food prices, caused by excessive international liquidity resulting from lower interest rates, higher oil and fertilizer prices, adverse climate conditions and specific natural disasters, among others, may represent major obstacles in achieving the objective of reducing hunger.

Even though Latin America enjoys a surplus in food production, as it produces 60% more of the foodstuff it needs (with the exception of the Caribbean), at present 53 million people in Latin America and the Caribbean suffer from hunger.

These figures confirm that the problem in the region is not food production, but access to foodstuff. For this reason, in order to move towards food security in LAC, it is necessary to design effective and efficient public policies aimed at strengthening food security, in the broadest possible sense, as well as specific policies to combat poverty and hunger, through social policies specifically targeted at solving this complex regional problem. They should be well articulated with the implemented action programmes for coordination to promote cooperation and regional integration in this area.

## **B. Objectives**

The fundamental objectives of this meeting are as follows:

1. Promote an exchange of experiences and best practices among government officials responsible for public policy making in the field of food security in Latin America and the Caribbean.
2. Evaluate and define proposals and recommendations as regards public policies for development and strengthening of regional food security.
3. Identify actions for cooperation, coordination and consultation to be undertaken at the regional and subregional levels, so as to strengthen and promote cooperation and South-South Cooperation in the area of food security among the countries of LAC.

## 24

4. Propose possible actions to be undertaken by Latin American and Caribbean countries, specialized international and regional organizations and the rest of the international community in order to effectively address food insecurity, and to comply with the recommendations stemming from the conclusions and recommendations adopted by the Member States at regional meetings on food security.

### C. Expected results

1. An updated analysis of food security problems in Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as the social policies to fight hunger and poverty in Latin America and the Caribbean, from the regional perspective.
2. Conduction of the Regional Workshop on Public Policies for Food Security in Latin America and the Caribbean.
3. Preparation of proposal for actions in the area of international cooperation and South-South Cooperation aimed at strengthening food security in the region.

### D. Activities and schedule

The Regional Workshop would be held by the end of the first half of 2011. Participants would include officials of the Member States in charge or defining public policies in the area of food security, as well as subregional, regional and international organizations specialized in the subject.

Activities	Dates
Preparation of a study on the current situation of food security in Latin America and the Caribbean	March
Convening of the Regional Workshop on Public Policies for Food Security in Latin America and the Caribbean	March
Conduction of the Regional Workshop	July

### Activity II. 1. 3. Regional Workshop on funds and instruments for financing South-South Cooperation projects in Latin America and the Caribbean

#### A. Background and justification

South-South Cooperation has experienced a boom in recent years, as a result of the top priority it has been attached in the national agendas for international cooperation and in the foreign policies of developing countries, particularly the Member States of SELA.

Since the United Nations Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (TCDC) was held in Argentina in 1978 – which adopted the Buenos Aires Plan of Action (BAPA) that created a global framework for the development and strengthening of South-South Cooperation – numerous specialized meetings to review and update the guidelines for this type of cooperation have been held over the years.

Special mention must be made of the First and Second Summits of the South, held in Havana (April 2000) and Doha (June 2005), respectively, which underscored the advisability of continuing to strengthen the institutional framework for South-South

Cooperation, particularly for the definition, monitoring, evaluation and control of projects and for improving the financial mechanisms to implement cooperation activities.

The efforts to promote and strengthen South-South Cooperation are carried out in different areas, not only within the framework of the United Nations through the High Level Meetings on South-South Cooperation, but also within the Non-Aligned Movement, the Group of 77, at the Meetings of International Cooperation Directors for Latin America and the Caribbean that have been held within the context of SELA for 23 years now, the Conferences of Middle-Income Countries, the Ibero-American Summits, and the Presidential Summits of regional and subregional integration schemes and, more recently, the OECD, with the creation of the Technical Group on South-South Cooperation.

Despite the huge coordination and collaboration efforts that have been carried out over time, there is still a long way to go in order to guarantee the necessary funding to promote effective actions and projects through South-South Cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean. Hence the importance of this activity, which is aimed at systematizing the various instruments and mechanisms available to Latin America and the Caribbean for funding and developing South-South Cooperation.

The conduction of this initiative is in line with the recommendations made by the representatives of the Member States, as adopted by the XXI Meeting of International Cooperation Directors for Latin America and the Caribbean, held on 29 and 30 July 2010 in Paramaribo, Suriname.

## **B. Objectives**

The general objectives of this project are as follows:

1. Hold a meeting with experts on South-South Cooperation from the international cooperation directions and agencies of Member States in order to discuss the opportunities and prospects of financial mechanisms and projects of this type of cooperation, as well as policy recommendations for strengthening the modality of triangular cooperation in the countries of the region.
2. Systematize the information about the various funds, mechanisms and instruments to finance South-South Cooperation projects among countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, including bilateral, inter-subregional, regional and triangular cooperation.

## **C. Expected results**

1. Assessment of the status and prospects for the financing of South-South Cooperation and the most relevant projects of this type of cooperation among the countries of the region.
2. Drafting of policy recommendations for strengthening South-South Cooperation, which could be considered and implemented by the authorities, organizations and institutions working in the area of international cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean.
3. Creation of a manual with systematized information about sources for South-South Cooperation for the countries of LAC.

## 26

**D. Activities and schedule**

1. Identify officials specialized in South-South Cooperation in the international cooperation agencies and directions of the Member States of SELA, as well as representatives of regional and international organizations specialized in the subject.
2. Select the consultant to be in charge of preparing the assessment of the status of the financing of South-South cooperation in LAC and its main projects, as well as the systematization of the various funds, mechanisms and instruments for financing South-South Cooperation initiatives among the countries of the region.
3. Convening and conduction of a Regional Meeting on South-South Cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean (April 2011).

Activities	Dates
Preparation of the study on the status of financing of South-South Cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean, systematization of the various funds, mechanisms and instruments	November 2010
Convening of a Regional Workshop on Funds and Instruments for financing South-South Cooperation projects in Latin America and the Caribbean	January
Conduction of the Regional Workshop	March

**Activity II. 1. 4. Regional Cooperation for Promotion and Development of the Creative Economy in Latin America and the Caribbean**

**A. Background and justification**

The Creative Economy, which is based on the Cultural and Creative Industries, includes a number of economic and social sectors that generate goods and services which are usually regulated by cultural policies. This category includes visual and scenic arts, literature, music, films, cultural heritage and, more recently, mass communication media. Other activities have been added to this category, such as advertising, architecture, crafts, design, fashion, video, interactive entertainment software, music interpretation and performing arts, photography, informatics services and sports. All of these activities have two common characteristics: Their intangible nature and the fact that they are knowledge-based and labour-intensive in their production process.

According to the World Bank, in 2003 creative industries accounted for 7 percent of the world gross domestic product, which in Latin America was tantamount to 3 percent, except for Brazil, where it represented 5 percent. Similarly, the world market value climbed from US\$ 831 billion in 2000 to US\$ 1.3 trillion in 2005, with an annual growth rate at 10 percent. According to UNCTAD, the creative economy holds the potential for developing countries to transform untapped creative resources into factors for growth and well-being for their people, by linking business, culture and Information and Communication Technologies, while improving institutional conditions for actors involved in public policy, as well as productive capacity.

Globalization and connectivity are benefiting the creative industries of developing and developed countries. Therefore, creative industries amount to an important engine that

drives development and generates added value in developing economies. Moreover, they are vital in preserving national identity, social cohesion and the sense of belonging.

This sector creates sustainable jobs, where skilled labour is used, local knowledge is taken advantage of, and positive external opportunities are generated, such as the case of crafts, gastronomy, folklore, cultural and religious tourism and sports.

In the national cultural plans of various countries in the region and in the integration agreements, policies are being adopted for the development of Cultural and Creative Industries, which can be categorized within the concept of Creative Economy. There are numerous strategies to encourage the publishing industry, design, film and television, theatre festivals, multi, multi-destination tourism, and cooperation exchange in high-performance sports, music promotion, and development of culture and crafts in LAC.

Concerning regional actions, mention can be made of the Cultural Integration Protocol of MERCOSUR, the Regional Agreement on Cultural Assets of ALADI, the Cultural Fund of the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of the Americas (ALBA), the Andrés Bello Economy and Culture Project, the meetings of Ministers of Culture of Latin America and the Caribbean, and the subregional programmes of Culture of the Andean Community and MERCOSUR.

As of the UNCTAD XI (2004), this body develops permanent activities in the field of Creative Economy, particularly to support some African countries. Additionally, the E-Commerce programmes of UNCTAD and ECLAC are assessing the use of digital and Internet Technologies for the development of Creative Industries.

## **B. Objectives**

1. To assess the economic, social and cultural importance of the Creative Economy and its most representative subsectors in Latin American and Caribbean countries.
2. Review government policies, international agreements and the regional integration agreements related to the promotion and development of the Creative Economy in LAC.
3. Study the cooperation requirements for promotion and development of the Creative Economy in LAC countries, including the training needs for institutional capacity building and improvement of the production capacity of operators of selected productive chains.

## **C. Expected results**

1. Two studies on the Creative Economy in Latin America and the Caribbean. The first one will deal with national and subregional policies and the international framework to promote the Creative Economy in Latin America and the Caribbean. The second one will focus on the corporate features of representative sectors in LAC, the possibilities to develop business and productive chains in the region and the role of creative cities in developing this process. Identification of the elements that may be included in a Regional Programme for Consultation and Cooperation in this sector within the framework of SELA.
2. Organization of a Regional Seminar of Experts to conduct the following activities: i) Review and comment on the studies commissioned ii) exchange of experiences among SELA member States and international and regional organizations as regards the policies for promotion and development of the Creative Economy and iii) discussion of proposals for the creation of a Regional Programme for Cooperation and Development of the Creative Economy in Latin America and the Caribbean.

## 28

**D. Activities and schedule**

Activities	Dates
Preparation of two analytical documents	March - May
Organization and convening of the Regional Seminar	June
Conduction of the Regional Seminar	July

**PROJECT II.2. Technical assistance to contribute to economic and social development in LAC****Activity II.2.1. Meeting of SELA's Working Group on Trade and Competition****A. Background and justification**

The II Regional Seminar UNCTAD-SELA on Trade and Competition and Preparatory Meeting for the VI United Nations Conference to Review All Aspects of the Set of Principles and Rules on Competition took place from 26 to 28 May 2010 in Brasilia. The event was jointly organized by UNCTAD and SELA, with the support of the Ministry of Industry, Tourism and Trade of the Kingdom of Spain, as a follow up of the Work Programme agreed between both organizations within the framework of the I Regional Seminar on Trade and Competition, held in Caracas, Venezuela, on 20 and 21 April 2009.

Participants in this Second Regional Seminar welcomed the proposal to create a SELA Working Group on Trade and Competition, which would be tantamount to the institutionalization of the Regional Seminar, with a programme of long-term activities adjusted to the evolution of the economies and the regional integration process in Latin America and the Caribbean. The creation of the Working Group is intended to channel greater international cooperation into the region, foster dialogue and mutual assistance within the region, strengthen dialogue between trade and competition authorities, and promote regional consultation and coordination vis-à-vis international forums on trade and development. This proposal will be submitted for approval by the XXVI Latin American Council.

UNCTAD and SELA will provide the necessary technical support for the organization and conduction of the activities determined by the Working Group. The initial activities will be established by the Group during its first session, based on the guidelines adopted by the Latin American Council. To this end, UNCTAD and SELA will prepare a draft agenda, which will be consulted with trade and competition authorities.

To this end, the authorities recommended to maintain and intensify cooperation between UNCTAD and SELA, which has the financial support of the Kingdom of Spain. In this connection, they reiterated the interest and validity of the UNCTAD-SELA Cooperation Programme 2009-2012, adopted during the First Regional Seminar. Concerning the Programme of Activity of the Working Group, a recommendation was made to study the possibility of organizing online courses on trade and competition, including the services sector, as well as a regional workshop on the implementation of Section F of the United Nations Set of Principles on Competition, and to conduct an analysis of cross-border practices.

A proposal was made to conduct this First Meeting of the Working Group within the framework of the UNCTAD's Regional Meeting of the Programme on Competition Policies and Consumer Protection for Latin America (COMPAL Programme) in March 2011.

Invitations to this meeting will be extended to trade and competition authorities of Latin American and Caribbean countries, as well as representatives of integration organizations of the region.

#### **B. Objectives**

1. Analyze the key elements for Regional Convergence in Competition Policy and Consumer Protection, in accordance with the objectives set forth by the integration processes underway in Latin America and the Caribbean.
2. Formally establish the SELA Working Group on Trade and Competition.
3. Discuss and approve the Programme of Activities of the SELA Working Group.

#### **C. Expected results**

1. Creation of the SELA Working Group on Trade and Competition.
2. Discussion of the elements to be included in a programme for convergence of competitions policies in LAC.
3. Adoption of a regional Work Programme on trade and competition, with the support of UNCTAD and other organizations and international cooperation sources.

#### **D. Activities and schedule**

<b>Activities</b>	<b>Dates</b>
Convening of Participants	January
Regional Seminar	March

### **Activity II.2.2. Contribution of the Private Sector to Disaster Risk Reduction. Opportunities for Cooperation available to Governments**

#### **A. Background and justification**

Within the framework of the Ibero-American Summits and in the Summits of the Rio Group, as well as in those meetings of Latin American and Caribbean institutions specialized in the issue of disaster risk reduction, specific mandates have been issued to analyze and assess Ibero-American, Latin American and Caribbean mechanisms to respond to emergencies derived from natural disasters, in order to improve them, and bearing in mind the increased vulnerability of our countries and the impact of climate change.

Analysis of this issue began in 2008 with the "Meeting on Mechanisms to respond to Emergencies derived from Natural Disasters", carried out in Mexico City on 24 and 25 September 2008, under the auspices of the Ibero-American General Secretariat (SEGIB) and the Secretariat of Foreign Affairs of Mexico. Later on, in order to deepen the exchange of ideas on this complex issue, two Seminars on Mechanisms to respond to Natural Disasters were scheduled for 2009: the first one to analyze the experiences in the Andean region and the Southern Cone (3 and 4 September 2009, Caracas), and the second one to evaluate the experiences of Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean (15 and 16 October 2009, Panama City). Both seminars were organized by the Permanent Secretariat of the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA), the

## 30

Government of Mexico through the Secretariat of Foreign Affairs and the Secretariat of Governance, and the Ibero-American General Secretariat (SEGIB), with the collaboration of the Spanish Agency of International Cooperation for Development (AECID).

The objective of these Seminars was to continue with the process of reflection as regards the possibility of establishing a simplified regional mechanism to respond to emergencies derived from natural disasters and to define a regional strategy to deal with such situations.

Following up on these initiatives, on 7 June 2010, the "Meeting of the Working Group on an improved proposal to develop a simplified mechanism for disaster risk management and reduction in Latin America and the Caribbean" was held in the headquarters of the Mexican Secretariat of Foreign Affairs, organized by the Government of Mexico, through that Secretariat and the Secretariat of Governance, the Permanent Secretariat of SELA and the Ibero-American Cooperation Secretariat.

As a result of that meeting, the "Technical Advisory Group<sup>3</sup> for the Establishment of a Regional Simplified Mechanism for Emergency Natural Disaster Response" was formally created. Coordinated by the Government of Mexico, the Group will have the responsibility of developing a proposal for a simplified mechanism that will take into consideration the achievements in the regional and subregional institutions specialized in this subject.

As a complement to these activities, the Permanent Secretary has deemed it advisable to identify and analyze the contributions made by the private sector to disaster risk reduction, and the various mechanisms that it is able to activate in case of emergencies resulting from natural disasters, which can be made available to the governments in the region in joint cooperation efforts for emergency response.

The private sector has been making significant contributions to support government actions when responding to emergencies in disaster situations. However, information about such contributions has not been sufficient or systematic. Therefore, not all national systems for disaster risk reduction and national civil defence and protection agencies are aware or convinced of the enormous potential for assistance and cooperation that the private sector can have during an emergency, particularly as regards contributions for the provision of communications and telecommunications, information technologies, energy, water, food and medicine, transportation and provision of machinery and equipment.

With the purpose of helping the governments of the region to confront the huge challenges that arise during and after a disaster, this activity seeks to highlight the initiatives and the potential of the private sector and the variety of instruments, tools and services that may be available to governments to support its actions during a disaster, by taking advantage of the enormous potential that all stakeholders can provide for the benefit and protection of society.

---

<sup>3</sup> This Technical Advisory Group includes representatives of ACS, AECID, CAPRADE, ISDR, OCHA, OAS, PAHO, REHU, SEGIB, SELA, UNASUR, SEGOB and the Government of Mexico. Furthermore, it is open to participation of other interested organizations, such as ALBA, CEPREDENAC, CDEMA, IFRC and the Ibero-American Association of Civil Protection and Defence Governmental Bodies.

## B. Objectives

The objectives of this activity are as follows:

1. Start the process to identify, systematize and analyze the various mechanisms, tools instruments and services that the private sector can offer to support government action in cases of natural disasters in Latin America and the Caribbean.
2. Discuss experiences and best practices as regards the contributions and cooperation offered by the private sector in cases of natural disaster, in support to the actions for emergency response taken by governments.

## C. Expected results

1. Identification of the mechanisms, tools, instruments and services that the private sector can offer, which could be activated in coordination with the governments of the region in order to complement national and international efforts to respond to disasters.
2. Holding of regional seminar to foster the exchange of information, experiences and best practices on various mechanisms, instruments and services that have been launched by the private sector in Latin America and the Caribbean in case of natural disasters.

## D. Activities and schedule

The "Seminar on the Contribution of the Private Sector to Disaster Risk Reduction. Private Sector Mechanisms for Emergency Response: Opportunities for Cooperation available to Governments" will be held during the first half of 2011.

Invitations to this seminar will be extended to the authorities of national systems for disaster risk reduction in the Member States of SELA, Latin American and Caribbean institutions specialized in the subject, representatives of the private sector, as well as regional and international organizations, bilateral and multilateral development agencies and experts.

Activities	Dates
Preparation of the study and systematization of the various mechanisms and instruments offered by the private sectors for disaster risk reduction	January – June
Convening of the Seminar on the Contribution of the Private Sector to Disaster Risk Reduction. Private Sector Mechanisms for Emergency Response: Opportunities for Cooperation available to Governments	January
Conduction of the Regional Seminar	September

## Activity II. 2. 3. UNCTAD face-to-face Training Course on the Legal Aspects of Electronic Commerce

### A. Background and justification

The development of new Information Technologies and Communications (ICTs) has boosted electronic commerce, which favours economic growth and poverty reduction. However, such development also reveals weaknesses in the existing legal frameworks. In this connection, UNCTAD provides technical assistance to the governments of

## 32

developing countries to set up their legal frameworks in order to regulate the use of ICTs and the promotion and dissemination of national legal regulations.

From 2007 to 2009, UNCTAD, with the support of the Kingdom of Spain, provided courses on electronic commerce for countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. As a result of those courses, participants were able to analyze and compare cyber legislations in different countries and discuss possible options for their harmonization, as well as transaction security and trade facilitation. Based on these workshops, UNCTAD conducted two studies on the prospects for the harmonization of cyber legislations in Latin America (June 2009) and in Central America and the Caribbean (2010).

In turn, SELA included in its Work Programme for 2010 the implementation of technical assistance activities aimed at building on capacities of public officials in its Member States in the area of electronic commerce. Training and building on capacities of legal professionals – particularly, officials involved in drafting legislations and those working in the private sector – is a practical and effective way to reach a common understanding of legal and regulatory issues concerning electronic commerce.

Conduction of the face-to-face Course – which is intended to complement the Online Course, scheduled from 1 to 26 November 2010 – is subject to confirmation about the funding from the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism of Spain. It would last five days and would be held in La Paz, Bolivia. Participants selected for the face-to-face Course will receive a written invitation from UNCTAD, upon completion of the Online Course in November 2010.

### **B. Objectives**

1. Build on capacities of those government officials, as well as major industry players and social organizations in SELA Member States, who work in the development of the regulatory framework for ICTs and e-commerce, in order to promote policy making in this area.
2. Provide the business community wishing to start electronic commerce operations with the necessary elements to understand the legal framework for e-commerce.
3. Share experiences at the national and regional levels and identify priority areas on which actions could be focused for national and regional improvements. In addition, legislations could be analyzed in order to use the knowledge gained to adapt national legislations to international trends regarding this subject.

The Programme of the Online Course is structured as follows:

#### Module 1. Regulations of Electronic Commerce

1. Identify the main technological components of electronic commerce.
2. Pinpoint various regulatory aspects of electronic commerce.
3. Recognize the public policy considerations underlying in regulatory responses to electronic commerce.

#### Module 2: Legal validity of data messages

1. Identify the legal nature of communications.
2. Gain knowledge about the process by which contracts are included in the use of electronic media.

3. Distinguish among the different approaches to the reform the laws on electronic commerce facilitation.
4. Discuss about the problems related to digital evidence in electronic media.

#### Module 3: Consumer Protection and Electronic Commerce

1. Describe issues related to consumer protection law and how they apply to electronic commerce.
2. Identify specific problems of consumer protection in electronic commerce and describe how they have been dealt with.
3. List information requirements and describe the right to cancellation.
4. Discuss the problems related to strengthening consumer protection legislation and identify solutions.
5. Explain how self-regulation mechanisms work.
6. Identify different modalities for consumers-related Alternative Dispute Settlement Mechanisms.
7. Define "spam", discuss the problems it generates and identify some technical and legal measures to prevent it.

#### Module 4: Considerations on Intellectual Property in Electronic Commerce

1. Describe the different types of intellectual property rights.
2. Identify some specific areas of electronic commerce raising issues related to intellectual property rights.
3. List various issues of concern for property rights holders and users.
4. Explain the impact of Internet technology on the protection of intellectual property rights.

#### Module 5: Regulations on Contents

1. Explain the problems involved in applying traditional legal concepts to online operations.
2. Examine the issues of liability as regards intermediary communications.
3. Explain how jurisdiction issues may be problematic.
4. Explain the benefits and drawbacks of some methods for control of Internet contents.
5. Assess the need and scope of those regulations related to contents within a national context.

### C. Expected results

The face-to-face Course on the "Legal Aspects of Electronic Commerce" will reinforce and conclude the training process of officials specialized in the area of electronic commerce in the Member States of SELA, which is scheduled to start in early November 2010.

### D. Activities and schedule

Activities	Dates
Selection of participants and convening	December 2010
Registration and travel arrangements	January
Regional Seminar	February
Preparation of Report on the Seminar	February

## 34

### **Activity II.2.4. Sustainable development in Latin America and the Caribbean: The role of territories and local governments**

#### **A. Background and justification**

Global climate is being significantly altered as a result of increased concentrations of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxides and chlorofluorocarbons. These gases are trapping in the atmosphere an increasing proportion of infrared radiation reflected by the Earth, which will increase global temperature between 1.5 and 4.5°C. As a result, global precipitation patterns are also expected to be altered. Even though there is a general agreement on these findings, there are still different opinions as regards the magnitudes and rates of these changes on regional scales.

As a matter of fact, there is considerable uncertainty as regards the implications of global climate change and the ways in which ecosystems will respond. Such uncertainty could lead to economic imbalances. This issue is of vital importance in countries that rely heavily on natural resources, such as most of Latin American and Caribbean nations.

The current energy consumption model based on fossil fuels is unsustainable. Moreover, it is the main cause of climate change and its effects are directly related to poverty. This model is unsustainable not only because fossil fuel reservoirs are being depleted, but also because – and most importantly – it causes serious environmental problems.

Should the current trends continue, in the next 100 years, there could be greater climate changes, at a faster pace, than in the last 10,000 years. The strongest impacts would be felt on the polar regions and on the less developed countries, due to their vulnerability.

The notion of sustainable development implies the urgent need to comprehensively address multiple factors and dimensions in geographical and spatial terms. This requires efforts that involve actors from various areas (at international, regional, national and local levels). In recent years, more relevance has been attached to the inclusion of the multiple aspects involved in the management of cities and "rural areas" – ranging from risk and uncertainty management to the capacity for adaptation of rural and urban structures – into the discussion, design and implementation of policies for sustainable development.

Thus, two inter-related notions began to gain greater importance in the discussion and implementation of public policies for sustainable development. The first one is that of "sustainable urban and rural areas" linked to "modalities for management of flows of energy and materials associated with urban and rural growth". The second one is the notion that defines the unsustainability of cities and rural areas due to the drop in productivity of investments; that is, the "inability of the latter to growth at the same pace as social demands", which consequently puts at stake local spaces as political territory.

It is also important for SELA to conduct analyses of these considerations on sustainable development in the region and the role that territories and local governments could play in the design and implementation of policies to harmonize growth and social and economic development with environmental sustainability.

#### **B. Objectives**

1. Conduct a systematic analysis on the current status of the policies and programmes for sustainable development which have been applied in Latin America and the Caribbean, particularly in some regions, cities or territorial spaces at the sub-national level.

2. Support the governments of the Member States of SELA in the design and evaluation of policies and programmes for sustainable development in the region, from the perspective of local and territorial governments.

3. Conduct a regional workshop with the participation of representatives of the Member States of SELA, relevant international and regional organizations and local authorities (municipalities and regions) with experience in the management of policies and programmes for sustainable development, in order to discuss the different experiences as regards policies for growth and economic and social development that are compatible with the determinants of sustainability.

### C. Expected results

1. Preparation of an analytical and informative document on the status of the policies and programmes for sustainable development being applied in LAC, particularly in some regions, cities or territorial spaces at the sub-national level.

2. Conduction of a Regional Workshop to discuss the most relevant experiences of some regions, cities or sub-national territorial spaces in LAC in the design, evaluation and implementation of policies for sustainable development.

### D. Activities and schedule

Activities	Dates
Preparation of analytical document	January - April
Preparation and convening of Regional Seminar	March - April
Conduction of Regional Seminar	June

## PROJECT II.3. Ibero-American Programme of Inter-Institutional Cooperation for the Development of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (IBERPyme Programme)

### A. Background and justification

Ever since its inception, SELA has promoted the creation and strengthening of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs). Such process gained momentum 12 years ago with the creation of the IBERPYME Programme upon a Decision of the Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government held in Oporto, Portugal. This programme has allowed for coordinating inter-institutional efforts, with a comprehensive vision, to support the work conducted by public and private organizations related to the development and internationalization of MSMEs.

MSMEs are the main generators of employment opportunities, which confers them a key role in pursuing the objective of reducing poverty in our societies. In addition, MSMEs are a fundamental source for economic growth, production of goods and services, and promotion of exports. They also contribute to a more equitable distribution of income, not only because they offer employment opportunities, but also because micro, small and medium-sized enterprises tend to be more geographically dispersed than large companies, which contributes to reduce economic disparities between urban and rural areas, and between relatively more developed regions and the least developed regions.

## 36

It must be noted that upon an explicit request of the Member States of SELA that belong to CARICOM – which do not form part of the Ibero-American community – and by using special financial resources from the Spanish Agency of International Cooperation for Development (AECID) and the governments of Mexico and Venezuela, actions to support SMEs in those nations have been gradually undertaken. Thus, during 2009, six activities were carried out, which are also being proposed for 2011, subject to the approval of funding by AECID, bearing in mind that they are helping to promote the process of integration and regional development by strengthening a sector of great importance and significance for the Caribbean nations.

### **B. Objective**

The general objective of the IBERPYME Programme is to make contributions towards the development of institutional capacities of government agencies and business associations conducting programmes in support to MSMEs, so as to boost competitiveness of MSMEs with a view to promoting their internationalization, by outlining and implementing programmes and actions.

### **C. Expected results**

1. Inform and train officials responsible for public and private programmes to support MSMEs as regards strategies for their internationalization.
2. Promote the exchange of experiences on the adoption of institutional organization mechanisms of intermediate bodies, in order to improve the supply of goods and services to the beneficiaries of those programmes.
3. Develop information services to support MSMEs.
4. Support and strengthen efforts to establish thematic networks on MSMEs.
5. Encourage cooperation activities among Ibero-American countries in the area of MSMEs.
6. Promote cooperation with other national and international, public and private bodies, whose programmes and actions have the same objectives.
7. Promote the development of the following thematic areas: partnerships and inter-entrepreneurial cooperation, productivity and competitiveness, internationalization of SMEs, public policies to support MSMEs, guarantee systems and financing for MSMEs, institutional development of private business associations, Information and Communications Technologies for MSMEs, innovation, development of entrepreneurs and micro-enterprises businessmen, development of women entrepreneurs with SMEs, as well as cultural and tourist SMEs.
8. Continue to carry out activities to support to SMEs in the Member States of SELA that also belong to CARICOM, in view of their explicit interest in the IBERPYME Programme.
9. Ensure approval of two projects submitted for consideration of AECID, within the framework of AECID's Assistance Programme Open and Permanent Call for Cooperation (CAP). One of those projects is a Plan for Online Internationalization of SMEs in the Andean countries and Paraguay, and the other one is for the creation of an AECID Innovation Centre for the Andean countries and Paraguay.

**Activity II.3.1 IBERPYME PROGRAMME 2011**

This year, the activities of this Programme are divided into three chapters:

- Activities of the IBERPYME Programme 2011
- Activities of the IBERPYME-Caribbean Programme 2011
- Activities of the Programme related to Cooperation Projects under AECID's Open and Permanent Call for Cooperation (CAP).

<b>ACTIVITY</b>	<b>OBJECTIVES</b>	<b>ORGANIZERS</b>	<b>VENUE AND DATE</b>
1. Ibero-American Meeting on Business Associations of SMEs	Promote an exchange among authorities of business associations of SMEs and identify strategies for strengthening them	IBERPyme Programme, Committee on the Small Industry (COPEI) of the National Society of Industries of Peru	Lima, Peru 15-17 March 2011
2. Strategies to promote and develop entrepreneurship: Development of new businesses	Promote an exchange in order to learn about the strategies to promote entrepreneurship in Ibero America	IBERPyme Programme, Ministry of Economy, Development and Tourism of Chile, PROCHILE	Santiago, Chile 21-23 March 2011
3. Seminar on Competitiveness in SMEs and market access	Review the strategies to improve competitiveness in SMEs as a means to facilitate market access	IBERPyme Programme, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and Chamber of Commerce of Cartagena	Cartagena , Colombia 14-15 April 2011
4. Seminar on Social Networks: Opportunities for promotion and business for SMEs	Gain knowledge and spread information about the various social networks which represent an alternative for business promotion and development for SMEs	IBERPyme Programme, National Guarantee Fund for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises of Venezuela (FONPYME), Venezuelan Chamber of Information and Communication Technologies(CAVEDATOS)	Caracas, Venezuela 2-3 May 2011
5. Workshop on Innovation and Competitiveness for SMEs	Gain knowledge about the relevant aspects of the processes of innovation in products, services and technologies, and how to incorporate and develop innovation in MSMEs in Ibero America.	IBERPyme Programme, Barrabes, Spanish Agency of International Cooperation for Development (AECID), Fund of Technological Innovation of Peru	Lima, Peru 16-17 May 2011
6. Ibero-American Meeting on Gender and SMEs	Promote an exchange among authorities and experts on the relation between gender and development of SMEs. Propose courses of action for the inclusion of the issue of gender in public policies to support SMEs.	IBERPyme Programme and authorities and authorities of the government of Mexico	Mexico City, Mexico 19-20 May 2011

## 38

7. Forum on knowledge management and the use of ICTs for the development of SMEs	Review various experiences of Ibero-American countries to underpin the use of Information and Communication Technologies to support the business performance of SMEs	IBERPYPE Programme, Authority for Micro, Small, and Medium-sized Enterprises (AMPYME), National Union of SMEs (UNPYME), Costa Rican Chamber of Information and Communication Technologies (CAMTIC), Centre for the Promotion of Micro and Small Enterprises in Central America (CENPROMYPE)	Panama City, Panama 2 -3 June 2011
8. Ibero American Training Course on internationalization of SMEs	Spread information about strategies, best practices, successful cases and lessons learned as regards the internationalization process of SMEs	IBERPYPE Programme, Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Tourism of Colombia, Spanish Foreign Trade Institute (ICEX), Colombian Association of Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (ACOPI)	Cartagena, Colombia 6-10 June 2011
9. Workshop on Management of Innovation in SMEs	Review methodologies to optimize the innovation processes within the productive management of SMEs	IBERPYPE Programme, National Council of Science and Technology (CONACYT) of Paraguay	Asunción, Paraguay 15-17 June 2011
10. Regional Seminar "Learning to Export": The challenge of internationalization of SMEs	Spread information about strategies, best practices, successful cases and lessons learned as regards the internationalization process of SMEs	IBERPYPE Programme, Spanish Foreign Trade Institute (ICEX), Corporation of Exporters of El Salvador (COEXPORT), Centre for the Promotion of Micro and Small Enterprises in Central America (CENPROMYPE) and National Commission for Micro and Small Enterprises (CONAMYPE)	San Salvador, El Salvador 12-13 July 2011
11. Workshop on innovative practices for better performance of agricultural cooperatives	Implement recommendations to improve performance for the development of agricultural cooperatives	IBERPYPE Programme, Ministry of Economy and Planning of Cuba	Havana, Cuba 1-2 September 2011
12. Training Workshop on marketing and business strategies on Internet for SMEs	Analyze the different strategies and modalities adopted by various countries in the region to use the Internet to improve productivity of MSMEs	IBERPYPE Programme, Ministry of Industries and Productivity of Ecuador	Quito, Ecuador 12-13 September 2011
13. XVI Ibero American Forum on Guarantee and Financing Systems for MSMEs	Gain knowledge about the achievements in the use of financial support instruments aimed at guarantees and other modalities of financing	Ibero-American Guarantee Network (REGAR), IBERPYPE Programme, Ministry of Economy, Industry and Commerce of Costa Rica,	San José, Costa Rica 19-20 September

	for MSMEs	Latin American Association of Development Financing Institutions (ALIDE) and IBERAVAL SGR of Spain	2011
14. Workshop on Regional Economic Development and SMEs	Gain knowledge about the tools to strengthen municipal management through the simplification of administrative procedures and single windows as an instrument to facilitate relations of SMEs	IBERPYPME Programme, Secretariat of SMEs and Regional Development (SEPYME)	Buenos Aires, Argentina  22-23 September 2011
15. Course on Innovation, ICTs and competitiveness for SMEs	Promote training of government officials and entrepreneurs in the development of innovation processes, use of ICTs and improvement of competitiveness	IBERPYPME Programme, Spanish Agency of International Cooperation for Development (AECID), National Direction of SMEs of Uruguay and Chamber of Industries	Montevideo, Uruguay  26-30 September de 2011
16. Workshop on Local Productive Arrangements	Review methodologies to promote the local economic development based on the participation of SMEs	IBERPYPME Programme, Brazilian Service to support MSMEs	Sao Paulo, Brazil  4-5 October 2011
17. VI Central American Seminar on Innovation and Commerce: INNOTRADE 2011	Inform about best practices of the policies and strategies related to innovation and international trade for MSMEs, with a focus on technology transfer	IBERPYPME Programme, Central American Sustainable Development Programme (DESCA), Centre for Promotion of Micro and Small-sized Enterprises of Central America (CENPROMYPE), Authority for Micro, Small, and Medium-sized Enterprises (AMPYME)	Panama City, Panama  17-18 October 2011
18. Regional Workshop on strategies for access to international cooperation sources	Inform about the priorities and sources of international cooperation and the mechanisms and instruments to obtain their support	IBERPYPME Programme, Centre for Promotion of Micro and Small-sized Enterprises of Central America (CENPROMYPE), AMPYME	Managua, Nicaragua  20-21 October 2011
19. Ibero American Course on Partnership and Inter-Entrepreneurial Cooperation	Gain knowledge about the strategies and best practices on partnership, enterprise networks, productive chains, export consortiums, development of suppliers and clusters	IBERPYPME Programme, Centre for Promotion of Micro and Small-sized Enterprises of Central America (CENPROMYPE)	La Antigua, Guatemala  24-28 October 2011

## 40

20. Mission on the institutional framework of public policies for SMEs	Review the experiences in the definition of public policies for SMEs and best practices	IBERPyme Programme, General Direction of Policies for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (DGPyme)	Madrid, Spain 7-9 November 2011
21. Ibero-American Seminar on development strategies for cultural SMEs	Encourage an exchange in order to learn the strategies and development programmes for cultural SMEs	IBERPyme Programme, National Guarantee Fund for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises of Venezuela (FONPyme)	Caracas, Venezuela 14-15 November 2011
22. III Workshop on Transfer of Best Practices in Public Policies to support SMEs	Promote an exchange of experiences, strategies and best practices among experts and institutions in Latin America in order to encourage the transfer of these practices and improve the quality of public policies for the development of SMEs	IBERPyme Programme, Ibero-American General Secretariat (SEGIB), Authority for Micro, Small, and Medium-sized Enterprises (AMPyme), Centre for Promotion of Micro and Small-sized Enterprises of Central America (CENPROMYPE)	Panama City, Panama 17-18 November 2011
23. Forum on the development of SMEs in tourist projects	Promote the development of SMEs in the area of tourism, as a source of opportunities for SMEs	IBERPyme Programme, National Council for Promotion and Support of Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (PROMIPyme), Dominican Confederation of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (CODOPYME), World Tourism Organization	Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic 21-22 November 2011
24. Ibero-American Seminar on Competitiveness and Internationalization of SMEs	Spread information on strategies, best practices, successful cases and lessons learned about the processes of productivity, competitiveness and internationalization	IBERPyme Programme, National Chamber of Exporters of Bolivia (CANEB)	Santa Cruz, Bolivia 28 November to 1 December 2011

**Activity II.3.2. IBERPyme-Caribbean Programme 2011**

<b>ACTIVITY</b>	<b>OBJECTIVES</b>	<b>ORGANIZERS</b>	<b>VENUE AND DATE</b>
1. Regional Seminar on Tourism	Gain knowledge about best practices, strategies and successful cases to follow in the area of tourism	IBERPyme Programme, Ministry of Tourism and Aviation of Bahamas, CARICOM, Spanish Agency of International Cooperation for Development (AECID)	Nassau, Bahamas 29-30 August 2011

2. Training Workshop on strategies for internationalization of SMEs	Gain knowledge about best practices, strategies and programmes to promote the internationalization and exports	IBERPyme Programme, CARICOM, Spanish Agency of International Cooperation for Development (AECID), Ministry of Industry and Commerce of Jamaica	Kingston, Jamaica 5-6 September 2011
3. Regional Seminar on New Enterprises	Gain knowledge about the methodologies, strategies, best practices and successful cases to help new entrepreneurs and promote the development of new entrepreneurs	IBERPyme Programme, Spanish Agency of International Cooperation for Development (AECID), CARICOM, BELTRAIDE	Belize City, Belize 24 November 2011
4. Workshop on financing instruments for MSMEs	Analyze the different strategies and instruments to facilitate access to credit and financing of MSMEs in the region	IBERPyme Programme, CARICOM, Spanish Agency of International Cooperation for Development (AECID), Ministry of Industry and Commerce of Trinidad	Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago 5-6 December 2011
5. Regional Forum on public policies to support SMEs	Spread information about best practices, transfer of knowledge and experiences, as well as strategies and programmes in the public policies to support SMEs	IBERPyme Programme, CARICOM, Spanish Agency of International Cooperation for Development (AECID), Ministry of Industry and Commerce of Guyana	Georgetown, Guyana 8-9 December 2011

### Activity II.3.3. Tasks related to AECID's open and permanent call for cooperation projects (CAP)

#### a) Internationalization Project

Objective: To promote the internationalization and export of products and services of SMEs in the Andean countries (Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru) and Paraguay. In Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia and Paraguay, SMEs account for about 97% of the business fabric, and in most of the countries of the region they are the largest source of employment and provide a major contribution to the GDP.

Due to its characteristics, this project is also benefited by the local initiatives in each country, which foresee the promotion of exports through the participation of a greater number of enterprises as a strategic action.

#### b) Innovation Project

Objective: To promote innovation in the Andean countries (Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru) and Paraguay, so that small and medium-sized enterprises, cooperatives and new entrepreneurs who want to start their business distinguish themselves by adding value to their products and services, find market niches, and ultimately obtain new weapons to survive the growing international competition and the pressures from the major multinationals.

## 42

Therefore, this project will contribute to the economic and social development in the area of enforcement, by supporting specific groups, creating jobs and training human resources, and by incorporating new systems and tools to foster innovation.

### AREA III. EXTRA-REGIONAL RELATIONS

#### **PROJECT III.1. The VI Bi-regional Summit of Madrid, the recessive dynamics in some European countries and prospects for the economic relations between LAC and the EU**

##### **A. Background and justification**

Since 2005, the Permanent Secretariat has been analyzing the status of the economic relations between LAC and the European Union (EU) and has supported the Latin American and Caribbean governments in their preparatory process preceding the latest bi-regional Summits.

As foreseen in the Work Programme for the year 2010, the Regional Meeting: "Economic Relations between Latin America and the Caribbean and the European Union and the VI Bi-regional Summit in Madrid" was held on 25 and 26 February 2010, with the participation of representatives of the Member States and various organizations of the region.

As the basis for the discussions of the meeting, the Permanent Secretariat prepared the document "Recent Economic Relations between Latin America and the Caribbean and the European Union ahead of the Madrid Summit" (SP/RR-REALCUE-VICBM/DT No. 2 - 10), which contained an analysis of the status and prospects of the economic relations (including trade, finances and cooperation) between both parties, and identified some areas in which cooperation efforts with a bi-regional scope could be materialized.

In the conclusions and recommendations adopted by the Member States during the meeting, participants raised the need to continue with the analysis and the work on the bi-regional economic and commercial relations, and to make progress towards the design of consensus-based proposals with a regional scope in order to enhance and strengthen such relations. The latter gained special relevance due to the current situation, characterized by the recession process – with likely implications in the medium and long term – faced by some European economies, which has had negative impacts on the evolution of the global economy.

In view of the above, it is necessary to conduct a Regional Meeting to evaluate the results of the recent LAC-EU Summit held in Madrid in May 2010, the economic prospects for the European nations and their probable impacts on reciprocal relations with Latin American and Caribbean countries. Without a doubt, this will contribute to reinforce the role of SELA in the efforts to maintain an analytical follow-up and outline proposals as regards the economic relations between Latin America and the Caribbean and the European Union.

##### **B. Objectives**

1. Conduct an analysis of the results of the latest LAC-EU Summit in Madrid and its expected implications for the economic relations (including trade, finances and cooperation) between both parties.

2. Discuss the main trends characterizing the economic situation of European countries and estimate its foreseeable impacts on the economies and economic relations between LAC and the EU.
3. Propose courses of action to Member States for possible mitigation of the negative effects of the economic situation in some European countries on the region, and for strengthening the economic relations between LAC and the EU.

### C. Expected results

1. An analytical study on the results of the latest summit in Madrid, the current status and prospects of the European economies and the likely evolution of economic relations between LAC and the EU.
2. Conduction of a Regional Meeting with the participation of representatives of the Member States of SELA and the regional and subregional integration and cooperation organizations.
3. Proposal with courses of action for mitigating the negative effects of the economic situation in some European countries on LAC, and for strengthening the economic relations between the two regions.

### D. Activities and schedule

Activities	Dates
Preparation of the study on the results of the Madrid Summit, the economic situation of Europe and the economic relations between Latin America and the Caribbean and the EU	November 2010 – February 2011
Preparation and convening of the Regional Meeting on the LAC-EU economic relations	February
Conduction of the Regional Meeting	February

## PROJECT III.2. Evolution and prospects of the Economic Relations between the United States and the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean

### A. Background and justification

“Aspects of the Economic and Trade Policy under the Obama Administration and its Implications for Latin America and the Caribbean.”

The Regional Seminar on Trade Relations between the United States and Latin America and the Caribbean in the first year of the Obama Administration was held in March 2009, within the framework of SELA. To provide the basis for the discussions, the Permanent Secretariat prepared and distributed among its Member States a document titled “U.S. Trade Policy under the Obama Administration: Implications for SELA Member States” (SP/SRRC-EE.UU-ALC-PAAO/DT No. 2 – 10).

The main objectives of this activity were: to conduct an analysis of the status and prospects of the commercial relations between the U.S. and LAC, and of the impact of

## 44

the policies applied by the U.S. government to face the international economic crisis on US-LAC relations; and to identify the main areas or sectors of interest and/or conflict for the region in the context of those commercial relations.

In the conclusions and recommendations approved by the representatives of the Member States attending the seminar, emphasis was made on the need for SELA to continue with the analysis on the economic relations between Latin America and the Caribbean and the U.S., and to evaluate the possible implications of the U.S. economic policy decisions to face the international crisis on the Latin American and Caribbean nations. At the same time, the Member States urged the Permanent Secretariat to continue to conduct its analytical work and to prepare proposals on the regional economic agenda with the United States.

In the "SELA Antenna in the United States" – which has been published for 20 years on a quarterly basis, in English and Spanish – the Permanent Secretariat provides detailed information about U.S. facts and trade policy and their effects on foreign trade of the countries of the region. It also includes a follow-up on the main decisions and measures of the U.S. Administration and Congress as regards international economic and commercial issues of interest for Latin America and the Caribbean.

### **B. Objectives**

1. Analyze the status and prospects of economic relations (including trade in goods and services, remittances, investment and cooperation) between the U.S. and Latin America and the Caribbean two years into the Obama Administration.
2. Encourage an exchange of ideas and proposals among representatives of the Member States, in order to assess the possible implications of the results of the U.S. Congress elections in November 2010 for reciprocal economic relations, and the effects of a possible slowdown in the U.S. economic recovery.
3. Identify the main areas or sectors of interest and/or conflict for the region in its economic relations with the U.S. resulting from the likely slowdown in the U.S. economic recovery and the implications of the U.S. Congress elections for trade relations.

### **C. Expected results**

1. Preparation and distribution of an analytical study on the main trends in economic relations between the U.S. and Latin America and the Caribbean over the last two years and maintain regular publication of the "SELA Antenna" on a quarterly basis to analyze the most relevant aspects of the U.S. trade policy and its impacts on Latin America and the Caribbean.
2. Conduction of a Regional Seminar, with the participation of government officials and representatives of regional and subregional organizations, on the economic relations between the U.S. and Latin America and the Caribbean.
3. Preparation of a report with the results and recommendations derived from the regional seminar, which will include suggestions about a possible regional economic agenda with the United States.

**D. Activities and schedule**

<b>Activities</b>	<b>Dates</b>
Preparation and quarterly publication of four issues of "SELA Antenna"	At the end of each quarter
Preparation of an analytical study on the economic relations between the U.S. and Latin America and the Caribbean	January – March
Distribution of the document and convening the seminar	March
Conduction of the Regional Seminar	April

**PROJECT III.3 International trade, the multilateral trade system and development in Latin America and the Caribbean****A. Background and justification**

The Permanent Secretariat has been working since 2003 on the follow up and analysis of international trade negotiations and their possible implications for the LAC countries. Thus, it has conducted several regional consultation meetings, particularly as regards the Doha Round negotiations at the WTO, preparing analytical documents on the implications of those negotiations on the development and integration processes in the region.

As part of the Work Programme for 2010, the Permanent Secretariat prepared the document "The New Agenda for Trade and Development: A proposal from Latin America and the Caribbean", which was forwarded to the Member States and various regional and subregional organizations. Based on this activity, and considering the new realities of the post-crisis global economic situation, it has been deemed advisable to continue working on these important issues on the global agenda, particularly to spread information about a Trade Agenda for Development in Latin America and the Caribbean and discuss it. In this connection, a Regional Consultation Meeting to analyze the most important aspects of this agenda and to exchange proposals among the Member States of SELA will be organized in 2011.

**B. Objectives**

1. Systematize the analysis of the evolution of international trade and the WTO Doha Round negotiations.
2. Support the governments of the Member States in the discussion and regional consensus building on a Trade Agenda for the Development of Latin America and the Caribbean.
3. Organize and conduct a Regional Consultation Meeting with the participation of representatives of the Member States and regional and international organizations, qualified to address the central aspects of the aforementioned Agenda.

**C. Expected results**

1. An analytical and informative document on the Doha Round negotiations, the current situation and prospects of international trade, and the positioning of Latin

## 46

America and the Caribbean, including recommendations about possible courses of action for the governments in the region.

2. Organization and conduction of a Regional Consultation Meeting at the headquarters of the Permanent Secretariat for discussing the most relevant aspects of a possible Trade Agenda for the Development of Latin America and the Caribbean.

### D. Activities and schedule

Activities	Dates
Preparation of the study on international trade, positioning of LAC, and a Trade Agenda for the Development of Latin America and the Caribbean	January – February
Preparation and convening of the Regional Consultation Meeting on a Trade Agenda for the Development of Latin America and the Caribbean	February
Conduction of the Regional Consultation Meeting	March

### PROJECT III.4. Diversification of foreign economic relations of Latin America and the Caribbean

#### A. Background and justification

The reduction of the vulnerability of Latin American and Caribbean economies to external shocks, which has become more evident within the context of the current international economic crisis, requires not only a change in the commercial structure for exports of goods and services in the region, but also diversifying the geographical matrix of foreign trade in LAC.

In addition, it should also be noted that there have been noticeable changes in the balance of economic powers at the global level. An evidence of this is the emergence of countries such as China, India and Russia as powerful stakeholders on a global scale, which have gradually reinforced their presence in international markets for goods, services and capital.

The regional meetings on the economic relations of the People's Republic of China, the Republic of India and the Russian Federation with the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean took place in the headquarters of SELA from 20 to 22 July 2009.

Bearing in mind the important position of these three countries in the global system and the need to make strides in terms of the diversification of the foreign economic relations of Latin America and the Caribbean, the Member States recommended the Permanent Secretariat to attach priority to this type of analysis in order to contribute to the dissemination of information on the economic relations of the countries in the region with these three emerging nations.

Based on this mandate, in 2010, the Permanent Secretariat prepared and distributed among its Member States some analytical documents on the most important experiences as regards the intensification of trade, financial and cooperation relations of Latin American and Caribbean countries with the People's Republic of China, and updated its

report on the recent performance and prospects of the economy of India and the status of its economic relations with LAC countries.

Such informative documents, together with those prepared in 2009 were the first input materials for the creation of a virtual space in SELA's Web site for the exchange of relevant information and analyses on the economies of China, India and the Russian Federation, and their relations with Latin America.

## **B. Objectives**

The general objective of this project is to continue with the analysis and dissemination of information to promote the strengthening and diversification of the foreign relations of the countries of the region with China, India and the Russian Federation.

The activities of this project have the following specific objectives:

1. Promote the exchange of information and experiences among the Member States of SELA, with the purpose of reinforcing the economic relations (including trade, investment and cooperation) between Latin America and Caribbean countries and the People's Republic of China, India and the Russian Federation, among others nations.
2. Update and systematize the information available to Member States and regional organizations on the status and prospects of such relations.
3. Promote, through the exchange of information and best practices, the links between the Latin American and Caribbean business sectors with their counterparts from those three emerging nations.

## **C. Expected results**

1. Preparation and dissemination of analytical documents on the recent developments and prospects of the economies of China, India and the Russian Federation, as well as the roles of those three nations in the system of international economic relations.
2. An update on the status and prospects of the foreign economic relations of the countries in the region with China, India and the Russian Federation.
3. Further development of the virtual space on SELA's Web site for exchanging relevant information on the economies of China, India and the Russian Federation, and its relations with the countries of the region.

### **C. Activities and schedule**

<b>Activities</b>	<b>Dates</b>
Terms of Reference and selection of the consultants for commissioning each one of the three studies	January – February
Conclusion of the process of preparation of the studies	June
Distribution of the studies among the Member States and regional and subregional organizations	July
Continuing with the process to further develop the virtual space to spread information about the economic relations of Latin America and the Caribbean with emerging markets	January - December

## 48

As a corollary, it should be noted that in conducting the various activities being submitting for consideration of the XXXVI Latin American Council, the Permanent Secretariat plans to enhance the tasks involved in spreading information about its activities with the purpose of informing about their contents on a timely basis, not only to government agencies that are directly linked with their implementation, but also to the different sectors of the societies in our countries, so that they can share the guidelines and evolution of the thematic areas of SELA, which will eventually allow for the largest possible number of Latin American and Caribbean citizens to get familiar with subjects such as foreign economic relations, regional cooperation and integration.

The most immediate medium for contact with society is SELA's Web site, which is permanently updated and enhanced as regards the information it contains about the various documents, reports, studies, meetings and relevant databases produced by the organization, by other regional and subregional institutions and by the governments of SELA's Member States.

Additionally, SELA offers a daily Information Service which is sent via e-mail in a systematic way to approximately 10,000 registered users. It contains timely information about the areas related to the activities of the organization, which allows users to be informed about relevant issues concerning those subjects by using a single source of information.

Lately, the Permanent Secretariat has enhanced its information and news services by taking advantage of the advances and widespread prevalence of social networking tools such as Twitter, Facebook, YouTube and RSS, which are strongly drawing the attention of numerous users and generating informative links with them, with the great benefit that they are easy-to-use services that provide real-time information.

In this programme of activities, being submitted to the XXXVI Latin American Council, the Permanent Secretariat also intends to continue with important publications such as the Bulletin on Regional Integration, the "Avances" bulletin and the SELA Antenna in the United States, whose widespread scope and usefulness have been frequently recognized by numerous users.