Final Report on the XX Meeting of International Cooperation Directors for Latin America and the Caribbean
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1. **RAPPORTEUR’S REPORT**

1. The XX Meeting of International Cooperation Directors for Latin America and the Caribbean was held in the city of Antigua, Guatemala, on 24 and 25 September 2009. The meeting was focused on the “Impact of the World Economic and Financial Crisis on International Cooperation Programmes in Latin America and the Caribbean”. The event was organized by the Permanent Secretariat of the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA), in cooperation with the Secretariat of Planning and Programming of the Presidency of the Republic of Guatemala, the Ministry of Economy of Guatemala and the Spanish Agency of International Cooperation for Development (AECID).

2. Delegations from SELA Member States attended the meeting, including: Argentina, Belize, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Dominican Republic, Suriname, and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela; as well as representatives of the Embassy of the Spanish Kingdom to Guatemala, the Spanish Agency of International Cooperation for Development (AECID); the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA); the World Bank (WB); the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the European Commission (EC), The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC); the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO); The German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ); the Vice Minister of Cooperation for Development of the Ministry of Foreign Trade of El Salvador; and officials of the Permanent Secretariat of SELA. The list of participants is attached hereto as Annex No. V.

3. The following authorities took the floor at the opening session:

a) Mr. Francisco Sancho López, General Coordinator of the Spanish Agency of International Cooperation for Development (AECID), highlighted that a new cycle for Spanish cooperation had begun in Spain and that he could proudly assure that all together – organizations, political forces, administrations and people – had made it possible for the development cooperation granted by his government to become a State policy. He added that it was everybody’s merit to have developed a cooperation policy based on consensus and, therefore, on agents’ generosity and the commitment to eradicating poverty, which must prevail over particular interests. Next, Sancho López recognized that international cooperation and, in particular, Spanish cooperation will have to double efforts in order to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, and, at the same time, face huge internal and external challenges. He finally referred to the complexity of the international context, changes in European and Spanish cooperation policies, the improvement of the quality of assistance, bilateral cooperation instruments and modalities that are going to be applied by AECID to have a greater impact on development, triangular cooperation and South-South Cooperation.

b) Next, Dr. Antonio Romero, Director of Relations for Integration and Cooperation of SELA, warmly welcomed participants, on behalf of the Permanent Secretary of SELA, Ambassador José Rivera Banuet, and on his own behalf, and highlighted the purposes of the meeting. He stated that the drop in global economic activity has been deeper than expected and that the recovery process is expected to be gradual, long lasting and, possibly, complicated. Romero added that according to recent estimates, global Gross Domestic Product (GDP) will fall 2.6% this year, i.e. the largest drop since World War II.
Next, Romero referred to the recent cooperation efforts among LAC countries, which have been developed by the Permanent Secretariat upon a mandate from its Member States. After mentioning some figures that reflect the dramatic situation, he pointed out that both LAC international cooperation authorities and SELA, as a regional focal point, should maintain this situation and its effects under permanent observation and evaluation, in particular changes and effects that international scenario modifications impose on cooperation programmes and projects in the region. In this regard, he added, the Permanent Secretariat will try to gather and organize regular meetings with bilateral and multilateral development agencies with a view to systematizing a fluid and dynamic information exchange with different players of international cooperation in our region.

c) Mr. Rodolfo Cardona, Vice Minister of Economy of Guatemala, welcomed participants, on behalf of his government, and highlighted the opportunity and significance of the meeting. In his speech, he referred to several aspects that, in his opinion, make international cooperation development more difficult and hamper effectiveness of projects in the countries of the region. These aspects include high transaction costs and procedures being used, as well as the negative effects of climate change. He emphasized the importance that non-reimbursable international cooperation has presently gained, vis-à-vis the fiscal deficit that most LAC countries are going through as a consequence of the recession derived from the world economic crisis. Furthermore, he considers that LAC is facing two challenges: how to rebuild the role of the State in controlling and promoting economy, and develop intra-regional cooperation and technology transfer.

d) Ms. Delfina Mux, acting Secretary of Planning and Programming of the Presidency of the Republic of Guatemala (SEGEPLAN), welcomed participants, specially SELA and AECID representatives, and representatives of international and regional organizations. She pointed out that the Mayan calendar marked that day as “3 Ajmaq.” That day’s energy reminds us the commitment to the defence and the exercise of the rights of the less privileged people and to greater justice, and harmonizes us with Mother Nature. Mux highlighted her agreement with the origin and mission of the development assistance that is oriented to and linked with humanistic goals which, in turn, are focused on improving life standards of the populations that, due to their social, economic, and cultural conditions, live in poverty, exclusion and marginality. Next he added that South-South Cooperation is one of the cooperation modalities of LAC countries in terms of their exchange ability concerning different topics related to social, economic, environmental, cultural and political arena. In this regard, Mux highlighted that international and economic cooperation must guarantee the promotion of the social and humanistic dimension of development.

A. DEVELOPMENT OF WORK

4. The moderator submitted to the meeting Draft Agenda for consideration of the delegates, who approved it without any change. Both the Agenda and the support documents presented by the Permanent Secretariat, as well as the presentations by the international organizations and the different participating countries are available at SELA’s Web site: www.sela.org.

INTRODUCTORY SESSION: “Economic development of Latin America and the Caribbean within the context of the international economic and financial crisis”. Dr. Enrique Gil, General Manager of the Ministry of Economy of Guatemala moderated the discussions on this topic. Dr. Antonio Romero, Director of Relations for Integration and Cooperation of SELA made a presentation describing the main aspects of the world economic and financial crisis, its impacts on the countries of the region and the possible responses to said
impacts, both at the national and regional and global level. Romero highlighted that
between 2008 and 2009, the world has faced the most serious crisis over the last 80 years,
which makes it necessary to deploy efforts tending to coordinate the development
strategy at the different levels, not only with the aim of overcoming the crisis, but also
generating the required structural changes.

He said that precisely the global character of the crisis has made it necessary to face it
through strategies that have gone beyond national scope. Romero expressed that LAC
has accumulated a long list of moments when the integration and intra-regional
cooperation efforts have stopped - or gone back - as a result of crisis situations. In a crisis
scenario, the response of many countries has been to the detriment of the integration
commitments, which should be avoided. Finally, he considered that since crises make
imbalances deeper and countries' and companies' weaknesses greater, LAC should take
this opportunity to strengthen its productive transformation, move forward in the area of
social equality, achieve a more competitive and diversified international insertion and
play an active role in redesigning standards and institutions that control the global system.

SESSION I: Impact of the World Economic and Financial Crisis on International Cooperation
Programmes in Latin America and the Caribbean, and proposals to face it: Prospects of
multilateral organizations. The moderator for this session was Dr. Enrique Gil, General
Manager of the Ministry of Economy of Guatemala (MINECO).

5. Mr. Stefan Koeberle, the World Bank's Director of Strategies and Operations for Latin
America and the Caribbean, made a presentation entitled “World Bank Response to the
Financial Crisis in Latin America and the Caribbean.” Mr. Koeberle stated that the region is
a victim of the collapse occurred in the core of global economy and that, although the
crisis has had a strong impact, LAC is better prepared to overcome it. He then referred to
how the crisis is affecting the region and presented some figures in this regard: growth in
2008 was 4.3%, but it is going to contract about 2% at the end of 2009, before increasing
3% in 2010. However, he highlighted that current world economic situation represents a
window of opportunities for the countries of the region, in particular, to promote regional
integration and try to develop a better involvement in global economy.

Finally, Mr. Koeberle expressed that the Bank's policy is aimed at supporting the rescue of
the different economies, avoiding human consequences of the crisis, urging the countries
with a more stable economy to support the less favoured countries.

6. Mr. Juan José Taccone, Representative of the Inter-American Development Bank to
Guatemala, described the causes, magnitude and scope of the world economic crisis, as
well as its main implications in LAC. He agreed with appreciations and analyses of SELA
and, in this regard, he highlighted the severe social impact, in particular, the effects of the
dramatic drop in remittances from developed countries, above all from the U.S, to the
poorer countries in LAC. Mr. Taccone highlighted the little flexibility and the lack of
coordination of projects financed by international cooperation, and considered that it is
necessary to strengthen institutions in LAC countries in order to attract and negotiate with
multilateral and bilateral international cooperation donors, according to the national
development priorities. He pointed out the necessity that after cooperation has ended,
the installed capacity, both physical as well as institutional, remains in the country. Finally,
he underscored the importance of developing the South-South Cooperation, which, in his
opinion, would have huge potential in LAC.
Mr. Taccone explained that the IDB has increased loans for the region and that the assistance multiplied from US$ 11 billion to US$ 18 billion this year, not only to support infrastructure and social development, but also to overcome budget deficits.

He finally pointed out that cooperation agencies should focus their strategy on four very important aspects: being flexible and setting new priorities, avoiding duplication of efforts, privileging communication and coordination; strengthening institutions and cooperating not only in humanitarian projects, but also by contributing to economic and social reconstruction; and complementing South-South cooperation with a triangular cooperation, for which the creation of institutional funds is essential.

7. Mr. Rudolf Buitelaar, Head of the Project Management Unit of ECLAC, developed his presentation in two parts. The first one was referred to the “Current Situation and perspective of Latin American Economies.” Talking about the global crisis, he said that it has been compared to the 1930s crisis, that it already “touched bottom,” and that the worst part already occurred in LAC and recovery will be slow. He believes, however, that the region is now in better economic and financial conditions, thanks to the appropriate macroeconomic management of recent years. Notwithstanding, he pointed out that the crisis has had serious consequences for real economy and has reduced the macroeconomic management ability. Mr. Buitelaar stated that LAC experienced a strong initial contraction and that, although a recovery is expected for the second half of 2009, a 1.9% drop in GDP is estimated for 2009 and recovery will consolidate in 2010, year for which a 3.1% growth is estimated. He warned that this rate is insufficient in terms of social indicators and that international financial entities may provide resources to broaden the macroeconomic space.

In the second part of his presentation, Mr. Buitelaar talked about “Development Cooperation in the current International Economic Situation,” pointing out that the region’s share in total Official Development Assistance (ODA) has dropped and that this drop is reflected in the share of medium income countries. He said that an increasing amount of bilateral official assistance is directed to sectors related to government in LAC, whereas the amount for productive sectors tends to decrease. Mr. Buitelaar commented on the approach discussed in Doha concerning the need to avoid a decrease in financial flows, and considered that Monterrey Consensus is now more than ever fully in force. He mentioned three actions that the region should take: i) increase share of medium income countries in the total ODA, in particular, the countries in the region; ii) recognize that assistance requirements of medium income countries are varied, given the heterogeneity of countries included in this group, which have areas with high poverty indices, although they show high GDP per capita indices; and iii) promote other participation mechanisms for the medium income countries in the international cooperation system by playing a double role of official assistance receivers and donors.

8. Ms. Rebecca de los Ríos, Adviser of External Relations, Mobilization of Resources and Partnerships of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), referred to “Health Cooperation in Crisis Time: Opportunities and Challenges.” After commenting on some figures concerning aspects such as maternal mortality and trends in the composition of health spending, in the region; impact of the crisis on health; health assistance distribution channels in LAC and their further evolution, among others, de los Ríos made the following recommendations: i) Protect the most vulnerable populations and gain in public spending; ii) see to it that assistance does not decrease and that commitments assumed are complied with; and iii) promote and support South-South cooperation in the health area, as well as alliances, health work among sectors and integration spaces. Finally, she highlighted the need to face climate change effects with specific development policies, and look for health assistance donor others than ODA.
9. The moderator thanked the international organizations for their presentations and invited the delegates to express their opinions.

10. Panama’s delegation expressed their concern about the World Bank figures, highlighting the decrease in poverty in LAC during the years before the global economic crisis, which, in their opinion, could lead to a reclassification of LAC beneficiaries by the Bank, because most of these countries belong to the medium income group.

11. The World Bank representative referred to the concern of Panama’s delegation and, in this regard, explained that the Bank does not have the intention to modify the approach of social programmes toward LAC. The representative stressed that it is necessary that countries in the region focus their economic policies on the medium and long term, favour the fusion between State and the private sector, and re-examine the State-market relation in their economic processes.

12. Belize’s delegation highlighted the seriousness of the situation of the economies, which, like that of their country, are the most vulnerable because they are located in the hurricane zone of the Greater Caribbean Basin. In this regard, the delegation emphasized that one of the greatest difficulties they are facing is the lack of information on how to attract and access international cooperation. Therefore, the delegation considered that greater transparency and dissemination of the modalities and procedures of the different donor organizations is required to facilitate cooperation flow toward countries like Belize.

13. The IDB representative considered that LAC countries need to take windows of opportunity provided by the global crisis and that they have to undertake the structural reforms that allow for resources to be generated from the own country for the development programmes, vis-à-vis the possibility that international cooperation may not be increased.

14. The PAHO representative informed that this Organization has made reforms in the health area, which have led to a better administration of their programmes, and that health assistance is provided outside ODA.

15. The delegation of Mexico reminded that development assistance is contemplated in the Monterrey Consensus, which is now more than ever valid, and that a series of questions was posed concerning the need to distinguish between Official Development Assistance and that coming from developed countries and medium income countries. The delegation added that greater balance is required in the granting of international humanitarian assistance, and that this concept should not be mistaken for ODA, since almost all resources flow toward smaller economies. The delegation highlighted that, in their opinion, European assistance is biased toward Western Europe and Africa and that the increase in the South-South cooperation should not lead to a decrease in the North-South cooperation. Finally, they stressed the importance of remittances, which decrease could lead to an increase in poverty in several countries of the region.

16. The representative of ECLAC considered that it is necessary to conduct studies to clearly define concepts such as North-South cooperation, South-South cooperation, and triangular cooperation.

17. The representative of the Permanent Secretariat of SELA highlighted the double role of Mexico as a receiver and donor of international cooperation in the framework of SELA. In this regard, the representative mentioned Mexico’s support for the inclusion of Caribbean countries member of SELA into the SELA-IBERPYME Programme.
18. The delegation of the Dominican Republic agreed with the suggestion to perform analytical studies on modalities and procedures to attract and access international cooperation, in particular, to distinguish between reimbursable and non-reimbursable cooperation, and between donors and the so-called “process facilitators.” Furthermore, the delegation believes that it is necessary to know the ways of access to the South-South Fund and the abilities of middle income countries to grant non-reimbursable cooperation.

19. The moderator thanked participants for their opinions during the debate and invited the bilateral development agencies to make their presentations.

SESSION II “Impact of the World Economic and Financial Crisis on International Cooperation Programmes in Latin America and the Caribbean, and proposals to face it: Prospects of bilateral development agencies”. The moderator for this session was Delfina Mux, Secretary of Planning and Programming a.i. (SEGPLAN) of the Presidency of the Republic of Guatemala.

20. Mr. Francisco Sancho López, General Coordinator of Cooperation of AECID, highlighted the main elements of Spain's international cooperation policy toward LAC. In this regard, he said that Spain is aware that a period where cooperation of all countries, in general, and that of Spain, in particular, will have to contribute a double effort to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and, at the same time, face huge internal and external challenges. Sancho López added that the current globalization process is certainly imperfect and demands global action. Resources and proper instruments and institutions are needed for this purpose. This demand has not found a satisfactory response yet. He said that the European Union is going to double the volume of their international development assistance in the upcoming years, contributing to the 80% increase programmed at the world level. He pointed out that with the approval of the European Development Consensus (2006), EU countries reached an agreement on a number of common values, principles and objectives and started a process of qualitative changes in cooperation policies. The aim is optimizing the effectiveness of the EU assistance, as a whole, and repositioning EU as a development world leader.

He emphasized that Spain is determined to achieve the goal of 0.7% of GDP earmarked for development assistance, a goal that is not going to be easy at this moment of global crisis. Therefore, to develop its cooperation commitments, AECID, besides those of traditional technical cooperation programmes and projects and NGOs, some of the cooperation instruments which require the commitment and involvement of partner countries. These instruments include programmatic assistance, delegated cooperation, triangular cooperation and South-South cooperation. In this regard, Francisco Sancho López highlighted that triangular cooperation will be another of the instruments to be promoted by AECID, especially in LAC, by means of the support to capabilities of partners. Concretely, the support for their capability concerning the South-South cooperation will be one of the priorities of cooperation with LAC. He added that these capabilities are consolidated and, as part of this very same learning process, triangular cooperation will be substantially enhanced, with the new “emerging donors” being the “intermediate” partners.

21. Ms. Sandra Elaine Grigsby-Amade, Senior Counsellor to the Assistant Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) expressed her satisfaction for the meeting, because it will allow us to have a more complete idea of the impacts of the crisis on the countries of the region. While some countries are trying to measure these impacts, in his opinion, this will not be achieved before the end of 2010. She said that although the World Bank has increased assistance, some entities and countries have not
been able to benefit from it. Concerning USAID, she expressed that they are trying to provide technical cooperation and mentioned that alliances have been made to improve and assure the assistance result. They are also working to improve the financial sector, as well as tax collection. In this area, he reported that the Agency offers assistance to improve tax management, enhance transparency, Internet security regulation, and credits. She considered important to know that socioeconomic impacts are much stronger, above all, in financial and socioeconomic assistance programmes; therefore the agency will look for opportunities to develop new strategies with its partners, so that mutually beneficial coincidences can be found to set goals at the corporate level together with the partners, taking into account each country's priorities. In this sense, she considered convenient to focus assistance on the sustainability of programmes and expressed that the Agency will maintain their cooperation levels and programs that are currently being developed in LAC.

22. Mr. Takeo Sasaki, Representative of the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to Guatemala, made a presentation describing the actions tending to maintain international liquidity, the trade credit system, the support for growth recovery, and the short, medium and long-term emergency measures. Concerning JICA cooperation, Mr. Sasaki explained the mechanisms and modalities of the international cooperation granted by his country, which tends to decrease not only because of the crisis, but also because of the fact that LAC is being considered a self-sustainable region. Consequently, JICA supports triangular cooperation through Japan, Mexico, Brazil and Chile, in order to promote intra-regional cooperation. Finally, Mr. Sasaki considered necessary to make fundamental changes in the conception of international cooperation and achieve a clear coordination between technical cooperation and the economic policies of recipient countries.

23. Mr. Bernhard Dohle, Director of the German Technical Mission to Guatemala of the German Agency for International Cooperation (GTZ), talked about “Global Financial and Economic Crisis. Impact on Latin America” in his presentation, referring to three specific aspects: income decrease, private sector crisis and capital market decrease. He highlighted that in 2004-2007, German contribution through ODA increased to 733 million Euros. He also explained the cooperation programme planned by GTZ for 2010, which calls for the establishment of a regional platform to promote regional integration of the financial sector and strengthen regional development banks, as well as South-South cooperation based on the exchange of the best international practices. Finally, he referred to a cooperation programme based on clusters (poverty reduction, export diversification and good financial governance, among others), which is still being discussed and that would be jointly developed with ECLAC, CAF and CABEI.

24. Mr. Diego González Marín, representative of the cooperation area and Assistant Director of the European Commission (EC) Delegation to Guatemala, underscored the characteristics, conception and scope of EU cooperation, which is the largest in the world. He considered that development assistance is not enough by itself and that orienting European cooperation toward LAC will strengthen social cohesion and regional integration. In this regard, he informed that the European Commission is trying to simplify procedures, so that assistance responds to national priorities and its effectiveness and efficiency is enhanced. He described how, during 2009, both EC as well as member countries are trying to measure the impact of the global crisis to identify the most vulnerable countries, external dependence, reaction capability and the international response. He highlighted that many LAC countries have low tax collection levels and that this does not help fight the crisis. Finally, he considered that it is necessary to continue working on social cohesion, think that integration processes are important and effective
for development, develop new and sustainable approaches, strengthen institutional capabilities, and render cooperation projects sustainable.

25. The moderator thanked the speakers for their presentations and then invited participants to discuss the presentations.

26. Several delegations asked questions about the expressions “security in technical cooperation,” transaction costs, programme flexibility, balance between social cohesion and integration and, in general, about the orientations and procedures of the assistance going into the region. Questions were satisfactorily answered by the speakers, who highlighted, in particular, that the term “security” refers to the certainty that cooperation is effective in terms of determined measures, that cooperation must be the result of a negotiation between receivers and donors, that efforts will be and are being made to reduce transaction costs, that donors will incline in the future for triangular cooperation in LAC, and that the Declaration of Paris must be taken into account as a guiding principle.

27. The delegation of Cuba considered that the reflections on the impact of the crisis on society were interesting. Concerning international cooperation, the Cuban delegation highlighted that little has been said about transaction costs and considered that a way to achieve the best results has to be found with the scarce resources available. The delegation pointed out that transaction costs have reached 40% and they have to be cut, and added that receiving countries must make a better use of them, but that there are expenses that should not be reduced. On the other hand, the delegation considered that a good coordination between the players involved in the cooperation projects is necessary to articulate international and national efforts, so that cooperation may respond to the receiving country’s priorities and not entirely to the agenda of the cooperating entities.

28. The Colombian delegation pointed out that different mechanisms to support South-South and triangular cooperation have been mentioned, but that it is necessary to have better information on said mechanisms and, above all, to know which are the ways to access them. In this regard, the delegation considered that it is necessary for the permanent Secretariat of SELA to make a report on these mechanisms for governments to know them and be able to measure their usefulness, and be informed about how to access the different cooperation programmes.

29. The delegation of Ecuador considered that greater flexibility in the implementation of international cooperation is necessary, because national plans and priorities are susceptible to be modified in times of crisis such as the ones we are living in now.

The THIRD SESSION, “Impact of the World Economic and Financial Crisis on International Cooperation Programmes in Latin America and the Caribbean, and proposals to face it: Perspectives of Cooperation Directors of Latin America and the Caribbean”, was moderated by Antonio Romero, Director of Relations for Integration and Cooperation of the Permanent Secretariat of SELA.

30. Ms Dulce María Valle, Deputy General Director of the Direction of Specialized Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, made a presentation entitled “International Development Cooperation in Mexico”. She explained the characteristics, types and forms of International Development Cooperation (IDC), particularly Mexican cooperation. According to Ms Valle, IDC is a tool of the Mexican foreign policy that favours Mexico’s positioning around the world. She stressed that a special unit has been created in the Mexican Foreign Affairs Ministry to coordinate IDC in general, adding that IDC is aimed at Central America, the Caribbean, South America, the Middle East and
Africa, for purposes of sharing, transferring and adapting knowledge and expertise for mutual benefit. Further, she stated that Mexico has fostered triangular cooperation as a major mechanism to achieve cooperation that is more efficient and supplement bilateral actions. Finally, she explained that, in this area, Mexico intends to create a system that is better articulated and allows for more efficient cooperation among the different players in IDC, namely, stakeholders, sectors, supply and reception, as well as regulations.

31. Ms Patricia del Pilar Espichán Cuadros, the Head of the General Administration Office, Peru's International Cooperation Agency (APCI), delivered a presentation entitled "International Cooperation in Peru and the World Financial Crisis." She addressed three key topics regarding the Peruvian situation, namely, the world financial crisis and its impact on Peru; cooperation flows in Peru and the country's advantages as technical cooperation provider. Similarly, she explained the five performance guidelines of the APCI. Finally, she presented the strategic goals of the National Cooperation Policy and the arguments in favour of preserving non-refundable international cooperation. The first argument is that preserving the non-refundable international cooperation would help keep the present levels of cooperation unchanged, with funds meeting the principles set forth under the Declaration of Paris, namely, alignment, appropriation, harmonization, management based on results and mutual responsibility.

32. Ms Dagmar González Grau, the Director of International Economic Organizations, of the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Investment of Cuba, voiced her country's solidarity with the Republic of Guatemala over the serious food crisis facing the latter. A drought resulting from climate changes in important agriculture regions is hitting Guatemala. Ms González Grau suggested expressing solidarity with Guatemala in the conclusions of the present meeting. Subsequently, she explained her country's experience as receiver and donor of international cooperation. First, she said that nowadays Cuban authorities are reshuffling the State, not because of the crisis, but rather to cope with new requirements. She stressed that her country is not provided with much help through cooperation, but it has been working in cooperation for many years and with different countries. Ms González Grau said that cooperation is very important, as it provides an opportunity for interaction among the peoples. In her view, cooperation should be a two-way path, thus preventing donors' fatigue. She stressed that cooperators' impact should be related to economic and social development. She added that in her country one of the sectors benefiting the most from cooperation has been health care, which is precisely the sector where Cuba provides more cooperation.

Similarly, Ms González Grau said that an adequate domestic organization is important to channel aid. In this connection, her country has an integrated policy, which requires rationale, assessments and negotiations prior to any cooperation effort. According to Ms González Grau, Cuba's major areas of cooperation are health care, education, and strengthening of local development. Water is also an area of cooperation, as well as women empowerment, as women play a major role in labour in society. Priorities in the execution of projects are respected, while integration needs to be fortified so that cooperation has a greater impact. She referred to the example of ALBA-TCP. Finally, as regards South-South and triangular cooperation, she mentioned the example of the FAO Food Security Programme, which is an initiative that has yielded superb results based on few resources.

33. Mr Jaime Miranda, Vice-Minister of Development Cooperation, of El Salvador's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, began his presentation by thanking SELA for the invitation. He stressed that even though his Government left the organization some years ago, SELA never excluded El Salvador from its activities or cooperation programmes. On this particular topic, he announced that his country decided to rejoin SELA, a move that will
be informed to SELA Member States in October, during the Regular Meeting of the Economic Council. Miranda stressed that this important meeting ended up convincing his government of the need to be, once again, a member of SELA.

Subsequently, Mr Miranda delivered his presentation, called "International Development Cooperation in El Salvador: Current Situation". He noted the creation of the Vice-Minister's Office of Development Cooperation, on 25 June 2009. The office's general objective is to coordinate and strengthen management of financial and technical resources for international cooperation in order to foster domestic development. Then, he highlighted the major challenges facing the country as refers to IDC: Outlining a domestic decentralized cooperation strategy for development and bringing such strategy in line with domestic development plans; creating an institutional structure suitable for the present international cooperation paradigms; designing efficient cooperation management and administration mechanisms through adequate planning mechanisms; creating cooperation mechanisms with cooperation providers, other government agencies, municipalities and civil society; optimizing communication and links between the different stakeholders of cooperation, and in general, with international bodies. Finally, he mentioned the impact of the world economic and financial crisis on the international cooperation programmes, particularly in El Salvador.

34. The moderator thanked the speakers for their presentations and summarized the major topics addressed, including the following: i) There are processes or changes under way intended to restructure international cooperation, either to face the crisis or institutional changes, and there is consensus on the need to develop strategies and programmes in the longer term; ii) the crisis has had noticeable effects that may affect international cooperation beyond 2010. Therefore, permanent systematization and dialogue with agencies are required, together with regional consensus; iii) amidst the present shortage, cooperation and transparent processes are required; iv) regarding the countries with mid-size revenues, it is necessary to redesign negotiations on international cooperation, including indicators assessing the vulnerability of the countries; v) the countries advocate encouraging South-South and triangular cooperation, and note that North-South cooperation should not be replaced under no circumstances whatsoever; vi) stimulus of regional integration should not be disregarded; vii) systematization of supply and demand is advisable, as it is the basis to develop useful and viable projects; and viii) the need to harmonize some concepts or principles for gradually achieving matching standards for negotiation.

35. Subsequently, the moderator opened a debate.

36. The delegation of Dominican Republic claimed that humanitarian aid is not cooperation, as it has a contingency nature. However, they stated that culture is a vital topic for development cooperation that should be addressed as a transversal issue, rather than specifically. Concerning South-South cooperation, this delegation stated that the present concepts should be reviewed, as they are dealt with differently at the UN, the G-77 and ECLAC, and therefore they need to be unified. They suggested SELA to cooperate with the International Cooperation Directorates by gathering the abovementioned notions and turning them into a common language. Finally, they reminded that the South-South Fund was suggested some years ago and the UNDP was instructed to assess the steps to materialize such idea, which was not made. Through SELA, access to decision-making instances could be gained, in order to urge the IDB to expand the fund, if already in place.
37. The Mexican delegation said that humanitarian aid is circumstantial, but added that it could be a type of cooperation, depending on the circumstances. Regarding IDC, they stressed that assistance is not desirable if accompanied by conditions set forth by the cooperation provider in terms of resource allocation. They said that cooperation and dialogue with all of the concerned agencies are necessary to establish the priorities of each country. They agreed that the countries with mid-size revenues need to be reclassified, but termed the move problematic, as it involves fragmentation and this leads to the division of States and cooperation. Lastly, they suggested developed countries to try to avoid using the word "giving" instead of "cooperating," as the latter leads to complications.

38. The Peruvian delegation endorsed the proposal of unifying concepts, so that all stakeholders, agencies providing cooperation and countries receiving cooperation may use the same terms without confusions and contradictions. They supported the idea to create a Fund for South-South cooperation, as well as the reclassification of the countries with medium-size revenues, as under the current classification the internal inequalities of the poor countries receiving aid cannot be perceived abroad.

39. Mr Adalbert Tucker, Ambassador for Foreign Trade and International Cooperation of the Belize Prime Minister's Office, said that in his country a number of opportunities to receive international cooperation have been lost because of the lack of knowledge about the ways to access international cooperation and the lack of domestic institutions that may establish the priorities and negotiate with the relevant agencies.

40. Ms Sandel Susan Iris, Acting Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Planning and Development Cooperation of Suriname, presented the paper "Suriname: the economic crisis." She noted that her country's banking system is conservative and regulated by the Central Bank, and that the Central Bank has prevented the banking system from collapsing. She highlighted, however, some aspects of the Suriname economy such as Foreign Direct Investment, the commodities prices in world markets, agriculture, environment, forests, construction sector, households, remittances, and employment, among others.

41. The presentation of Ms Alexandra Maldonado, Coordinator of the International Cooperation Programmes of Ecuador's Agency of International Cooperation (AGECI), was entitled "Non-refundable International Cooperation in Ecuador". She stressed that non-refundable international cooperation in Ecuador has been fluctuating since 1960. Variations in funds apportionment have intensified as of the 1980s. She also stated that 1960 was the year when the lowest allocation of international cooperation was recorded – at US$ 6.02 million. Ms Maldonado added that to the present date, the historical yearly average growth of the allocation of non-refundable international cooperation resources stands at 12 percent.

42. Mr Jorge Enrique Prieto Cardozo, Assistant Director of Official Development Aid, International Cooperation Direction, Presidential Agency for Social Action and International Cooperation (Acción Social), Republic of Colombia, presented the institutional mechanisms that have been created in his country to attract, access and channel IDC. He explained that Acción Social is the technical agency in charge of coordinating the cooperation going in and out of Colombia. This is a unique agency because of the way it works and how it was devised. This is the presidential agency having the responsibility of addressing transversal issues in society. He stressed the importance of developing domestic institutions that coordinate cooperation, set priorities and negotiate with the agencies and countries providing cooperation. He said that fostering South-South cooperation is important, as the crisis will eventually hit the flow of
resources of the ODA and further curb the foreign indebtedness capacity. Lastly, he noted that South-South cooperation should focus on the pursuit of results that strengthen development.

43. Mr Luis Roberto Amarilla Luraschi, the General Director of Technical International Cooperation, Paraguay’s Technical Secretariat of Planning, delivered his presentation “Impact of the Financial Crisis on International Cooperation.” He stressed that the Technical Secretariat of Planning is the agency governing Paraguay’s planning systems. It tracks and assesses public administration, public investment, and foreign financing, as well as national statistics and social-economic data, and human resources specialization.

He highlighted the fact that both the world economic crisis and drought have significantly hit Paraguay in 2009. He added, however, that some signs of impending recovery appear from growth forecasts for 2010, as shown by the recent report released by a mission of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) that visited Paraguay. While real GDP may decline 4 percent in 2009, a significant rebound of at least 3-4 percent is expected in 2010. Such perspectives could be even better in the presence of a good crop season. He underlined that exports and imports have shrunk significantly because of the crisis, but the foreign debt balance and foreign reserves remain solid.

Concerning international cooperation, he stated that one of the tools available to restore growth and development is ODA. He noted, however, that the data available now are not very encouraging either quantitatively or qualitatively. In his view, all the signs suggest that the OECD governments are to prioritize other expenses, as shown by the fast and massive response of the richest countries’ governments to bail out banks and private institutions, rather than to increase ODA to minimize the ravages of the crisis and mitigate its effects. While the number of people living in poverty is close to 1 billion and continues to grow at an accelerated pace, there is a real risk that public powers in developed countries continue to cut ODA or, in the best-case scenario, keep their contributions unchanged.

Further, he added that besides the threats posed by the crisis in terms of ODA quality and the apparent risk of lost efficacy stemming from reduced global contributions, another threat is that rich countries go back to make aid, particularly to trade, conditional on trade, economic and financial preferences.

44. The Venezuelan delegation took the floor and described the mechanisms the Venezuelan government has been implementing as an international cooperation donor. They highlighted particularly the mechanisms that have emerged from the ALBA-TCP Initiative, such as Petrocaribe, Petrocasas, and Misión Milagro, under which a number of cooperation initiatives have been developed in several economically vulnerable countries, in both Latin America and the Caribbean, with a significant impact on the economically active population. They said that such Venezuelan cooperation initiatives are developing within the South-South cooperation framework and are implemented through integration programmes. They stressed that food security and energy supply in favourable conditions are the top priorities. They also referred to the humanitarian cooperation programmes developed by the Venezuelan government and the financing provided by the Venezuelan Economic and Social Development Bank (BANDES) to the most vulnerable countries. Finally, they voiced support to the proposals and suggestions presented by other delegations during the meeting.

45. Subsequently, Ms Delfina Mux, Secretary of Planning and Programming a.i. (SEGEPLAN), Presidency of the Republic of Guatemala, presented a paper entitled “Trends of the International Cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean.” She
assessed the main developments that defined the economic and political route the LAC countries and her own country have walked to date. Regarding her country, she noted that international cooperation has been influenced by a series of contingency events that have marked its political, social and economic life: Armed conflict, Agenda of Peace, post-Mitch and post-Stan emergencies, non-governance crisis and energy crisis, among others. She added that, given its growing and complex structural and political problems, Guatemala has been viewed as a priority country to receive development aid from the international community. She regretted the fact that the weakness of the State to harmonize the management and coordination of international cooperation within the framework of investment and social development has resulted in strayed policies, and political and technical difficulties preventing aid from being viable, relevant and efficient.

Regarding international cooperation and its adaptation to the present circumstances resulting from the world economic crisis, she said that her government has conducted a follow-up study on all the cooperation her country has received over the last few years. She announced that the institutionality survey of LAC in the area of international cooperation will be a topic during a meeting to be held in her country soon.

46. The Argentine delegation suggested including the types of debt swap for funding cooperation into the assessments of IDC to be conducted. For such purposes, they proposed suggesting the IDB and the development banks in general to create South-South cooperation cashier's windows.

47. The delegation of Suriname offered to host the XXI Meeting of Directors of International Development Cooperation of Latin America and the Caribbean, a proposal that was warmly welcomed by the other delegations.

48. The delegates congratulated the Permanent Secretariat of SELA, CAF and AECID for the successful organization of the meeting, and the Government of the Republic of Guatemala for its hospitality and courtesies during the event.

49. The government of the Republic of Guatemala thanked the delegates, SELA, AECID, CAF, and the International Cooperation Directors of Latin America and the Caribbean for attending the sessions, for their cooperation and support for the successful conduction of this meeting, and stressed the importance of the results achieved.

B. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

As a result of the presentations and debates held during the meeting, the delegates of the Member States of SELA adopted the following conclusions and recommendations:

1. The XX Meeting of International Cooperation Directors for Latin America and the Caribbean, whose central topic was “Impact of the World Economic and Financial Crisis on International Cooperation Programmes in Latin America and the Caribbean”, took place on 24 and 25 September 2009 in Antigua, Guatemala.

2. The meeting was organized by the Permanent Secretariat of the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA), in cooperation with the Secretariat of Planning and Programming (SEGEPLAN) of the Presidency of the Republic of Guatemala, the Ministry of Economy of Guatemala (MINECO), the Spanish Agency of International Cooperation for Development (AECID), and the Andean Development Corporation (CAF).
3. Participants recognized the analytical quality of the presentations made by the Permanent Secretariat of SELA, the representatives of international and regional organizations, the agencies of the United Nations system, and the cooperation agencies of the donor countries that attended the meeting. The presentations made by the representatives of the Member States of SELA were very useful to foster the exchange of ideas, experiences and proposals on the issue of international cooperation for development.

4. Participants underscored the importance of the presentations made by the officials of the World Bank (WB), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO/WHO), the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation for Development (AECID), the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), and the European Commission (EC).

5. The most outstanding issues discussed by the delegations of the Member States of SELA were as follows:

a) The ongoing financial and economic crisis, which was generated by the developed countries, has affected Latin American and Caribbean nations in many ways, in spite of the relatively good economic performance of the region in previous years. The crisis spread through various transmission channels to the real sectors of the economy, thus affecting production and employment with very negative effects on the social sphere. Compounding the situation are the consequences of the food crisis, the climate change and the current pandemic of Influenza A (H1N1), which aggravate the economic and social conditions in our countries.

b) The effects of the crisis have led to a deterioration of the progresses accomplished by many countries in the region to comply with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). In this connection, international cooperation should play a central role in mitigating the negative impacts of the crisis on the efforts to comply with the MDGs.

c) While it is true that the severe international recession has had negative effects on the economic and social performance of the region, it has also opened up windows of opportunity that, under certain conditions, could be taken advantage of in order to conduct the necessary structural transformation in Latin America and the Caribbean.

d) Even though it is not possible to make quantifications yet, there is no doubt that the current crisis is affecting international cooperation in a noticeable way. In some cases, the effects of the crisis on international cooperation projects and programmes underway in the region are estimated to have repercussions even beyond the year 2010. Such scenario forces our countries to conduct a permanent review of their international cooperation strategies and policies, to maintain a systematic dialogue with international donor agencies, and to make efforts for regional coordination, so that the development interests of Latin America and the Caribbean become a priority for the cooperation agencies of the main multilateral and regional donor organizations.

e) In their analyses of the trends and problems currently prevailing in the area of international cooperation, the delegates of the Member States of SELA underscored the following, among others:
i) The need to reduce high transaction costs for international cooperation operations;

ii) The importance of privileging transparency in international cooperation projects and programmes by spreading timely and pertinent information.

iii) The requirement that international cooperation donors align their offers and projects in accordance with the development needs of Latin American and Caribbean countries.

iv) The allocation of international cooperation resources is largely based on the World Bank country classification into low, medium and high income countries, which does not take due account of the complexity, heterogeneity and economic vulnerability of each one of them. The vast majority of the countries of our region are classified as "medium-income" countries, which affects them badly as they are not considered to be priority countries when it comes down to receiving international cooperation resources.

v) The importance of including the considerations as regards the income distribution profiles within the countries into the processes to analyze, prioritize and allocate international cooperation funds to developing nations.

vi) The need to achieve a geographical balance among the various developing regions receiving cooperation funds to avoid the marginalization of Latin America and the Caribbean as a destination for international cooperation flows for development.

vii) The advisability of undertaking processes to enable greater coordination and complementation among the various international cooperation organizations and agencies, with a view to promoting the necessary conditions for greater efficiency in the activities conducted by such institutions, while avoiding duplication and waste of resources; and

viii) The series of institutional reforms, strategies, principles and international cooperation policies which are underway in various countries of the region are aimed at increasing the efficiency of cooperation resources and their impact on development, while aligning them with the economic and social development priorities of each nation. In this connection, the exchange of experiences concerning these complex processes among the Member States of SELA was considered to be highly relevant.

f) Several delegates of the Member States of SELA raised the need to make headway with the conceptual and methodological debate as regards current international cooperation. In this connection, they pointed out that - based on the visions and experiences of various regional and international organizations and the countries of the region in this area - it is advisable for the Permanent Secretariat of SELA to attach priority to this type of analysis, systematization of visions and preparation of proposals in the upcoming annual meetings on international cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean.

g) In addition, some representatives of the Member States of SELA agreed that South-South cooperation actions and projects - particularly those that take place among LAC countries - are often crucial to promote development in our region. At present, it is also advisable to encourage other modalities, such as triangular cooperation. However, such cooperation modalities for development must strengthen their technical approach and they cannot replace North-South Cooperation. In this connection, participants reiterated their demand for developed countries to comply with their multilateral pledge they made some years ago - which was ratified in the Monterrey Consensus and in the Declaration of the UN High-Level...
Conference on Financing for Development held in Doha in late 2008 – to allocate no less than 0.7% of their GDP for Official Development Assistance.

h) Based on the experiences gained by our region as regards the design, negotiation, management, implementation, control and evaluation of the impact of international cooperation projects for development over the last few years, participants underscored the importance of forums such as this one, which are organized by SELA on a yearly basis with its Member States, which allow for a fluent exchange of ideas, good practices and proposals on international cooperation, while strengthening cooperation within Latin America and the Caribbean.

i) Some delegates recognized the importance of considering debt swap mechanisms among the countries of the region – for the debt contracted with international creditors – as alternative international cooperation modalities for development, in view of the present conditions.

j) Participants also pointed out that one of the possible threats of the crisis to Official Development Assistance (ODA) flows – and generally speaking to other international cooperation flows – not only involves a reduction of assistance amounts, but also the possibility that conditions for granting ODA might be toughened.

k) Participants in the XX Meeting of International Cooperation Directors for Latin America and the Caribbean expressed their solidarity with the authorities of the Republic of Guatemala, as the country faces a situation of food insecurity in some of its regions. In this connection, they urged the international community to make every effort to help the Guatemalan people overcome, as soon as possible, such humanitarian emergency situation. Thus, they endorsed the Declaration of Solidarity with Guatemala, issued by the Member States of SELA on 18 September 2009 in Caracas, Venezuela.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The delegates of the Member States of SELA agreed on the need to maintain a permanent analysis and follow-up of international cooperation trends in Latin America and the Caribbean, particularly in such a negative international economic context prevailing at present. This is a necessary condition to encourage greater regional coordination with a view to improving the negotiation capacity of LAC at the various international forums, mechanisms and institutions associated with international cooperation for development.

2. The global nature of the crisis and its multiple dimensions and transmission channels force us to face it through strategies that should go beyond local situations of each one of the countries. While national policies play a significant role, to successfully promote development, they must be complemented with external actions of various kinds, such as the ones aimed at achieving regional coordination, cooperation and integration.

3. As a follow-up of the discussions of this meeting of international cooperation directors, the Permanent Secretariat of SELA, in consultation with its Member States and in coordination with the regional and international organizations related to cooperation, must prepare a draft proposal for actions aimed at making progress with the discussions and regional agreement on conceptual and methodological issues, the systematization of national and regional experiences and views, and the preparation of proposals on international cooperation for development at the present time. The objective of such
actions is to try to unify the region’s concepts, principles and priorities in the area of international cooperation among the Latin American and Caribbean countries. These analyses should include an assessment of the added value provided by the main initiatives and projects implemented by agencies, funds and entities specializing in international cooperation for development in the region.

4. Bearing in mind the experience of the South-South Cooperation Fund of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the opinions expressed by some Member States on the need to have available financial resources to support cooperation among developing countries, SELA should use the decision-making spaces of the IDB to disseminate the region’s interest so as to increase such resources. In this connection, it was also stated that the recent initiatives in the context of the UNDP regional branch with a view to supporting cooperation among the region’s countries should also be taken into account, as well as those initiatives that could exist in other institutions such as CABEI, the Caribbean Development Bank, CAF, FONPLATA and the recently established Bank of the South and the ALBA Bank.

5. The Member States of SELA requested the Permanent Secretariat - in consultations with the various international and regional cooperation organizations - to provide to the Latin American and Caribbean countries systematized information about the different mechanisms existing within said organizations to promote South-South Cooperation.

6. It is necessary to create the appropriate conditions to gradually allow an active and coordinated participation of Latin American and Caribbean countries in the various scenes where international cooperation projects and programmes are devised, negotiated and implemented.

7. The delegations congratulated the Secretariat of Planning and Programming (SEGEPLAN) of the Presidency of the Republic of Guatemala, the Ministry of Economy of Guatemala (MINECO), the Spanish Agency of International Cooperation for Development (AECID), the Andean Development Corporation (CAF), and the Permanent Secretariat of SELA for their work and support in organizing and conducting this Regional Meeting.

8. The delegations expressed special gratitude to the Guatemalan authorities for their hospitality, in their capacity as representatives of the host country for this regional meeting, and to the Government of the Republic of Suriname, which will provide the venue for the next XXI Meeting of International Cooperation Directors for Latin America and the Caribbean, scheduled to be held during the second half of 2010, which will follow up some of the recommendations made in this meeting.
ANNEX I

Agenda
XX MEETING OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION DIRECTORS
FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

“IMPACT OF THE WORLD ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL CRISIS ON INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION PROGRAMMES IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN”

ADDRESS: CENTRO DE FORMACIÓN DE LA COOPERACIÓN ESPAÑOLA EN LA ANTIGUA. 6a.
Av. Norte entre 3ra y 4ta. Calle, Antigua Guatemala, Guatemala
Telephone: (502) 7832-1276/68; Fax: (502) 7832-1280

Objectives: i) To evaluate the impact of the World Economic and Financial Crisis on International Cooperation Programmes in Latin America and the Caribbean; ii) To analyze the international economic and financial crisis from the bilateral and multilateral perspective, and the foreseeable reduction of Official Development Assistance (ODA) to Latin America and the Caribbean; iii) To determine the main programmes, projects and regional and international cooperation initiatives which could be affected by the crisis in the region; iv) To identify possible areas and lines of action that could be adopted by the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean in order to compensate, wherever possible, the impact of the crisis on the international cooperation programmes (triangular cooperation and South-South Cooperation); and v) To update international cooperation topics with an integral vision.

Thursday, 24 September 2009

Morning

8:00 – 9:00 REGISTRATION

09:00 – 10:00 OPENING SESSION

Address by the General Coordinator of the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation for Development (AECID) / Embassy of Spain in Guatemala, Francisco Sancho López, General Coordinator of Cooperation

Address by the Director of Relations for Integration and Cooperation of the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA), Antonio Romero

Address by the Vice-Minister of Economy of Guatemala (MINECO), Honourable Rodolfo Cardona

Address by the Secretary of Planning and Programming (SEG EPLAN) of the Presidency of the Republic of Guatemala, a.i., Delfina Mux

10:20 – 10:30 Coffee break
10:30 – 11:30

**INTRODUCTORY SESSION: “Economic development of Latin America and the Caribbean within the context of the international economic and financial crisis”**

Antonio Romero, Director of Relations for Integration and Cooperation of the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA),

**Moderator/Rapporteur:** Enrique Gil, General Manager of the Ministry of Economy of Guatemala

11:30 – 1:00

**SESSION I:**

**Impact of the World Economic and Financial Crisis on International Cooperation Programmes in Latin America and the Caribbean, and proposals to face it: Prospects of multilateral organizations**

- World Bank (WB), Stefan Koeberle, Director of Strategy and Operations
- Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), Juan José Taccone, Representative in Guatemala
- Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Rudolf Buitelaar, Head of the Unit for Project Management
- Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), Rebecca de los Ríos, Adviser of External Relations, Mobilization of Resources and Partnerships

1:00 – 1:30 Debate

1:30 – 2:30 Lunch offered by the Government of Guatemala: Secretariat of Planning and Programming of Guatemala (SEGEPLAN) and Ministry of Economy (MINECO). Place: AECID’s Spanish Cooperation Training Centre

**Afternoon**

2:30

**SESSION II**

**Impact of the World Economic and Financial Crisis on International Cooperation Programmes in Latin America and the Caribbean, and proposals to face it: Prospects of bilateral development agencies**

**Moderator/Rapporteur:** Delfina Mux, Secretary of Planning and Programming (SEGEPLAN) of the Presidency of the Republic of Guatemala, a.i.

- Spanish Agency for International Cooperation for Development (AECID), Francisco Sancho López, General Coordinator of Cooperation
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- United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Sandra Elaine Grigsby-Amade, Senior Counsellor to the Assistant Administrator
- Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Takeo Sasaki, Resident Representative in Guatemala
- German Agency for International Cooperation (GTZ), Bernard Dohle, Director of the GTZ German Technical Mission in Guatemala

4:00 – 4:15 Coffee break
4:15 – 5:30 Debate
7:00 Dinner offered by The Permanent Secretariat of the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA). Place: Convento de Capuchinas

Friday, 25 September 2009

Morning

9:00- 10:00 SESSION III
Impact of the World Economic and Financial Crisis on International Cooperation Programmes in Latin America and the Caribbean, and proposals to face it: Perspectives of Cooperation Directors of Latin America and the Caribbean

Moderator: Antonio Romero, Director of Relations for Integration and Cooperation of SELA

International Cooperation Directors of Latin America and the Caribbean

11:00 – 11:15 Coffee break
11:15 – 1:00 Debate
01:00 – 2:30 Lunch offered by the Government of Guatemala: Secretariat of Planning and Programming (SEGEPLAN) of the Presidency of the Republic and Ministry of Economy. Place: AECID’s Spanish Cooperation Training Centre
## Afternoon

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<td>2:30-3:45</td>
<td><strong>SESSION III - Continuation</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Moderator:</strong> Antonio Romero, Director of Relations for Integration and Cooperation of SELA</td>
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<td><strong>CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS</strong></td>
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<td>7:00</td>
<td>Dinner offered by the Government of Guatemala: Secretariat of Planning and Programming (SEGEPLAN) of the Presidency of the Republic and Ministry of Economy (MINECO). Santo Domingo Hotel</td>
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Speech by the General Coordinator of Cooperation of the Spanish Agency of International Cooperation for Development (AECID), Francisco Sancho López
Mrs. Delfina Mux, SEGEPLAN Secretary,

Mr. Vice-Minister of Economy of Guatemala,

Representative of SELA,

Representatives of International and Regional Organizations,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

My greetings go to the Delegations of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean attending this XX Meeting of Cooperation Directors, and to the members who have joined me at this opening session. Congratulations to SEGEPLAN for organizing it and for having proposed this Spanish International Cooperation Training Centre as the venue. Thanks to the mass media for their coverage of such a significant meeting to be held over the next two days.

Spain has started a new era for Spanish Cooperation and we are proud to say that, all of us – organizations, political forces, administrations, people – have managed to turn cooperation policy for development into a State policy.

All of them have the merit of having built a cooperation policy based on consensus and, therefore, based on their generosity and commitment to eradicate poverty beyond any individual interests.

Having said this, we are aware of the beginning of a stage where cooperation of all countries in general, and of Spain in particular, is a must to accomplish the Millennium Development Goals, while facing sizable internal and external challenges.

Sure enough, ongoing globalization is not perfect. This process requires global management in need of resources, institutions and appropriate tools. Such a requirement has not been fully met yet, as evidenced by the persistence of tax evasion or tax havens, to mention just one example.

A globalization process in a more diverse, multi-polar world, where emerging countries are forming new politically and economically influential centres, compels us to seek ways for dialogue and agreement, for a decisive international cooperation action.

A more inclusive and equitable globalization is a must to face inequalities and globally shared troubles, especially poverty and a deteriorated environment. The recognition of poverty as the cause and effect of the denial of the fundamental rights set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights imposes an obligation on the international community.

Due to globalization, the economic crisis sourced in developed countries in August 2007 has affected the developing world by different means: access to financing, oil prices and high cost of food. The falling demand for raw materials, the drop in remittances, the impending threats to the Official Development Assistance (ODA) in the face of budgetary constraints, and the potential protectionist reactions from developed countries could aggravate the impact of the crisis, particularly on less developed countries.
The new international agenda for development falls within context. Sure enough, it will possibly or effectively be mirrored in any cooperation policies of donors, which will make significant adjustments in order to fulfill their commitments. Among others, donors are rethinking their strategic goals, procedures, relations with developing countries, tools and modalities for action. All of this forms part of the framework where current European and Spanish policies for international cooperation should be located.

The European Union (UE) is to double the volume of its international aid for development over the next few years, contributing to 80% of the expected total world increase. With the consent of the European Council for Development (2006), the EU member states agreed on a number of values, principles and common goals, triggering a process towards a qualitative change of the cooperation policy. The aim is to upgrade the UE aid and reposition the EU as the world leader in development.

Spain is determined to provide 0.7 of the GDP intended to development assistance. Of course, this goal will not be easy to attain at a time of economic crisis which, once again, hits all of us to a greater or lesser extent.

But we are aware that at the international level, the net volumes of ODA tend to get steady, or at worst, they are clearly declining.

Therefore, at this current moment of crisis, we could take many actions. But the attempts to improve the quality of assistance - that is, a more effective aid to attain the development goals - should be top in the agenda of institutional reforms and planning, and in the follow-up and assessment tools already implemented by many of us and that should keep on consolidating throughout this new stage. This process has undoubtedly put the Spanish Cooperation in the world agenda for good-quality assistance. Therefore, its contents, based on the principles of the Paris Declaration and the Accra Agenda for Action, are a benchmark to be permanently included in our cooperation policy in this new stage.

Geographical and sector focus of actions is another key aspect where all countries, both cooperation donors and recipients, should make a commitment to improve the quality and utilize in a more effective way the scarce available resources. The enforcement of the concentration and prioritization principles is particularly relevant in the Spanish case; because our assistance system is quite disperse in terms both of stockholders and scopes.

Therefore, we deem it important to have a proposal for concentration based on the definition of the role of the Spanish Cooperation from the selection of priority sectors according to the needs of each partner and through a process of dialogue and consensus with their Governments and the Spanish stockholders.

For the Spanish Cooperation, the best way to face the development agenda is by means of a partnership around common development goals and/or views. In this connection, our 3rd Guideline Plan has retaken, reinforced and reconsidered the principle of partnership for development in order to contact and join efforts with stockholders of different origins, missions, abilities or natures, towards common goals and views for human development and eradication of poverty.

It should be a partnership where individual success will not be sought, as the effects on development is what really matters, and where better living conditions and people’s expectations is the best tool for a “high profile.” The perverse effects so far instilled into the behaviour of all stockholders in their attempt at “claiming” the achievements of
development projects or programmes, thus undermining the abilities of our partners to pioneer their own development, are superfluous in this new partnership for development.

The partnership principle notes that relations in cooperation are far more important than traditionally considered. One of the keys for development reposes in relations; relations among people, men and women, families, communities, grassroots organizations, trade unions, NGOs, economic parties, local authorities, national authorities and donor community.

To the extent that partnerships for development properly work, from the community level to the international level, efforts will have a multiplying impact. Should the resources for development be equally provided, the type of partnership or any relations among the people or organizations involved will make a decisive impact on development. This is, without a doubt, the main change of paradigm underlying the Paris Declaration.

The Spanish Cooperation is set to implement such a partnership principle for development among peers – including citizens - called Associative Frameworks, with each of our partner countries over the next few years.

In order to develop our commitments for cooperation, AECID will implement, in addition to the usual projects and programmes, technical cooperation and NGOs, some of the following cooperation tools where commitment and involvement of partner countries is a must.

- **Programme assistance**: Spain will foster, together with its partners and in the countries with the minimum conditions available, any approaches based on programmes or programme assistance as part of cooperation for development under the principle of coordinated support to a local development programme, such as a strategy to reduce poverty, a sector program, a thematic programme, or a programme from a specific organization.

- **Delegated cooperation**: Concomitantly, and in those countries where Spain lacks a relevant agent, delegated cooperation will be promoted. Delegated cooperation means a mode of OAD where a donor country - called leading donor or agent - is empowered to act in the name and stead of any other donors - called silent or principal donors. As a result, the leading donor will be responsible, on behalf of any other donors, for reaching the necessary agreements with the recipient country; discussing policies, and managing all the allotted funds.

- **Triangular cooperation and South-South cooperation**: (Triangular cooperation is a modality by which a donor country aids a partner country through a third party - developing country - which acts as a leading country in channelling of the resources from several donor countries.)

Triangular cooperation will be another tool we would like to promote, particularly in the Latin American and Caribbean region.

Some of the traditional partner countries of the Spanish Cooperation ranked among the Medium-Income Countries already have installed capacity to act as donor countries and have been included in the geographical categories of the 3rd Guideline Plan, given its high potential for a more effective cooperation and with more comparative advantages in the region or hemisphere.
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The support to partners’ abilities, namely the support to their ability for South-South cooperation, will be among the priorities of the Spanish Cooperation with these countries. As long as these abilities are consolidated, and as part of this learning process, triangular cooperation will substantially increase with these new “emerging donors” as “intermediate” partners.

Finally, I would like to wish all of you a pleasant stay in Guatemala and Antigua. I am positive that, during these days of work, you will manage to attain the goals set for this XX Meeting of LAC Cooperation Directors.

Thank you very much.
Speech by the Director of Relations for Integration and Cooperation of SELA, Antonio Romero
Your Excellency, Ms. Delfina Mux, Secretary a.i. of the Secretariat of Planning and Programming of the Presidency of the Republic of Guatemala;

Your Excellency, Mr. Rodolfo Cardona, Vice-Minister of Economy of the Republic of Guatemala;

Mr. Francisco Sancho, General Coordinator of the Technical Office for Cooperation (OTC) in Guatemala;

Ms. Mercedes Flórez, Director of AECID’s Spanish Cooperation Training Centre in Antigua, Guatemala;

Honourable International Cooperation authorities of the Member States of SELA;

Distinguished Representatives of the Embassies of the Member States of SELA accredited to the Government of Guatemala;

Distinguished delegates from regional and international organizations;

Ladies and gentlemen:

On behalf of the Permanent Secretary of the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA), Ambassador José Rivera Banuet – who was not able to attend this annual meeting of Cooperation Directors since he is representing SELA in another high-level event right now – I convey his fraternal greetings on the occasion of this XX Annual Meeting of International Cooperation Directors for Latin America and the Caribbean.

I would also like to take this opportunity to reiterate our gratitude to the Government of Guatemala, particularly to the Secretariat of Planning and Programming of the Presidency of the Republic and the Ministry of Economy; to the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation for Development (AECID), the Spanish Cooperation Training Centre in Antigua, and the Andean Development Corporation (CAF), for their support and collaboration in conducting this regional meeting.

For the Permanent Secretariat, it is a privilege to join the Cooperation Directors of our region to analyze the impact of the current global economic and financial crisis on international cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean.

As explained in the note convening this meeting, the fundamental objectives of this effort to make analyses and proposals during these two days are as follows: i) To evaluate the impact of the world economic and financial crisis on international cooperation programmes in Latin America and the Caribbean; ii) To analyze the international economic and financial crisis from the bilateral and multilateral perspective, and the foreseeable reduction of Official Development Assistance (ODA) to Latin America and the Caribbean; iii) To analyze the international economic and financial crisis from the perspective of bilateral and multilateral cooperating agencies, and the foreseeable reduction of assistance flows to Latin America and the Caribbean; iv) To determine the main programmes, projects and regional and international cooperation initiatives which could be affected by the crisis in the region; and iv) To identify possible areas and lines of action that could be adopted by the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean in order to compensate, wherever possible, the impact of the crisis on the international cooperation programmes.
It is widely recognized that the decline in the global economic activity has been deeper that originally foreseen, and the recovery process is expected to be a gradual, long-term process, which may not be exempt from complications. Recent estimates indicate that the world Gross Domestic Product will fall 2.6 percent this year – the steepest decline seen since World War II.

The present crisis has had serious consequences for the economies of most of the countries in the world, particularly for developing nations. Millions of people are losing their jobs, and therefore their income, their savings and even their homes. Estimates indicate that this year another 100 million people will end up living in extreme poverty and suffering hunger. Thus, the current crisis is gradually setting back the progress that many countries had made as a result of their efforts to comply with the objectives of the Millennium Development Goals.

Since the beginning of the economic and financial crisis, all of the Member States of SELA have reported a series of negative effects and impacts which obviously vary in accordance to several factors such as: the level of development reached; the degree of diversification of their productive structures; the efficiency and capacity of their banking and financial systems to timely and adequately respond to the demands and requirements of their national economies; their levels of accumulated domestic and foreign debt; the availability of foreign currency; the volume of the deficit or surplus in their public finances and external accounts; the amount and composition of their international reserves; and the degree of diversification of their exports and the markets they are destined to. Some of the negative effects are: A sharp decrease in access to international financing and toughening of their conditions; a very strong drop in foreign demand for those goods and services produced in our nations; and a reduction of income from money remittances. This has been at the very basis of the economic recession faced by our region, which in turn, brings about an increase in unemployment and poverty, in addition to impacts that upset the balance of payments; volatility in the foreign exchange rates and serious limitations to finance networks favouring social well-being in the most vulnerable economies in Latin America and the Caribbean.

To illustrate this point, it should be noted that, amid the present circumstances, projections point to a drop between 35 and 45 percent in Foreign Direct Investment flows and a decrease between 5 and 10 percent in remittances flows to Latin America and the Caribbean. In addition, there has been a 29 percent reduction in international prices of commodities exports from the region, and a fall of nearly 30 percent in the value of LAC exports. In recent history, the region has experienced an unprecedented reduction in its foreign trade. In order to find a similar situation in history with the same magnitude of this fall in trade exchange – in terms of both volumes and prices – it would be necessary to go back in time 70 years, to the period 1937-39, in the case of exports, and 27 years, to 1982, in the case of imports.

Within this context, Latin American and Caribbean countries have been outlining and implementing policy strategies to face this adverse international reality, in line with the urgency, magnitude and nature of the crisis. The fundamental purpose of these policy responses has been to minimize the negative effects of global recession on the economy and society in Latin America and the Caribbean, particularly on the poorest and most vulnerable sectors of our peoples.

But the strategies and initiatives to face the crisis cannot be limited to actions with a domestic scope aimed at strengthening public policies – particularly those related to monetary, financial, fiscal, and trade policies, and those aimed at contributing to fight
poverty and promote social and economic development. It is absolutely necessary to undertake actions with a regional and global scope as well.

This complex situation – compounded by the food security crisis and the problems posed by climate change – calls for efforts by the international community, as never before, to reaffirm and comply with its commitments and promises in the area of official development assistance and international cooperation with developing countries.

In the regional arena, it is necessary to make headway towards the consolidation of more effective and efficient mechanisms for international cooperation, and, particularly, to strengthen South-South Cooperation and triangular cooperation, while promoting regional integration. To this end, the greatest possible coordination must be ensured in order to prevent dispersion of efforts, or waste of time and resources. In this connection, the Permanent Secretariat of SELA reiterates the validity and importance of one of its fundamental purposes: to promote intra-regional cooperation and Latin American and Caribbean integration.

In this regard, both international cooperation authorities in Latin America and the Caribbean and SELA, as regional focal point, should permanently monitor and evaluate these issues, particularly the changes and consequences that the evolution of the international scene imposes on the cooperation programmes and projects underway in the region. Thus, the Permanent Secretariat will attempt to convene and hold regular events with bilateral and multilateral development agencies with the purpose of ensuring a systematic, fluent and dynamic exchange of information among the various players in the area of international cooperation in our region.

I would also like to refer to the efforts that the Permanent Secretariat has been carrying out recently, upon the mandate of its Member States, in the area of cooperation among Latin American and Caribbean countries.

As many of you may remember, in the previous meeting of cooperation directors, which took place in Mexico City in December 2008, an agreement was reached on a cooperation programme for trade facilitation among the countries of the region. Following the consultations with our Member States, said cooperation programme has been defined and negotiated with the relevant international organizations, and all indications are that next year we will start undertaking the actions and activities stemming from this effort with a regional scope. Also, during the XXXIV Regular Meeting of the Latin American Council, the Member States approved a Regional Programme on the Social Dimension of Integration in Latin America and the Caribbean, and as part of the actions foreseen in it – and following consultations with our countries – coordination efforts have been undertaken with ECLAC and PAHO to develop an integration and convergence project for health in Latin America and the Caribbean, whose initial activities will also be conducted as of next year.

Similarly, a few weeks ago, SELA, with the co-sponsorship of SEGIB and the support of AECID, held a seminar for South American countries on regional cooperation in the area of disaster risk reduction, and within two weeks, we will hold in Panama a similar seminar corresponding to those Member States of SELA in the subregions of Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean. I must underscore the important contribution of the Government of Mexico for the successful conduction of these intra-regional cooperation initiatives.
Lastly, during the latest Latin American Council, the Member States approved the Regional Cooperation Programme for Food Security in Latin America and the Caribbean, which we have already started to develop within the framework of SELA, with the collaboration of FAO, WFP and IICA.

Precisely, within the context of the recently held “Meeting for Consultation and Coordination on Food Prices and Food Security in Latin America and the Caribbean”, which took place in our headquarters on 17 and 18 September, as part of the activities foreseen in this latter cooperation programme, the Member States adopted a Declaration of Solidarity with Guatemala, which urges the whole international community to make every effort with a view to supporting the authorities of the Republic of Guatemala to face the serious food crisis beleaguering this sister nation, which has welcomed us today with enormous hospitality.

I would also like to take this opportunity to highlight the fortunate coincidence of this event with the sessions to mark the independence of the Central American countries and Mexico - which leads us to remember the ambitious projects of our liberators that still remain valid. Cooperation efforts among our brethren countries represent a continued commitment that we, the newest generations of Latin American and Caribbean people, have with our independence heroes.

I am sure that these two days of debates, which we are undertaking today, will allow us to tighten friendship, solidarity and cooperation bonds among Latin American and Caribbean peoples. In this connection, I reiterate, on behalf of Ambassador Rivera Banuet, that you can rest assured that our governments can count on the firm support of the Permanent Secretariat of SELA in pursuing such commendable goals.

Thank you very much.
Speech by the Secretary of Planning and Programming a.i., (SEGEPLAN) of the Presidency of the Republic of Guatemala, Delfina Mux
Representative of SELA,

Representative of AECID,

Representatives of the Member States of SELA,

Representatives of regional and international organizations,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Secretariat of Planning and Programming of the Presidency of the Republic of Guatemala is honoured to welcome all the guests to the event, especially the representatives of the Member States of SELA, of multilateral organizations, of bilateral organizations, and the representatives of government agencies. Today, our Maya calendar marks the three Ajmaq, whose day energy reminds us of our commitment to advocacy and exercise of the rights of the underprivileged and to more justice, in addition to putting us in harmony with Mother Nature.

This is consistent with the origin and mission of development assistance, oriented to and linked with humanist goals, focused on a improved quality of life and better living conditions of people who, given their social, economic and cultural conditions, live in poverty, exclusion and marginality.

For this reason, today we should join efforts to ascertain and assess from the multilateral and bilateral cooperation view, the impact of the world crisis on cooperation programmes and the expected decrease in Development Assistance towards Latin America and the Caribbean, and also identify any areas and guidelines to offset the impending impact of the crisis.

In this regard, South-South cooperation has become one of the modalities of cooperation among our Latin American and Caribbean nations, in terms of their exchange ability in several, different subjects related to the economic, social, environmental, cultural and political fields of the countries in the region.

In making alternatives, we face the challenge to work on new development paradigms set to address the issues of poverty, exclusion, marginality and underdevelopment in developing countries and create well-being ahead of social and economic justice for everybody, following the failure of development theories and approaches aimed at overcoming poverty and inequality in Latin America and the Caribbean.

No crises should be faced only from the economic view, in default of an adequate political, social, cultural and human management.

Interestingly, while the aim of 0.7% of the GDP provided by OECD member states seems unattainable in the short and medium terms, basically due to the effects from the financial crisis, most OECD member states, even amidst the current crisis, vowed to redouble their efforts and commitments to attain the Millennium Development Goals. The countdown has started and some countries will follow up Goal 8. This is among the major challenges that developed countries should be determined to face.
Thus, we thank SELA, CAF, the Spanish Agency of International Cooperation for Development, and Guatemala’s Ministry of Economy for joining this effort.

Thank you very much – Matiox.
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XX MEETING OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION DIRECTORS FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

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ANNEX VI

List of Documents
### XX Meeting of International Cooperation Directors for Latin America and the Caribbean

**Antigua, Guatemala**  
24 and 25 September 2009

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Bernard Dohle, Director of the GTZ German Technical Mission in Guatemala

SP/XX-RDCIALC/Di N° 10-09  Palabras en el Acto de Instalación
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SP/XX-RDCIALC/Di N° 11-09  La Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo de México
Dulce María Valle, Directora General Adjunta de la Dirección de Organismos Especializados, Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores de México

SP/XX-RDCIALC/Di N° 12-09  La Cooperación Internacional en el Perú y la Crisis Financiera Mundial
Patricia del Pilar Espichán Cuadros, Jefa de la Oficina General de Administración, Agencia Peruana de Cooperación Internacional (APCI)

SP/XX-RDCIALC/Di N° 13-09  La Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo en El Salvador
Jaime Miranda, Viceministro de Cooperación para el Desarrollo, Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores de El Salvador

SP/XX-RDCIALC/Di N° 14-09  Suriname: The economic crisis
Sandel Susan Iris, MPA, Acting Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Planning and Development Cooperation of Suriname

SP/XX-RDCIALC/Di N° 15-09  Tendencia de la Cooperación Internacional en América Latina y el Caribe
Lic. Delfina Mux, Secretaría de Planificación y Programación en Funciones (SEGELPLAN) de la Presidencia de la República de Guatemala

SP/XX-RDCIALC/Di N° 16-09  Cooperación Internacional No Reembolsable en el Ecuador
Alexandra Maldonado, Coordinadora de Programas de Cooperación Internacional, Agencia Ecuatoriana de Cooperación Internacional (AGECI)

SP/XX-RDCIALC/Di N° 17-09  Impacto de la crisis financiera en la cooperación internacional
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Impacto de la Crisis Financiera en la Cooperación Internacional: Necesidades de Ajuste
Jorge Enrique Prieto Cardozo, Subdirector de Ayuda Oficial al Desarrollo, Dirección de Cooperación Internacional, Agencia Presidencial para la Acción Social y la Cooperación Internacional de Colombia

Lista de participantes

Support documents

La acentuación de la crisis económica global: situación e impacto en América Latina y el Caribe
Recesión Global, Migraciones y Remesas: Efectos sobre las Economías de América Latina y el Caribe
El alza de los precios de los alimentos: Una propuesta del SELA
El Alza del Precio de los Alimentos: Seguimiento a la Conferencia Mundial de Alto Nivel sobre Seguridad Alimentaria de la FAO, Roma, 3 – 5 de junio de 2008
La Crisis Financiera del 2008: Análisis y propuestas del SELA