



First Meeting of CELAC Finance Ministers

Declaration of Viña del Mar

1. We, the Ministers of Finance of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), have convened in the city of Viña del Mar, Republic of Chile, on December 14, 2012, in the framework of the First Meeting of Ministers of Finance as mandated by the Heads of State and Government in the Caracas Declaration of 2011.

2. In the context of the principles and mandates defined in the Declaration of Salvador, Bahía (2008), the Montego Bay Action Plan (2009), the Declaration of Cancun (2010), the Work Program of Caracas for the Implementation of the Montego Bay Action Plan (2010 – 2011), the Caracas Declaration of the Heads of State and Government of the Latin American and Caribbean countries, in the framework of the Third Latin American and Caribbean Summit on Integration and Development (CALC), in addition to the Twenty-second Summit of the Rio Group and the 2012 Caracas Action Plan. Likewise, we will also take into account the progress of the technical discussions contained in the Report of the First Meeting of Senior Officials of CELAC held in Quito in October 2012.

3. CELAC is the only mechanism for dialogue and consensus that includes the 33 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, and should therefore become an important enhanced forum of dialogue to seek consensus on, among others, the main financial and fiscal issues that will allow us to broaden the prospects for growth and development for the region.

4. Recognizing the principles of complementarity, cooperation, flexibility, sovereignty and voluntary participation that inspire the CELAC's actions, we reiterate our commitment to promote the economic and financial integration of Latin America and the Caribbean, which in addition to being a fundamental aspiration of the peoples represented here, is also a need to successfully face the challenges that we face as a region.

5. Our countries share economic and financial experiences and characteristics that offer us the opportunity to promote this space for dialogue to establish actions that allow us to prevent and,

eventually, deal with the effects of external shocks in a coordinated fashion, in addition to fostering the region's sustainable development.

6. We are aware of the fragility of the international economic and financial situation and the risks it poses to the continued achievements that our countries have made in social inclusion, equitable growth, sustainable development and regional integration. While it is important to recognize that the crisis has had less of an effect in Latin America and the Caribbean compared to the rest of the world, we will work together to deal with the challenges of an international scenario that remains weak and will make efforts to promote sustained, dynamic and long-term growth rates in the region.

7. We underscore the need to move forward, on the basis of our principles, in the strengthening and consolidation of regional cooperation for the development of our economic complementarities. In particular, we highlight the importance of South-South cooperation as an integrating pillar of our common space and as an instrument to reduce our asymmetries.

8. We reiterate our willingness to promote coordinated participation for Latin America and the Caribbean with regard to the discussion of important issues and the positioning of the region, as well as in our communication with other regions and countries, with the goal to strengthen our position and presence on the world stage.

9. We reaffirm the importance of having a strong and influential regional voice that allows the growing weight of emerging economies in development and the global economy to be reflected, ensuring fair representation of all member countries in international financial institutions.

10. We highlight the importance of developing tools that allow us to strengthen regional and international financial architecture to provide preventive support to the most vulnerable economies and help strengthen necessary actions in times of crisis, always within the principles that inspire the CELAC.

11. We will work to strengthen relations of cooperation in the region to advance the evaluation of measures to strengthen intra-regional financial development. We maintain our commitment for Latin America and the Caribbean to implement sustainable fiscal, monetary and financial policies.

12. We will seek to implement cooperation, coordination and mutual assistance mechanisms on fiscal and financial issues in the region and make progress in the assessment of measures that will strengthen our development, taking into consideration the work that has been achieved by other regional and global forums.

13. We highlight the role of regional financial institutions and the importance of creating and implementing coordination mechanisms that will allow them to maximize their action in the region, to foster synergies to increase their effectiveness and efficiency for regional development and to contribute to the creation of better-quality employment and poverty reduction.

14. Although measures to stimulate developed economies are welcome, we express our concern over the expansionary monetary measures in these countries world and its effects on the region, in particular the quantitative easing implemented in these economies, given the pressure they exert on the value of our currencies, which affects the competitiveness of most of our countries. We call on these economies to consider in their analysis and decision-making the consequences of their actions in countries that are still on the road to development.

15. Acknowledging the importance of continuing to make progress in regional coordination and integration, we agree to the following actions:

- Create a Finance Work Group, the coordination of which would be under the Pro Tempore Presidency. This group will make a strategic proposal for the strengthening of the regional financial architecture, keeping in mind the contents of the 2012 Caracas Plan of Action as an input for the with regard to the “International Financial Crisis and the New Financial Architecture,” in addition to the work already undertaken in the region. The progress made with this work will be presented in June 2013 and will be submitted for consideration by the Second Meeting of CELAC Finance Ministers.
- Work under the coordination of the Pro Tempore Presidency in a joint initiative that allows the exchange of experiences to improve financial inclusion and education.
- Ask regional multilateral financial institutions to evaluate joint cooperation and action activities already undertaken among them and for them to present the Second Meeting of Ministers with joint plan of action for the region for it to debate.
- Work under the coordination of the Pro Tempore Presidency on a joint initiative to design and implement financial measures to deal with the adverse impacts of natural disasters and climate change, taking advantage of the exchange of information and experiences in the region.