



## 2012 Caracas Action Plan

The Heads of State and Government of Latin America and the Caribbean, gathered in Caracas, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, on the occasion of the 3<sup>rd</sup> CALC Summit, on December 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2011.

Taking into account the goals and principles set forth in the Salvador de Bahía Declaration (2008), the Montego Bay Action Plan (2009), the Cancun Declaration (2010), as well as in the initiatives provided for in the Caracas Work Programme for Implementing the Montego Bay Action Plan (2010-2011),

In compliance with the mandates of these ministerial and senior officials meetings; emphasising and valuing the results of the activities carried out within the framework of their implementation (2010-2011), we agree, based on the principles of flexibility and voluntary participation in initiatives to formulate the 2012 Caracas Action Plan, based on the following decisions.

### **International Financial Crisis and the New Financial Architecture:**

- To create the tools to improve financing capabilities of the intraregional trade.



- To implement and strengthen internal and regional capacities to prevent systemic risk crisis within the region, as well as the impact of extra-regional imbalances and the alleviation of its adverse effects and the prevention of its spreading, through solid monetary and fiscal policies.
- To design and implement prevention, mitigation and control measures of the crises from the best use of the exchange of information and experiences in the region.
- To strengthen and deepen integration processes of our economies in the regional, sub-regional and bilateral areas, with the aim of guaranteeing the creation of a Latin American and Caribbean space.
- To make progress in the strategy of designing a new regional financial architecture in accordance with paragraph 12 of the Cancun Declaration and based, *inter alia*, on the principles of justice, solidarity and transparency. To strengthen regional and sub-regional financial mechanisms and to acknowledge progresses of compensation systems for regional and binational payments, credit and bridge financing.
- To encourage the redesigning of international financial institutions, on the basis of the increase in voice and voting power of developing countries under the postulates of the equity and solidarity principles, with a view to democratizing



the decision-making process in these institutions, in line with their current influence in the global economy, as well as eliminating and/or making the conditions more flexible in the granting of loans, in a sustainable way, based on the respect for the unique features, sustainability, sovereignty, independence and self-determination of each country.

- To promote reflection fora with a view to strengthening regional financial institutions and to make progresses in the construction of new instruments, financial mechanisms and schemes that reduce the levels of external vulnerability of the regional economy and guarantee the right to vote of our countries in institutional decisions in a fair manner.
- To create and implement measures for prevention, mitigation and control of the financial crisis on the basis of information and experience exchange in the region.
- To request CEPAL's cooperation on these areas.

### **Complementarity and cooperation between Regional and Sub-regional Integration Mechanisms:**

- To strengthen complementarity and cooperation between regional and sub-regional integration

mechanisms and to deepen coordination between *Pro Tempore* Secretariats and Chairmanships, in order to contribute to its effectiveness and to avoid unnecessary duplications in accordance with the mandates of the different CALC documents,

- The dialogue between the regional and sub-regional integration mechanisms will maintain its four-major-areas structure, namely: (1) the economic-commercial, (2) productive, (3) social-institutional, and (4) cultural area.

(1) *In the economic-commercial area:*

- a. To set up a Working Group that will prepare a proposal to develop a Caribbean and Latin American Preferential Tariff.
- b. To develop a trade facilitation programme for Latin America and the Caribbean on issues related to transportation, customs procedures and digitalisation of procedures, among others.
- c. To implement a database in which Technical Standards and Regulations for the import of goods are logged.
- d. To organise a workshop among the integration organisations to discuss and

exchange experiences in regional economic policies during 2012, to be held in Montevideo and with the collaboration of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

- e. To deepen deliberations and exchange of ideas on the Reciprocal Credit Convention of ALADI for its deepening, modernization and expansion.
- f. To request ALADI's cooperation on these areas.
- g. To study ways for the protection of direct investment flows between countries of the region to take advantage of intraregional trade agreements to promote direct intraregional investment.

(2) *In the productive area:* To consider the possibility of holding a Latin American and Caribbean conference on productive and industrial development.

(3) *In the social area:*

- a. To create an open-ended working group comprised of representatives of Regional and Sub-Regional Integration Mechanisms to develop a Strategic Regional Coordination Agenda serving as one of the inputs to be considered by the Forum scheduled in the Declaration of the Ministers of Latin America and the

Caribbean on Social Development and Eradication of Hunger and Poverty (Panamá: review grammar) of 25 March, 2011 whose mandate is to develop a Regional Action Plan to promote public social policies. This Agenda may establish shared goals, priority projects and expected outcomes in terms of social inclusion and development.

- b. This process will benefit from the creation of a matrix document based on identifying and prioritizing common projects and programmes, according to their potentials, in order for everyone to be benefitted, in particular those who live under conditions of vulnerability.
- c. To foster the active participation of civil society, particularly social organisations and movements, as essential parts of the process of social inclusion within our regional integration.

*(4) In the cultural area:*

To hold a meeting among regional and sub-regional integration mechanisms on cultural integration and incentives for the development of creative industries.

**Energy:**

- To create a body composed of the national authority of each country in energy matters



within the institutional framework to be adopted by CELAC.

- To regard the guidelines of the South American Energy Strategy as an element for the development of the regional energy integration of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC)
- Promoting the exchange of experiences related to their use as a source of energy that may contribute to the promotion of sustainable development aiming at diversifying the energy matrix of the countries, the incorporation of technologies and additional sources of income in the agricultural sector, as well as the mitigation of the emissions of greenhouse gasses.

### **Infrastructure for the Physical Integration of Transport, Telecommunications and Frontiers:**

- Reinforce support at the highest level for physical infrastructure initiatives in the region, identifying and looking for solutions to the major obstacles for the regional interconnection and cross-border trafficking.
- Accelerate the convergence of the regulation systems and multi-modal road, air, maritime-port, river and rail traffic control, in each integration mechanism on infrastructure and to



exchange experiences and good practices among them.

- Foster regional integration by expanding the ongoing exchange of successful experiences and to request regional and sub regional bodies and mechanisms to identify current programs and projects on physical infrastructure, connectivity and border integration being complementary in the medium and longer term, bearing in mind the need of having an strategy for the development and integration of physical infrastructure, connectivity and border regions in Latin America and the Caribbean
- The aim of this strategy is to reduce the “infrastructure gap”, characterising Latin America and the Caribbean, in the light of national efforts to foster economic growth, improve social development and reduce poverty.

### **Social Development and Eradication of Hunger and Poverty:**

- To create a forum of ministers addressing the social issues of the region in the context of CELAC in order to promote cooperation for the articulation, harmonisation and complementation





of national public policies in the social field, as well as to create and implement common regional plans, policies and programmes in priority sectors for social development.

- This forum will be in charge of creating a regional action plan to promote public social policies.
- To call for a Second Meeting of social development Ministers for the fourth quarter of 2012 in order to monitor the commitments established in the Ministerial Declaration of Caracas on Social Development and Eradication of Hunger and Poverty.
- To call for senior officials meetings on food safety, health and education for the second quarter of 2012, in order to:
  - a. Propose action plans for the implementation of agreements established in this Declaration.
  - b. Propose objectives and goals in every field in order for them to be considered in the regional and comprehensive action plan to promote a public social policy.
- To develop a Latin American and Caribbean plan for literacy and post literacy in those countries that assume this issue in order to



eradicate illiteracy in the region by 2015, in accordance with the Millennium Development Goals.

- To design a proposal for a Latin American and Caribbean programme in favour of the eradication of hunger in which successful programmes implemented by governments and social organisations of the region are involved.

### **Environment:**

- To constitute a working group within the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) devoted to address the environmental issues of the Region. This will serve to strengthen cooperation by fostering the co-ordination, harmonisation, and complementation of national public policies in the environmental field, as well as to generate and implement common regional plans, policies and programmes in the priority areas for sustainable development.
- This group will be in charge of preparing a draft regional environmental agenda.
- To convene a Ministers of Environment Meeting prior to the Rio+20 Summit to follow up the agreements of the Caracas Ministerial



Environmental Declaration, and contribute to the success of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), whose High Level Segment will be held on June 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2012.

- To evaluate the creation of a multidisciplinary knowledge centre that allows strengthening the institutions and training the communities in the elaboration of a common agenda for managing water resources.

### **Humanitarian Assistance:**

- To constitute an open-ended Working Group, according to the Cancun Declaration of 23 February, 2010, assuring the representativeness of Latin American and Caribbean sub-regions. This Group will serve as a bridge for convergence, co-ordination and complementarity of the on-going efforts and processes in the Region, especially with the Follow-up Group of the Regional Meeting on International Humanitarian Assistance Mechanisms in Latin America and the Caribbean (MIAH).
- To value the 5<sup>th</sup> Regional Meeting on International Humanitarian Assistance



Mechanisms in Latin America and the Caribbean (MIAH) to be held in Panama in 2012 and to recommend that within that framework this encounter may be continued.

### **Protection to the Migrant:**

- To promote the development of a regional strategy to facilitate immigrant's integration into the host society, by facilitating legal, labour, productive and cultural insertion in keeping with national laws, with a view to promoting a joint position in the bi-regional dialogues.

### **Culture:**

- To hold a Ministerial Meeting in the area of culture and identities.

### **Information and Communication Technologies:**

- To suggest to national institution in charge of telecommunications and information technologies in each of the countries of the region to coordinate with their counterparts in neighboring countries to use of electricity networks in order to create telecommunications infrastructure among them, which would contribute to generate an alternative to achieve



lower costs of interconnection for telecommunication networks and additional benefits.

- Explore the possibility of installing interconnection platforms to access to telecommunication services that encourage developing rural telephony, broadband universalization and its use for social, innovation and educative purposes.
- Request regional development bank, drawing on the current studies at integration sub regional bodies, an analysis on international roaming and long distance conditions, considering the possibility of consolidating the charging areas in order to reduce prices of mobile voice, text and data services.
- To entrust the *Pro Tempore* Chairmanship with the task of taking and promoting necessary actions to achieve the mandates and decisions set forth in the Caracas Action Plan, as well as to elaborate a work programme to be duly implemented during 2012; all this with the support of the Troika of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), in keeping with the Statute of Proceedings of the CELAC and taking into consideration the



Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC)



agendas and competencies of integration  
bodies of our region.