

Special Declaration 11: Of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States on transparency and fight against corruption

We, the Heads of State and Government of Latin America and the Caribbean, gathered in Costa Rica, on the occasion of the III Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), on 28 and 29 January 2015.

Acknowledging that the prevention and fight against corruption is one of the priorities of Member States in our Community, and recognizing the importance of generating synergies between the different instruments and international fora on the subject;

Considering the conclusions of the I and II Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities on Preventing and Fighting Corruption, which reaffirm commitments to create policies and regional articulation to bring forth a new culture of transparency and citizen participation.

Accepting the responsibility of Member States of CELAC through the development of mechanisms to promote a culture of transparency and ensure citizen participation.

Defending the value of ethics and open information in our commitment towards our citizens, to improve services, manage public resources, promote innovation and create safer communities.

Agree to the following:

1. Reiterate the importance of transparency in the public management and the citizen participation to ensure greater prosperity, development with inclusion and well-being in the countries of the Region.
2. To encourage the development of policies, best practices and experiences to prevent and fight corruption, based on citizen participation, social control, transparency, accountability, ethics and public integrity. Likewise, to increase access to public information and transparency in order to foster and ensure an efficient, participatory and democratic governance of the Community.
3. To promote and implement mechanisms for coordination between the institutions and supervisory bodies working in preventing and fighting corruption in Member States, to fight corruption and the use of mechanisms to recover assets obtained through this crime, according with their intern legislation.
4. To promote public policies and government transparency mechanisms based on free access of citizens to public information, ensuring accountability, participatory and democratic governance, through the strengthening of procedures and mechanisms for the participation of citizens, civil society, private sector and public institutions in government decisions as appropriate.
5. To promote the effective implementation of international instruments on prevention and fight against corruption in our countries, especially the United Nations Convention against Corruption.
6. To foster technical exchanges of good practices and support among the member countries of CELAC in order to strengthen technological platforms that encourage citizen participation, access to information and transparency and to share experiences, information and technical resources.

7. To recognize the importance of open standards and data to promote, according with the national legislations and national mechanisms, civil society access to public data as appropriate, and to facilitate the interoperability of government information systems.

8. To create and improve, according to technical possibilities and infrastructure, accessible and secure online spaces such as platforms for service delivery, public participation and exchange of information and ideas. We acknowledge that equitable and affordable access to technology remains a challenge for developing countries so, it is essential to reduce the digital divide at the international level to seek greater online and mobile connectivity.

9. We recognize that increased access to technology entails supporting the ability of governments and citizens to use it. Therefore, we shall support the development of technological innovations by governments and citizens, reaffirming that technology is a complement and not a substitute for clear, truthful and useful information.

Belén, Costa Rica, January 29th, 2015