



**ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES**  
Inter-American Council for Integral Development  
(CIDI)



**FIRST INTER-AMERICAN MEETING OF MINISTERS AND  
HIGH-LEVEL AUTHORITIES ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

December 4 to 5, 2006

Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia

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FINAL REPORT OF THE FIRST INTER-AMERICAN MEETING  
OF MINISTERS AND HIGH-LEVEL AUTHORITIES ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



## CONTENTS

I.	BACKGROUND.....	1
II.	PARTICIPANTS.....	2
III.	PROCEEDINGS.....	2
	A. Preparatory Session.....	2
	a) Constitution of the Style Committee.....	2
	b) Annotated Agenda.....	2
	c) Appointment of the Working Group.....	2
	d) Deadline for presentation of proposals.....	3
	e) Duration of the meeting.....	3
	B. Inaugural Session.....	3
	C. First Plenary Session.....	4
	a) Election of the Chair and Vice Chair.....	4
	b) Formal adoption of the agreements reached during the preparatory session. .4	
	c) Remarks of the Vice Minister of Planning for Development of Bolivia, Mr. John Vargas.....	4
	d) Presentation of recommendations by representatives of civil society and indigenous peoples.....	4
	e) Integrated Water Resource Management.....	5
	D. Second Plenary Session.....	10
	a) Natural Hazard Risk Management.....	10
	E. Third Plenary Session.....	14
	a) Sustainable Agriculture, Forestry and Tourism.....	14
	b) Ministerial Dialogue.....	16
	F. Fourth Plenary Session.....	18
	a) Consideration and Adoption of the Declaration of Santa Cruz + 10.....	18
	b) Adoption of the Inter-American Program for Sustainable Development (2006-2009) (PIDS).....	19
	c) Second Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities on Sustainable Development.....	19
	G. Closing Session.....	19
	H. Recommendations.....	19
IV.	PARALLEL MEETINGS.....	20
	A. Strengthening Environmental Law and Enforcement in the Americas.....	20
	B. Roundtable with Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples Representatives.....	21
	C. Information exchange on biodiversity through the Internet.....	21
	D. First Meeting of the Inter-American Network for Disaster Mitigation.....	22

APPENDIX I.....	23
APPENDIX II.....	33
APPENDIX III.....	53
APPENDIX IV.....	55
APPENDIX V.....	82
APPENDIX VI.....	85

## FINAL REPORT OF THE FIRST INTER-AMERICAN MEETING OF MINISTERS AND HIGH-LEVEL AUTHORITIES ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

### I. BACKGROUND

The Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) by resolution CIDI/RES. 147 (IX-O/04) instructed the General Secretariat of the OAS to convene a meeting on sustainable development under the section “Specialized or Sectoral Meetings of CIDI”. Resolution CIDI/RES. 50 (III-0-98) “CIDI and the Summits of the Americas,” recommends to the sectoral authorities of the member states that they use CIDI mechanisms, particularly its sectoral and specialized ministerial meetings to assist the member states in implementing the decisions of the Summits of the Americas.

At the Summit of the Americas on Sustainable Development, held in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, in 1996, the member states entrusted to the OAS the role of coordinating follow-up on the various decisions of that Summit and, with that purpose, of convening the necessary meetings at the appropriate level. Accordingly, on December 9, 2004, CIDI, at its 106th Regular Meeting adopted CEPCIDI/RES. 104 (CVI-O/04), in which it decided to convene the First Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities on Sustainable Development in September 2005.

On May 17, 2005, the member states decided to postpone the date of the First Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities on Sustainable Development until October 20 and 21, 2005. In July of that year, the Permanent Mission of Bolivia to the OAS requested that the meeting be deferred until 2006.

Resolution CEPCIDI/RES. 126 (CXXVII-O/06), adopted on September 26, 2006, convened the First Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities on Sustainable Development to be held on December 4 and 5, 2006, in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia and called on the Working Group on Sustainable Development of the Permanent Executive Committee of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CEPCIDI) and the General Secretariat to continue their work on the preparation and organization of the ministerial meeting.

This document contains the final report on the meeting held on December 4 and 5, 2006, in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia. It details the discussions held in the preparatory meetings and in the ministerial meetings, as well as the decisions adopted at the ministerial meeting, which are reflected in the Declaration of Santa Cruz + 10 and the Inter-American Program on Sustainable Development.

The list of participants, calendar, agenda, and list of documents developed during the preparatory process for the ministerial meeting are to be found in the annexes to this report or at the website of the OAS Department of Sustainable Development: <http://www.oas.org/dsd>

## II. PARTICIPANTS

The Meeting was attended by 30 national delegations, of which more than half were represented by ministers and vice ministers in charge of sustainable development matters. Also present were high-ranking government authorities, international organizations, and civil society representatives.

## III. PROCEEDINGS

The First Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities on Sustainable Development consisted of a preparatory meeting of experts, a preparatory session, an inaugural session, four plenary sessions, and a closing session.

### A. Preparatory Session

The Preparatory Session was held on December 4, 2006. In keeping with the agenda outlined for this session, those present proceeded to elect the officers for the Ministerial Meeting. His Excellency, Mr. John Vargas, Vice Minister of Land-Use Planning and Environment of Bolivia was elected as Chair of the First Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities on Sustainable Development, and his Excellency, Mr. Harry Douglas, Minister of State of Jamaica, was elected as Vice Chair.

The principal delegates considered the following items at this session:

#### a) Constitution of the Style Committee

It was decided that the Style Committee would be chaired by the Delegation of Argentina and composed of one delegate for each official language of the OAS, that is, English, French, Spanish, and Portuguese. Consequently, it was approved that the delegations of Argentina, United States, Canada, and Brazil would be responsible for reviewing the final report and documents of this Ministerial Meeting.

#### b) Annotated Agenda

The annotated agenda submitted at this session, classified as document CIDI/RIMDS/doc.3/06 rev. 1, was adopted without modifications.

#### c) Appointment of the Working Group

At this session, it was decided, as a continuation of the Preparatory Meeting of Experts held at the headquarters of the OAS on November 20, 2006, to install a working group in parallel to the ministerial meeting, and to entrust it with the task of concluding the negotiations for the Declaration of Santa Cruz + 10 and the Inter-American Program on Sustainable Development (PIDS).

The Delegation of Bolivia chaired the working group.

d) Deadline for presentation of proposals

The Chair having submitted the decision on the deadline for presentation of proposals to the Plenary, it was decided to set the deadline at 14.00 on December 4, 2006.

e) Duration of the meeting

It was agreed to adjourn the meeting at the end of the fourth plenary session scheduled for 6.00 p.m. on December 5, 2006.

B. Inaugural Session

The Inaugural Session of the First Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities on Sustainable Development came to order on December 4, 2006. The Assistant Secretary General of the OAS, Ambassador Albert R. Ramdin, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Bolivia, his Excellency, Ambassador David Choquehuanca Céspedes offered words of welcome to the delegations present.

In his welcoming speech, Ambassador Albert R. Ramdin drew attention to the importance of reflection on the challenges that globalization and trade liberalization pose for sustainable development, enhancing national competitiveness, and reducing poverty and environmental degradation. He said that it was only through political debate that a sound understanding of the underlying causes of poverty, inequality, social exclusion and environmental degradation could be gained. He invited the countries to increase integration efforts by strengthening their democratic institutions, education systems, institutional capacity, law enforcement agencies and their social environment. He said that the time was ripe for a new paradigm for sustainable development, to advance a hemispheric development agenda based on the interdependence of establishing viable democracies and levels of development in the Americas based on collective commitment and shared responsibility aimed ultimately at achieving peace, solidarity and justice.

In conclusion, Ambassador Ramdin reiterated the commitment of the OAS to continue to facilitate dialogue and provide technical support, while at the same time encouraging cooperative partnerships and greater cooperation with governments, international agencies, international finance institutions, and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs).

Next, Ambassador Choquehuanca took the floor and underscored the value of natural resources and their sustainable management, in particular water resources management. He mentioned the principal problems faced by the hemisphere and the commitment to resolve them. He invited the member states to encourage policies and key partnerships that seek to ensure harmony between nature and man through conservation of natural resources and use of ancestral knowledge. In conclusion he said that the policy of his government is to seek a balance that enables the population to have a good life.

C. First Plenary Session

a) Election of the Chair and Vice Chair

The Head of the Delegation of Jamaica proposed his Excellency, Mr. John Vargas, Vice Minister of Land-Use Planning and Environment of Bolivia as Chair of the First Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities on Sustainable Development. The motion was seconded by the Head of the Delegation of Chile and the Vice Minister was elected by acclamation.

Subsequently, at the proposal of the Head of the Delegation of Guatemala, seconded by the Head of the Delegation of Canada, his Excellency, Mr. Harry Douglas, Minister of State of Jamaica, was elected by acclamation as Vice Chair of the First Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities on Sustainable Development.

b) Formal adoption of the agreements reached during the preparatory session.

In this Session, the Chair of the Meeting formally adopted the decisions on the Style Committee, Working Group, deadline for presentation of proposals, and duration of the meeting reached during the preliminary session.

c) Remarks of the Vice Minister of Planning for Development of Bolivia, Mr. John Vargas

Next, his Excellency, Mr. John Vargas, Chair of the Meeting, reported on the progress of negotiations for the Declaration of Santa Cruz + 10 and the PIDS. He drew attention to the importance of the consultations with civil society and indigenous peoples from all the different countries in the hemisphere.

d) Presentation of recommendations by representatives of civil society and indigenous peoples

Ambassador Alfonso Quiñónez, Executive Secretary for Integral Development, took the floor to present information about the process of consultations with civil society and indigenous peoples, including those held via the virtual forum organized by the Department of Sustainable Development in the preparations for the ministerial meeting. Ambassador Quiñónez also reported on the results of the Roundtable with Civil Society held on December 3, 2006, and invited the four civil society representatives selected as spokespersons at that meeting to present their recommendations on the three topics of the meeting: Integrated Water Resource Management, Natural Hazard Risk Management, and Sustainable Agriculture, Forestry and Tourism.

For the topic of water resources, Mr. José Roberto Guedes de Oliveira of *Associação Preparando Pessoas* (APP) (Brazil) submitted the recommendations on Integrated Water Resource Management. On the topic of natural disaster risk reduction, Ms. Yolanda Hernández Sanic of the *Consejo de los Pueblos Mayas* (Guatemala) took the floor and requested the member states to adopt participatory processes in planning and policy shaping



on prevention and mitigation of the risks of natural disasters, introduce mechanisms for protection and conservation of natural resources, and strengthen the institutions responsible for natural disaster prevention and response.

In the presentation on the topic of Sustainable Agriculture, Forestry and Tourism, Mr. Evelio Arandiza, the representative of the *Capitanía del Alto y Bajo Isoso Guaraní* (CABI) (Bolivia), requested the member states to bolster hemispheric information systems in order to strengthen biodiversity conservation, encourage local participation as an essential instrument in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and promote integration of ancestral and scientific knowledge. He highlighted the importance of stimulating the generation of economic resources with a view to attaining financial sustainability in various activities, such as bio-commerce, ecotourism, natural hazard mitigation programs, and other environmental services.

After the foregoing presentations the Chair left the floor open to the delegations.

Comments of the Delegates and International Agencies:

The Head of the Delegation of Guatemala took the floor to draw attention to the importance of water resource inventories as an essential process and a priority in their management.

Next, the Chair left the floor to Ms. Sheila Abed, President of the World Conservation Union (UICN). Ms. Abed presented to the plenary the recommendations of the network of environmental law experts of the UICN. She suggested that member states adopt the following lines of action in the area of legal protection and good governance of the environment: (a) strengthen the development of environmental law, promoting its enforcement and compliance, as well as allocating the necessary resources and creating mechanisms to ensure transparency and combat corruption in all of its forms; (b) ensure comprehensive policies that take into account all social, environmental, and economic variables, as well as systematizing lessons learned from trade agreements; (c) prevent and anticipate environmental conflicts in the hemisphere by means of available tools and mechanisms, such as strategic plans and environmental impact assessments; and, (d) ensure access to information, improve access to justice, and strengthen citizen participation mechanisms.

e) Integrated Water Resource Management

The Chair referred to the recommendations made at the Preparatory Workshop on Integrated Water Resource Management held in Quito, Ecuador. He observed that the importance was made clear at the Workshop of recognizing water as a vital and essential resource for sustainable development in the hemisphere. There were a number of hemispheric events that took place ahead of this workshop, including the Fifth Inter-American Dialogue on Water Management held in Jamaica and the Fourth World Forum on Water, which was held in Mexico

The Chair invited her Excellency, Ms. Anita Alban Mora, Minister of Environment of Ecuador to present the recommendations contained in the report on the Workshop.

Recommendations of the Workshop on Integrated Water Resource Management:

Her Excellency, Ms. Anita Alban Mora began her presentation by underlining the importance of the results of the Workshop, which centered on five core issues: (a) governance; (b) access to information; (c) financing-related aspects; (d) aspects concerning policy and legislation; and, (e) elements to do with public participation. She summarized the recommendations of the Workshop in six points:

1. Strengthen measures to accomplish the Millennium Development Goals on access to quality water and sanitation based on information and experience exchange, coordination of activities, and cooperation among states in the preparation of plans, strategies and national and regional programs in keeping with the guidelines contained in the Johannesburg Implementation Plan.
2. Improve instruments and mechanisms with which to widen knowledge and access to information on quality and quantity of water, and strengthen and integrate measurement and monitoring networks according to standards and guidelines agreed by the countries in the region.
3. Support institution building measures so as to enable countries to assess the effects on water resources of climate variability and change. Strengthen early-warning systems against extreme weather events.
4. Foster the development and implementation of mechanisms and indicators for water resource management, as well as strengthening public participation processes, institutional transparency, and access to information
5. Promote and consolidate regional and subregional cooperation mechanisms in integrated water resource management, and facilitate experience exchange, capacity building, and strengthening of the legal and institutional instruments in place.
6. Encourage the creation of an inter-American working group on water resources in the framework of the Organization of American States and of the national water resource administrations in each country, in order to support national integrated water resource management processes, and help strengthen regional cooperation and harmonization of management tools for areas of common interest.

In conclusion she referred to the importance of the event as it enables the member states to renew their commitment to sustainable development, the foundations for which were laid at the 1996 Summit of the Americas on Sustainable Development in Santa Cruz de la Sierra.

Comments of the delegations and international agencies:

At the end of this presentation, the Chair left the floor open to the representatives of the delegations and organizations. Next he offered the floor to his Excellency, Mr. Claudio Roberto Bertoldo Langone, Executive Secretary of the Ministry of Environment of Brazil to give a presentation on integrated cross-border water resource management.

In his remarks, the Head of the Delegation of Brazil emphasized the importance of water resource management for the sustainability of the environment. He said that access for the population to water resources and the services associated therewith are a priority on Brazil's agenda. Brazil considers that there is strong link between adequate water resource management and productive activities, particularly in the industrial and agricultural sectors. He noted that his country has progressed toward the objectives contained in the Johannesburg Plan through the design and approval of a National Plan on Water Resources. A new phase of consultations and public hearings with the participation of all the sectors involved recently got underway in the country to discuss the Plan's implementation and build new agreements and consensus. He invited the states to draw up a national plan on water resources, which would enable them to design regional plans through which to establish a common strategy and harmonize efforts in the area of water management in the region. To that end, in recent years Brazil has augmented its international cooperation in this area with other countries, seeking to share and acquire experience through common interests. *Inter alia*, the Head of the Delegation of Brazil mentioned the strides made in Amazonian cooperation projects and with MERCOSUR.

Following this presentation, the Chair invited Dr. Jean Luc Poncelet, representative of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) to give his presentation on water and health.

Dr. Jean Luc Poncelet, Area Manager for Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Relief of PAHO, began his remarks on behalf of Mr. Augusto Cassanha Galvao, Area Manager for Sustainable Development and Environmental Health of PAHO. He mentioned that since the Pan American Conference on Health and Environment in Sustainable Development, held in Washington, D.C., in 1995, PAHO has ensured that its activities are consistent with the Pan American Charter on Health and Environment, which made clear the importance of a spirit of cooperation between health and environment to improve living conditions for the inhabitants of the region. He said that subsequently, at the Meeting of Ministers in Mar de Plata, a cooperation agenda was drawn up on prevention and reduction of the adverse effects of the environment on health. At this meeting, PAHO undertook to work alongside authorities in the region to move forward in the area of environmental health for children in the framework of the Millennium Development Goals. In that connection, he mentioned all of the activities that have adopted this approach, including work with pediatrics associations in the region, the "Faces and Places" initiative geared towards the most vulnerable sectors in the region, and the Water Quality Guidelines for designing safe water plans at the local level. The common objective of all these initiatives is sustainable natural resource management. Dr. Poncelet invited the countries to work on inter-sectoral strategies with support from international agencies.

The Head of the Delegation of Canada centered on three points in his presentation: water resource management, water in indigenous communities, and international cooperation. He said that under the Constitution of Canada, and in light of the federal nature of the country, managing Canada's water resources properly poses enormous challenges. That is why the country has introduced a number of different mechanisms for experience exchange with the rest of the countries in the hemisphere and strengthened its collaboration in the area of cross-border watersheds through its various agencies. He also mentioned that building on its experience in cooperative water management, Canada has supported an array of initiatives to accomplish the Millennium Development Goals in various countries in the region. Furthermore, through the Canadian International Development Agency and the International Center for Development Research, it has carried out a series of projects to build up institutional water management capacity, in particular to improve access to potable water and sanitation in rural areas.

The Head of the Delegation of Uruguay supported the idea of the delegate of Brazil to design a regional strategy on water resources, and drew attention to the importance of promoting the network of regional agencies to help improve the appropriate management of water resources. He also commented on the experience of his country as regards cooperation with Brazil.

The Head of the Delegation of Chile mentioned the strides that his country has made in water resource management. He remarked that the design is currently underway in his country of a national watershed strategy that it would enable Chile to improve its administration of water resources. He also mentioned that modifications are being made to water codes and water distribution and quality standards. He concluded his remarks with references to the international agreements that his country has signed, drawing particular attention to the environmental cooperation treaty on shared water resources signed with Argentina in the 1990s.

The Head of the Delegation of Peru, invited the member states to develop a joint, shared strategy, which is particularly important for the Amazon basin and Lake Titicaca. His main recommendations were to: (a) carry out field research; (b) use information sources to greater advantage; (c) strengthen networks through which to better integrate information and experiences; and, (d) make better use of regional and subregional conflict management programs.

The Head of the Delegation of the United States mentioned that his delegation appreciates the role of the OAS in integrated water resource management and supports the recommendations contained in the report on the Preparatory Workshop on Integrated Water Resource Management. He stressed the importance of the role of governments in making available resources for health and environment projects, legal frameworks, transparency, and public participation in decision-making processes. He said that in order to make significant headway with water resource strategies it is essential to have an integrated process that involves all focal points on the issue. He also referred to the need to develop indicators to measure all aspects of water resource management, which would serve not simply to measure project achievements but also to compare national indicators and measure progress. Finally, the Head of the Delegation of the United States mentioned that there are four areas in which

we need to center our efforts: water and health, integrated water resource management, financing, and cross-border watersheds.

The Head of the Delegation of Costa Rica referred to the legal framework in this country. He described the preparation process for the new water bill, in which the governing and regulating role of the State is better defined. He also mentioned the international cooperation projects underway in his country, in particular with Nicaragua, for which he requested the OAS to provide technical support.

The Head of the Delegation of Guatemala requested the member states to raise the dialogue on the guidelines for resolution of conflicts over water resources to a higher level. He mentioned the interagency problems that his country encounters. He commented on the experience of Guatemala in systematization of experiences of payment for environmental services, in development of indicators to evaluate policies, and in municipal government strengthening in the framework of the decentralization process.

The Head of the Delegation of the Dominican Republic noted that the challenges of water resource management are greater on a tropical island, in particular in the case of the Dominican Republic which is vulnerable to severe drought. He concluded his remarks by outlining the problems and obstacles that his country faces in the area of water management.

The Head of the Delegation of Mexico mentioned that availability of water, in terms of quality and quantity, marks the limits of sustainable development since water is essential not only for the survival and economic and social development of mankind but also for the functioning and preservation of the planet's ecosystems and for social development, given its effects on health. He indicated that his country has made very satisfactory progress toward the Millennium Development Goals in this area and encouraged the countries to continue to work to: (a) implement poverty reduction policies with positive environmental impact; (b) foment environmentally sustainable production-oriented projects in the more vulnerable areas so as to enable them to meet the basic needs of the inhabitants of those areas; and, (c) increase investment in scientific research with a view to developing non environmentally harmful production technologies. He underscored the importance of the meeting for the exchange of ideas and experience on an issue as crucial as sustainable development.

The Head of the Delegation of Bolivia referred to the main challenges for water resource management in his country. He said that the Ministry of Water is preparing to launch the Interagency Water Council, which will be responsible for the design of water resource policy and create a new water law to ensure access to this resource for the entire population. He mentioned that both objectives would be achieved through a highly participatory and consensualized process.

The Vice Chair took the floor to say that his country supports the recommendations of the Preparatory Workshop on Integrated Water Resource Management. He invited the member states to develop a strategic plan, technical standards, and a legal framework to steer water resource management. He also added that it would be important to develop a national water quality program and regional and hemispheric institutions to guide and replicate good practices in the hemisphere.

The Head of the Delegation of Paraguay described the progress that his country has made in drafting a new water resources law and mentioned its importance in the management of watersheds and cultural aspects in the administration of water resources. He commented on lines of action and mentioned the importance of the role of the various institutions and organizations responsible for water resource management.

The Head of the Delegation of Panama said that various sectors of society are currently engaged in a joint effort to modernize the water resources law. He also mentioned the importance of international agreements and referred in particular to the agreement signed in the framework of the World Forum on Water between Latin America and the European Community on water resources and sanitation.

D. Second Plenary Session

a) Natural Hazard Risk Management

The Chair took the floor to mention the background activities of the preparatory work for the ministerial meeting organized by the General Secretariat of the OAS in this area. He recalled the three core themes of the “Workshop on Managing Risks of Natural Hazards” held in Jamaica: inclusion of risk reduction in development plans; need to generate practices in key sectors for development; regional cooperation and strengthening of governance in risk management.

Recommendations of the Workshop on Managing Risks of Natural Hazards

The Vice Chair mentioned the commitment to adopt an approach to sustainable development that integrates economic, political, and social aspects, with a view to reducing poverty and attaining gender equity. He also said that without proper management of natural hazard risks the Millennium Development Goals would not be achieved.

He identified the main aspects of the Workshop, in particular, identification of best practices in risk management, regional cooperation, and risk reduction opportunities. He mentioned the need to design policies and strategies that promote security; reduce vulnerability; secure increased assistance from donors, including local, regional, and hemispheric organizations; and establish key partnerships with the insurance sector. He also mentioned that the gender perspective should be mainstreamed in natural disaster management plans. He then listed six recommendations and measures to reduce the impact of natural disasters:

1. Promote public participation in the education sector, involving the public and private sectors, civil society, universities, and international organizations.
2. Include risk management programs at the regional and hemispheric level in the formal and informal education sectors that incorporate a gender perspective.

3. Create a legal framework that covers building codes and plan designs in order to reduce infrastructure vulnerability in the education sector.
4. Create an inter-American mechanism for disaster reduction in the OAS framework.
5. Design policies and a legal framework that includes the public and private sectors with a view to improving prevention and response to disasters through economic, social, and multidisciplinary projects.
6. Design a strategy to promote minimum standards of security for tourists.

Finally, he said that these recommendations could be included in the Declaration of Santa Cruz + 10. After this presentation concluded, the Chair invited Pablo González, Head of the Natural Disaster Reduction Area of the General Secretariat of the OAS to continue the presentation of the results of the First Meeting of the Inter-American Network for Disaster Mitigation.

Report of the Secretariat on the Conclusions of the First Meeting of the Inter-American Network for Disaster Mitigation

Mr. Pablo González mention that the First Meeting of the Inter-American Network for Disaster Mitigation held on December 3, 2006, in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, centered on two objectives: (a) To advance the identification of synergies and opportunities for cooperation, within the framework of the Inter-American Strategic Plan, for policies on vulnerability reduction, risk and response management, of the Inter-American Committee for Disaster Reduction; and, (b) To identify information needs, knowledge and experiences, best practices and lessons learned in the disasters field for the advancement on the formulation of public policy for reduction of risk to natural disasters and its integration into national policies and development plans.

Mr. González said that the meeting was attended by more than 50 experts, managers, and decision makers from the national agencies responsible for natural disaster management, entities of the inter-American system and the United Nations, regional organizations, international cooperation agencies, and private-sector enterprises.

He also said that the event centered on three thematic areas: (a) Information and documentation centers, use of computer-based technology, geographic information systems, satellite image processing and other teledetection systems, and Internet-based information and communication tools; (b) preparedness, contingency planning and humanitarian assistance; and, (c) vulnerability reduction and risk management.

The main preliminary conclusions identified by the meeting included the following: (a) The network provides an instrument that supports the development of the national platforms based on an international strategy for disaster reduction, facilitating the exchange of experiences and best practices, (b) it is a provides a tool

to integrate the progress of the different intergovernmental and regional organizations – CEDERA, CEPREDENAC and their strategies, with the Inter-American Strategic Plan; and, (c) it should use and strengthen the intergovernmental organizations at the regional level and the existing networks, such as the IDB's network and PAHO's network, and capitalize on the information and specific capacities of each one of them.

To conclude, he said that the comparative advantage of the Inter-American Network is the capacity that it offers, through the General Secretariat of the OAS as the main forum for the Inter-American Dialogue on sustainable development issues, to integrate in national and regional development plans the advances in risk management made through the different fora, ministries and sectoral policies. He also said that the Network provides an opportunity to mover forward in the implementation of a common language through which better to integrate risk management in all sectors, and he recommended that five priority issues be identified on which to focus the network's efforts.

At the end of this presentation, the Chair left the floor open to the Heads of Delegation and agency representatives. The first to take the floor was the Chairman of the Inter-American Defense Board, Major General Jorge Armando de Almeida, who gave a presentation on the vision of the Inter-American Defense Board on management of natural disasters.

He began his presentation with a history of the Inter-American Defense Board and mentioned that in March 2006 it officially became an entity of the OAS. He also mentioned that this organ provides technical advisory, consultative, and educational services in military affairs and defense. He also drew attention to the important role of the College of the Inter-American Defense Board in capacity building in these areas.

As regards disaster management and mitigation, he said that the Inter-American Defense Board is suitably equipped to investigate, analyze, and catalogue the capacities of natural disaster prevention and response plans, as well as to consolidate lessons learned. He mentioned that the Board holds an annual seminar on emergencies caused by natural disasters in order to stimulate information and experience exchange. Furthermore, he proposed that the member states forge key partnerships among universities in order to encourage academic reflection on natural disasters from a military perspective.

When this presentation concluded the Chair offered the floor to Mr. Carlos Villalba, President of the White Helmets Committee.

Mr. Villalba's presentation was centered on the main lines of action of the Committee. He began by explaining that it is a volunteer program that works in the area of natural disaster prevention and response, as well as on strengthening local government and volunteer efforts on two fronts: (a) combating hunger and poverty; and, (b) assistance in natural disasters. Finally, he commented that the white helmets



may be regarded as a good bridge between governments and civil society since, *inter alia*, they make it possible for civil society to become state policy.

Next, his Excellency, Mr. Hernán Tucoaima, Vice Minister of Civil Defense of Bolivia, President of CAPRADE and representative of the Delegation of Bolivia for this issue, took the floor to underscore the importance of the meeting as a starting point to examine ways to approach, provide assistance in, and prevent disasters on national agendas. He said that extreme weather phenomena coincide with high levels of vulnerability in the region. He invited the countries to: (a) promote alliances and integration processes to confront hazard risks with preemptive measures; (b) consolidate policy-shaping and planning processes with risk management in order to respond effectively to natural disasters; (c) recover the traditional preventive practices of indigenous peoples to strengthen early warning systems in the region; and, (d) encourage mechanisms to strengthen integration among all sectors involved in disaster reduction and mitigation.

The Head of the Delegation of Peru referred to a number of national initiatives and invited the Inter-American Network for Disaster Mitigation to evaluate strategies being implemented in the Andean region as inputs. He suggested that the scope and breadth of the ministerial recommendations be reduced so as to direct efforts at much more concrete goals.

The Head of the Delegation of Canada noted that his country regards this meeting as an opportunity for the member states to reaffirm the commitments adopted in the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015. He reiterated that the member states should assume principal responsibility for their own sustainable development and its planning. He requested the member states to coordinate their activities with major stakeholders at the regional, hemispheric, and international levels, such as UN agencies and development banks, in order to avoid wasteful duplication of efforts. He invited them to develop a people-oriented early warning systems management mechanism that incorporates gender and age perspective. He called for dialogue on the rehabilitation and coordination of efforts with international organizations to exchange information, in particular with vulnerable communities, and to encourage education and training consistent with local community needs.

The Head of the Delegation of St Vincent and the Grenadines outlined the progress of the Caribbean countries with respect to policies and strategies for natural disaster prevention and reduction. He said that the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CEDERA), would hold a meeting to take stock of the lines of action and strategies that its members have adopted over the last five years in the area of natural hazard risk management, with a view to designing a hazard risk reduction strategy. In conclusion, he mentioned that they have evolved from “natural hazard risk management” to “hazard risk reduction management.”

#### Report of the Parallel Working Group

Next, the Chair offered the floor to his Excellency, Mr. Abel Mamani Minister of Water of Bolivia, who presided over the activities of the working group

that met in parallel to the Ministerial Meeting. Mr. Mamani reported on the progress of the negotiations on the Declaration of Santa Cruz + 10 and the Inter-American Program on Sustainable Development. He reiterated the commitment of the member states to move forward swiftly with the negotiation process and underscored the importance of the two documents.

Next, the Ministers and High-Level Authorities on Sustainable Development urged the parallel working group to redouble their efforts to reach consensus on both documents.

E. Third Plenary Session

a) Sustainable Agriculture, Forestry and Tourism

The Chair offered a concise summary of the Workshop on Sustainable Agriculture, Forestry and Tourism held in San José, Costa Rica, and mentioned the following lines of action: (a) approach environmental management from an economic perspective; (b) strengthen sustainable synergies and dialogue between the agriculture, forestry, and tourism sectors; and, (c) foment economic, social, and environmental opportunities. He then offered the floor to his Excellency, Vice Minister Jorge Rodríguez, Minister of Environment and Energy of Costa Rica, which hosted the workshop.

Recommendations of the Preparatory Workshop on Sustainable Agriculture, Forestry and Tourism.

Vice Minister Rodríguez covered three issues in his presentation: (a) creation of linkages among the three sectors; (b) support for effective public participation and access to information; and, (c) creation of innovative financing mechanisms to generate linkages among the three sectors. He also suggested the following activities: (a) create an institutional framework that meets the needs of all three sectors; (b) address public policy on sustainable development in a crosscutting manner and from an integrating perspective. He said that at the workshop the need was mentioned for a paradigm change in the design, shaping, and formulation of public policies on sustainable development and poverty reduction; as well as a need to promote the associated regulations.

He gave examples of progress in his country on the main issues addressed at the workshop, drawing attention in particular to significant advances in innovative financing mechanisms, such as payment for environmental services and their usefulness in terms of watershed protection. He concluded his presentation saying that there was a need to increase financing by means of innovative mechanisms and to formulate policies that focus on a country's natural capital as the basis for its future development and regard protection, maintenance, and improvement as an investment

At the end of this presentation the Chair offered the floor to the Minister of Forest Biodiversity and Environment of Bolivia, his Excellency, Mr. Sandro Rodríguez.

His Excellency, Mr. Sandro Rodríguez, began his presentation by commenting on progress in Bolivia in the agricultural, forestry, and tourism sectors. He said that public policies on land, rural development, forest management, conservation, and tourism should be formulated with a view to economic development, conservation of resources, and poverty reduction. He suggested possible lines of action designed to amend the current development patterns in agriculture, forest management, and tourism, such as (a) promotion of an inclusive economy with better distribution of benefits and work opportunities, harnessing biodiversity as well as sociocultural diversity; (b) give priority to agricultural and forestry production as well as community-based tourism through competitive and inclusive productive complexes; (c) improved technical assistance and support for investments in infrastructure, technology, research, training, and market promotion; (d) conservation of the natural resource base through recovery of degraded soils, in particular for protection of watersheds; and, (e) conservation of natural forests with the support of indigenous peoples. The Vice Minister concluded that by carrying out these recommendations it would become possible to move closer to sustainable development and a better quality of life for our peoples.

Comments of the Delegates and International Agencies:

When Mr. Rodríguez concluded his presentation, the Chair offered the floor to the heads of delegation and agency representatives. Ms. Karin Columba, representative of *Fundación Amigos de la Naturaleza* (an organization that works for biodiversity conservation and sustainable management of natural resources), gave a presentation on the environmental management and conservation based on the community-based ecotourism.

Ms. Columba suggested three lines of action for inclusion in national agendas: (a) intensify efforts to ensure land-use planning that takes account not only of land capability but also conservation and sustainable use of natural resources, in particular in ecosystems of high ecological value; (b) broaden effective support for income-generation initiatives based on value-adding for, and sustainable development of, natural resources, in particular in the forestry and bio-commerce sectors; and, (c) foster climate-change mitigation mechanisms through prevention of deforestation. She concluded her remarks saying that the challenge for the countries of the hemisphere is to integrate their agendas and formulate policies on social development, conservation, and sustainable use of natural resources.

At the end of the presentation, the Chair left the floor opened to Mr. Kevin Corral, representative of the Coalition for Rainforest Nations.

Mr. Kevin Corral, representative of the Coalition for Rainforest Nations, began his presentation by explaining that he represents an intergovernmental organization that helps to promote policies and achieve consensus in the forestry

sector, an area in which his organization is active in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. He said that the forestry sector is pivotal to sustainable development and climate change, and for that reason the organization struggles to instill a positive vision that gives countries an incentive to preserve their forests. He suggested that the international carbon market could be a mechanism to reward developing countries that opt not to earn financial benefits by conserving their virgin tropical forests. He concluded his presentation, underscoring that international conventions not only reward reforestation and forestation project but also offer incentives for conservation, which would avoid the release of carbon dioxide emissions into the air in industrial zones.

Next, the Chair invited Mr. Ricardo Sánchez Sosa, Director of the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Environment Programme to take the floor. His presentation centered on policies and strategies for sustainable agriculture, forestry and tourism.

Mr. Ricardo Sánchez Sosa initiated his remarks by listing the various world summits on environment, and mentioned the common dominators in them all: reduction of poverty, inequality, environmental degradation, disease, and gender inequity, through quantitative goals by which to measure progress in developing countries. He said that in Latin America the economy depends on the use of natural resources and, therefore, he considers it important for economic sectors to formulate environmentally friendly policies. He mentioned the need to develop crosscutting policies on sustainable development, reverse environmental degradation, and ensure access to water and sanitation, as proposed at the Millennium Summit. He stressed the importance of strategies and lines of action founded on natural capital, and strengthening the concept of payment for environmental services. He said that it is important to establish synergies and harmonize efforts among international organizations -including the OAS-, civil society and the public and private sectors..

b) Ministerial Dialogue

Subsequently, the Chair offered the floor to his Excellency, Mr. Alfredo Silvio Molinas Maldonado, Minister and Executive Secretary of the Secretariat for Environment of Paraguay. Mr. Molina commented on the experiences of his country in the tourism, agriculture, and forestry sectors. He said that Paraguay's environment policy pursues three lines of action: decentralization; creation of key public-private sector partnerships through mechanisms to build awareness and inculcate pro-environment ethics; and formulation of environmental issues in a proactive and propositional manner.

He explained that the implementation of this policy led to the adoption of mechanized and responsible farming models that considerably reduced the deforestation rate and initiated reforestation efforts. He said that the unrestricted enforcement of environmental laws has forced other government agencies to include pro-environment principles in their institutional roles and competencies.

As regards forestry, he mentioned that Paraguay engages in direct and indirect exploitation of its forest resources. He added that at present, work is underway in his country to replenish the forest biomass so as to restore equilibrium to the water balance of the forest system in order to contribute to the country's economic and social development. In conclusion, he commented on the importance of strengthening institutional mechanisms through which to ensure enforcement of and compliance with laws and to promote public-private sector partnership in all three sectors. He suggested that the other countries in the region consider the potential of this model.

The Head of the Delegation of Brazil took the floor to mention the importance of identifying universal principles of sustainable development for all countries and of formulating recommendations. He drew attention to the need to strengthen propositional and planning capacity in the environmental sector through regulatory instruments and management strategies. He mentioned two elements that should be taken into account for travel industry policy since they have a decisive impact on tourist receipts: the relation between tourism and infrastructure; and the relation between nature and people. His main recommendations were to: (a) ensure the sustainability of the plans and infrastructure of tourism complexes and include local communities in their planning; (b) construct mechanisms to measure environmental sustainability; and, (c) design agrarian reform policies through which to increase the value of sustainable development projects. He remarked on the importance of developing sustainable forest management strategies for industrial and commercial ends, as well as the creation of mechanisms to encourage a reduction in deforestation.

The Head of the Delegation of Canada mentioned the characteristics and experiences of the agricultural, tourism, and forestry sectors. He said that sustainable agriculture is competitive agriculture. He remarked that the agricultural legal framework in Canada promotes research on improvement of land-use planning and support for indigenous communities in their practices. He reiterated the position of Canada on sustainable agriculture, forestry and tourism as engines for development and poverty reduction, and mentioned as examples projects to develop agro-environmental capacity in the hemisphere implemented in conjunction with the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA).

The remarks of the Head of the Delegation of Chile centered on the transformation of the agricultural sector in his country. He mentioned that the vision of agriculture in his country has expanded not only in productive terms but also in terms of the social and environmental benefits that it generates. He mentioned that the program of the Chilean government provides for the protection of individuals; and visualizes the agricultural, forestry, and tourism sectors as pivotal for attaining higher levels of development; improving quality of life; improving the treatment of the most vulnerable communities from the point of view of access to information; implementing an inclusive policy; and augmenting the participation of Chile at the international level in policy forums and global markets. He said that this policy is founded on five core principles: (a) to consolidate Chile as an agricultural food commodity power; (b) attain inclusive development; (c) contribute to the expansion

and diversification of energy resources; (d) promote sustainable use of renewable natural resources and protection of biodiversity. He concluded his presentation by mentioning the instruments that would lead to the attainment of these policies, such as the National Plan of Action on Biodiversity, the National Watershed Strategy, and use of the concept of payment for environment services, in addition to international agreements signed to coordinate these policies.

The Head of the Delegation of Grenada mentioned the serious plight of the agricultural sector in his country due to the impact of hurricanes, and that it would take approximately 20 years to recover. He remarked on the need to design international cooperation policies under a multidimensional approach that includes the islands, take into account their obstacles and constraints, and enables them to compete in and meet the challenges of international market.

The Head of the Delegation of the United States mention the importance of establishing clear policies and partnerships to further hemispheric cooperation in these sectors, which should be supported by the Declaration and the Inter-American Programme on Sustainable Development. He mentioned that his country is committed to promoting sustainable management in the agricultural, tourism, and forestry sectors through various initiatives, mechanisms, and partnerships through which, *inter alia*, to exchange information and experience. He invited the member states to follow the recommendations of the Preparatory Workshop on Sustainable Agriculture, Forestry, and Tourism, including the establishment of mechanisms to facilitate trade, such as ecolabelling and certification systems in the agricultural and forestry sectors. To conclude, he drew attention to the importance of identifying mechanisms for successful practices, information networks, and online databases to promote conservation and use of biodiversity.

#### Presentation on the Common Agenda and Strategic Plan for Partnership for Development.

Next, Mr. Alfonso Quiñonez, Executive Secretary for Integral Development, explained the levels of action of the General Secretariat once the results of ministerial meeting were identified. In his presentation, Mr. Quiñonez said that there is a political level on which the Inter-American Committee on Sustainable Development would follow up on the decisions adopted at the ministerial meeting; and another –technical– level framed by programs, projects, and activities.

#### F. Fourth Plenary Session

##### a) Consideration and Adoption of the Declaration of Santa Cruz + 10

The Chair submitted the Draft Declaration of Santa Cruz + 10 for the consideration of the delegations, which approved it by acclamation.

b) Adoption of the Inter-American Program for Sustainable Development (2006-2009) (PIDS)

The Chair presented the draft Inter-American Program for Sustainable Development (2006-2009) for consideration by the delegations, which approved it by acclamation.

c) Second Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities on Sustainable Development.

Mr. Harry Douglas, Minister of State of Jamaica, offered to host the Second Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities on Sustainable Development in 2008.

G. Closing Session

Mr. John Vargas, Vice Minister of Planning for Development of Bolivia, presided over the closing ceremony. He thanked all of the delegates, international organizations, and civil society representatives for their visit and expressed his gratitude to the General Secretariat of the OAS for its work in organizing the meeting. Then, he declared the First Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities on Sustainable Development in the framework of CIDI adjourned. For his part, Ambassador Alfonso Quiñónez, Executive Secretary for Integral Development, on behalf of the OAS, thanked all of the delegates for their part in the work accomplished and praised the commitment manifested in the Declaration of Santa Cruz + 10, in which the governments recognize strong connections between sustainable development policy and democratic governance, as well as the important role of public participation in the promotion of sustainable development in the region. He expressed his appreciation to the government of Bolivia and to everyone who collaborated in the meeting

H. Recommendations

In general terms, the following recommendations were put forward at the Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities on Sustainable Development:

1. Put in place a hemispheric mechanism through regional plans, in order to coordinate the various national processes toward Integrated Water Resource Management, with a view to the harmonization of management tools and regional plans for integrated water resource management.
2. Promote and consolidate regional and subregional mechanisms for cooperation in integrated water resource management, facilitating experience exchange, capacity building, and strengthening of the legal and institutional instruments in place.
3. Develop comparable indicators on water resources and other information, in order to be in a better position to adopt decisions and tackle policy

challenges; and develop indicators to measure the relationship between good governance and water resource management.

4. Promote and consolidate regional and subregional mechanisms for cooperation in natural disaster risk reduction that facilitate experience exchange and capacity building based on the institutions and networks in place.
5. Provide support for the Inter-American Network for Disaster Mitigation as an instrument for the development of national platforms and an international strategy for disaster reduction that facilitates experience exchange and best practices.
6. Formulate crosscutting public policies on sustainable development that adopt an integrating approach.
7. Promote and strengthen mechanisms to facilitate trade, such as ecolabelling and certification systems in the agricultural and forestry sectors.
8. Create a favorable environment that facilitates public-private sector partnership and the application of innovative financing mechanisms, as well as institutions to ensure efficient management of financing sources for sustainable agriculture, forestry, and tourism.
9. Move forward with the development and consolidation of systems and mechanisms for supplying information, evaluation, and natural disaster risk reduction: regional climate center through climate forums, early warning information system, and monitoring.
10. Strengthen environmental management systems, including legal frameworks at the national and hemispheric level.
11. Formulate policies, regulatory instruments, and management strategies designed to ensure the sustainability of the plans and infrastructure of tourism complexes through processes that include the participation of local and indigenous communities.

#### IV. PARALLEL MEETINGS

##### A. Strengthening Environmental Law and Enforcement in the Americas

The General Secretariat of the OAS, through the Department of Sustainable Development of the Organization of American States (OAS), in conjunction with the World Conservation Union (IUCN) Commission on Environmental Law, held a meeting on “Strengthening Environmental Law and Enforcement in the Americas” on December 3, 2006, in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia.



The main objective of the meeting was to promote the exchange of experiences in the area of environmental law and enforcement, in order to strengthen capacities at the national and regional level to address trade-related environmental challenges. The meeting also served as a framework for the definition of priorities for action to guide OAS work in this area.

The meeting centred on three core areas: (a) key economic sectors and their response to different institutional and enforcement models. Also, interaction between international trade and global ecosystem changes in the context of various trade agreements, seeking a legal and institutional model that maximizes opportunities and adapts to emerging ecosystem challenges; (b) Millennium ecosystem evaluation models and prospects of the financial sector for strengthening cooperation; (c) Regional trade agreements (RTAs) and investment treaties, and analysis of how these mechanisms support enforcement of environmental laws and increase accountability in this area.

The main recommendations were: (a) To recognize that the environmental enforcement and compliance is a joint task for government and the private sector, which makes it necessary to encourage dialogue between the two sectors; (b) strengthen capacities and initiatives to foster best practices and environmental training; (c) Develop public participation processes that are independent, accessible, and transparent through international organisations, such as the OAS, and civil society organisations, so as to secure public participation; (d) develop environmental enforcement and compliance mechanisms that include a monitoring system and mechanisms to prevent corruption; and, (e) work according to clear resource management guidelines so as to ensure environmental compliance and keep conflicts to a minimum.

B. Roundtable with Civil Society and Indigenous Peoples Representatives

The Department of Sustainable Development of the OAS, in cooperation with the Summit of the Americas Secretariat, hosted a Roundtable with Civil Society Organizations and Indigenous Peoples Representatives on December 3, 2006, in order to complement the results from the local consultations and the Virtual Forum, and to consolidate a document presented to the Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities on Sustainable Development at their First Plenary Session on December 4th.

The report containing the recommendations is included as an annex to this report.

C. Information exchange on biodiversity through the Internet

The Inter-American Biodiversity Information Network (IABIN) held a meeting of experts and representatives of governments, civil society, and international organisations to discuss biodiversity information systems and locally managed experiences in biodiversity conservation.

The meeting suggested the following lines of action on biodiversity information systems: (a) Expand biodiversity information systems as essential mechanisms for decision-making and policy shaping at governmental and sectoral level; (b) Link biodiversity information systems at national portals to systematize knowledge; (c) ensure that information

exchange is free and data are kept current; (d) strengthen the IABIN focal points in each country; (e) improve compatibility between existing information systems at the national and international level; and, (f) integrate indigenous and scientific knowledge through biodiversity information systems.

The following conclusions were reached on biodiversity conservation experiences: (a) local participation is essential in protected area management; (b) it is necessary to strengthen key partnerships between government institutions at different levels (national, departmental, and municipal) and local actors and civil society; and (c) priority should be given to investment in education in rural areas, in order to promote conservation management among indigenous communities and peoples.

D. First Meeting of the Inter-American Network for Disaster Mitigation

The section on natural hazard risk management describes the characteristics, conclusions, and recommendations of this workshop. The reports on these preliminary meetings may be found at the DSD website: <http://www.oas.org/dsd>.



**ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES**  
Inter-American Council for Integral Development  
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APPENDIX I

**FIRST INTER-AMERICAN MEETING OF MINISTERS AND  
HIGH-LEVEL AUTHORITIES ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**  
December 4-5, 2006  
Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia

OEA/XLIII.1  
CIDI/RIMDS/DEC.1/06 rev. 1  
16 January 2007  
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DECLARATION OF SANTA CRUZ + 10  
(Version revised by the Style Committee)



## DECLARATION OF SANTA CRUZ + 10

(Adopted at the fourth plenary session held on December 5, 2006)

1. We, the Ministers and High-Level Authorities responsible for the Sustainable Development of the Americas, gathered in the city of Santa Cruz de la Sierra, reaffirm our commitment to advance the objectives of sustainable development, as set out in the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 (Agenda 21 and Declaration of Rio de Janeiro on Environment and Development); the Summit of the Americas on Sustainable Development, held in Santa Cruz de la Sierra in 1996 (Declaration and its Plan of Action); the 2000 United Nations Millennium Summit and its Millennium Development Goals; the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Johannesburg in 2002 (Declaration and its Plan of Implementation), among others.

2. We reiterate that human beings are at the center of concerns for sustainable development, that they are entitled to a healthy and productive life in harmony with nature, and that poverty alleviation is an integral part of sustainable development.

3. We acknowledge that the vulnerability of small island developing states in the Hemisphere continues to be a major challenge to their sustainable development, among other factors.

### CONSIDERING:

4. That the eradication of poverty is a fundamental goal of sustainable development.

5. That combating poverty and reducing inequities are fundamental challenges faced by the Hemisphere today.

6. That the achievement of development goals agreed upon internationally, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, requires a new partnership between developed and developing countries to support national efforts to achieve sustainable development, including sound policies, good governance at all levels, and the rule of law.

7. That we recognize that the needs and responsibilities facing the countries of the Hemisphere today are diverse. Sustainable development does not assume that all the countries are at the same level of development, have the same capabilities, or can necessarily use the same model to attain it. In view of their different contributions to global environmental degradation, states have common but differentiated responsibilities in the global quest for sustainable development. We should make efforts to ensure that the benefits of sustainable development reach all countries in the Hemisphere, in particular those that are less developed, and all segments of our populations. We will give special attention to the small island states, whose environmental vulnerability, especially with regard to natural disasters, is greater owing to their geographic situation, their size, and the scale of their economies, among other factors.

8. That water is fundamental for life and basic for socio-economic development and the conservation of ecosystems, and that, in this regard, its sustainable management must be promoted with a view to ensuring access to water for present and future generations, taking into account internationally-agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration.

9. That the impacts of natural disasters are devastating and negatively affect the quality of life of affected communities, and the development of all countries of the Hemisphere. That preventive and risk-mitigation measures can increase the resilience and reduce the vulnerability of communities.

10. That climate variability, including El Niño and La Niña phenomena, and the adverse effects of climate change represent an increased risk to all countries in the Hemisphere, in particular developing countries.

11. That sustainable management of the agricultural, forest, and tourism sectors can enhance the capacity of those sectors to provide important economic, social, and environmental benefits that support the livelihood of families and local communities, including indigenous peoples.

12. That the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity benefit from, among others factors, the promotion of sustainable approaches to the agriculture, forest and tourism sectors and that the unsustainable use of natural resources generates a loss in biodiversity.

13. That protected areas, as well as the sustainable interaction of local communities, including indigenous peoples, with biodiversity, play an important role in the conservation of biodiversity.

14. That the economic, social, and environmental benefits resulting from the sustainable management of natural resources, including those arising from the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources can contribute to poverty alleviation, the reduction of inequities and the promotion of equal opportunity in all countries. That regional integration, at the hemispheric, regional, sub-regional and bilateral levels, including trade agreements, has the potential to contribute to sustainable development.

15. That the results of the technical preparatory workshops, held in 2005-2006 and hosted by the Governments of Costa Rica, Jamaica, and Ecuador, and of the workshops with civil society, including indigenous peoples, held in Argentina, Bolivia, the United States, Panama, and Trinidad and Tobago, as well as the virtual forum, have provided valuable input to this Declaration.

DECLARE THAT:

16. We reiterate the commitments assumed in the Rio de Janeiro and Santa Cruz de la Sierra Summits, the Monterrey Consensus, from the International Conference on Financing for Development, the Johannesburg Summit, in particular Chapter X of its Plan of Implementation, and the Mauritius Summit, in relation to: the mobilization of financial and development resources; the transfer of environmentally sound, efficient, and effective technologies; and capacity-building to advance the process of sustainable development, including the objective of poverty eradication.

17. We recognize, value, and respect the participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in the sustainable management of natural resources.

18. We will promote, within the framework of the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources, broad public participation, including representation from the diverse sectors of society, public access to environmental information on a nondiscriminatory basis with regard to gender, race, ethnicity, nationality, political, religious, or other opinion, as well as institutional transparency and the achievement of conditions that favor social development and democracy.

19. We reaffirm our commitment to promote and strengthen policies, laws and regional cooperation and integration mechanisms that advance public participation and democratic governance as important elements of sustainable development. We will promote institutional transparency, gender equity, and equal opportunities for all vulnerable groups.

## I. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

20. We recognize that water is a limited natural resource essential for life, and that access to clean water and to sanitation services is indispensable to health and human dignity, as well as to sustainable development.

21. We reaffirm our commitment to strengthen institutional capacities, and to promote cooperation and dialogue among States to support integrated water resources management consistent with domestic law and relevant international law.

22. We recognize the urgent need to evaluate the effects of climate variability and climate change on water resources, as well as to strengthen early-warning capacities for extreme climatic events.

23. We recognize the importance of dialogue and regional cooperation to improve water-quality and quantity monitoring networks in order to promote and protect human health and the environment.

## II. DISASTERS

24. We reaffirm our commitment to build upon relevant international commitments and frameworks, including through the development, implementation, and integration of disaster preparedness and management into sustainable development policies, planning, and programming at all levels.

25. We affirm our commitment to strengthening public policies and strategies that reduce the risks of natural disasters through an integrated approach.

26. We underscore the importance of promoting public-private sector partnerships, to help provide reasonable levels of safety, and to strengthen the monitoring and enforcement of appropriate safety standards.

27. We recognize the Inter-American Committee on Natural Disaster Reduction and the Inter-American Strategic Plan for Policy on Vulnerability Reduction, Risk Management and Disaster Response as mechanisms for regional cooperation.

### III. SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT, SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

28. We recognize the importance of developing and implementing national forest programs, policies and strategies, as appropriate, that strengthen the capacity of countries to address illegal practices in the forest sector, through the promotion of forest law enforcement, and governance at the national and sub-national levels, and regional and sub-regional levels, as appropriate.

29. We affirm the need to advance policies and initiatives that support sustainable tourism, including the exchange of information, the promotion of educational and awareness programs regarding the conservation of natural and cultural patrimonies, micro-financing opportunities for small-scale enterprises, and other mechanisms.

30. We recognize, in the framework of domestic legislations, that the development and implementation of strategies for managing protected areas as well as their buffer zones and conservation corridors should take into account the active participation of all stakeholders, particularly local communities, including indigenous peoples, in the local socio-political and cultural context.

#### RESOLVE:

#### INITIATIVES FOR ACTION

31. To entrust the General Secretariat of the OAS, within the framework of its mandates, and in coordination with other entities and international organizations, with promoting the mobilization of resources and technical assistance, for the implementation of agreed regional and sub-regional programs and projects on sustainable development, including the objective of poverty eradication.

### I. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

32. To strive to increase access to clean drinking water and sanitation services for all peoples within the jurisdiction of each member state, on the basis of non-discrimination, solidarity and environmental sustainability.

33. To promote, as appropriate and with the consent of the involved states, the undertaking of studies, plans, programs, projects and joint actions for the protection and sustainable use of surface and ground water resources, wetland ecosystems and associated biodiversity. To this end, existing cooperation mechanisms, at the bilateral, sub-regional and regional levels, will be strengthened, fostering the exchange of information and experiences and the coordination of actions.



34. To advance integrated water resources management, strengthening good governance through, *inter alia*, public participation, institutional transparency, and access to environmental information.

## II. DISASTERS

35. To promote initiatives taking into account existing mechanisms that seek to prevent, mitigate, prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters, through regional co-operation, as well as policy and strategy coordination on this matter. Moreover, to promote regional and sub-regional cooperation for the development of people-centered early-warning systems against disasters, thereby contributing to the prevention of negative impacts on vulnerable populations.

36. To strengthen national initiatives and institutions in disaster reduction planning, the adoption and enforcement of construction, rehabilitation and reconstruction practices that increase the resilience of communities and economic sectors to natural disaster impacts. To develop and implement an integrated approach to disaster risk reduction, including hazard mapping, early-warning systems, and sanitation and infrastructure programs.

37. To promote and to strengthen the inclusion of disaster management in development planning processes.

38. To continue with the exchange of information and experience regarding the mapping of risk zones, people-centered early-warning systems, and other technical aspects of risk reduction through the Inter-American Network for Disaster Mitigation, and other mechanisms and initiatives.

39. Enhance the exchange of information and experiences regarding the necessary adjustments to reduce the negative impacts of natural disasters, climate variability, and climate change.

## III. SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT, SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

40. To support sustainable agricultural practices and innovations and recognize that they may be enriched by indigenous knowledge and environmentally appropriate technologies.

41. To promote greater coordination among the sustainable agriculture, sustainable forest management and sustainable tourism sectors, through the development of policies that consider *in situ* conservation and integrated land management.

42. To formulate public policies consistent with relevant international commitments regarding the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components, and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources, including by appropriate access to genetic resources, and by appropriate transfer of relevant technologies, taking into account all rights over those resources and to those technologies, and by appropriate funding.

43. To recognize and value the importance of traditional knowledge and its potential contribution to sustainable development.

44. To strengthen efforts at the national level towards the protection of ecosystems and the services they provide and the valuation of their contribution to sustainable agriculture, sustainable forest management and sustainable tourism, and to facilitate the regional exchange of information, experiences and lessons learned.

45. To facilitate access by local actors in member countries to micro-finance credit systems and other innovative financing systems, such as payment for benefits provided by ecosystems and other initiatives that promote conservation and the sustainable use of natural resources. Likewise, to promote support for research, technical assistance, and access to modern and environmentally sound technology.

#### CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

46. We recognize that democratic governance is a key factor for sustainable development in our Hemisphere. We reaffirm that each country has primary responsibility for its own sustainable development through promotion of good governance at all levels, respect for the rule of law, and effective law enforcement. In undertaking to promote sustainable development within our countries, we acknowledge the fundamental importance of democratic principles and institutions, and transparency.

47. We also recognize that environmental issues are best handled with the participation of all concerned citizens, at the relevant level. At the national level, each individual shall have appropriate access to information concerning the environment that is held by public authorities, including information on hazardous materials and activities in their communities, and the opportunity to participate in decision-making processes. States shall facilitate and encourage public awareness and participation by making information widely available. Effective access to judicial and administrative proceedings, including redress and remedy, shall be provided.

48. We call upon the international community to support national development efforts through mobilization of resources, technical assistance, institutional strengthening, and technology transfer.

49. We will promote national institutional capacity building and the strengthening of national environmental laws to ensure their effective enforcement.

50. We will promote environmental impact assessments in accordance with national law.

51. We will strengthen regional and sub-regional cooperation on sustainable development, particularly regarding environmental education and awareness, the training and enhancement of human resources, and the creation and strengthening of networks and other cooperation mechanisms.

52. We adopt the Inter-American Program for Sustainable Development (PIDS 2006-2009).

53. We will promote the implementation of the Inter-American Program for Sustainable Development in collaboration, as appropriate, with civil society, the private sector and international financial institutions.

54. We entrust the Inter-American Committee on Sustainable Development, in collaboration with other pertinent bodies with coordinating, monitoring, and supporting the implementation of the Inter-American Program for Sustainable Development.





**ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES**  
Inter-American Council for Integral Development  
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APPENDIX II

**FIRST INTER-AMERICAN MEETING OF MINISTERS AND  
HIGH-LEVEL AUTHORITIES ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**  
December 4-5, 2006  
Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia

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INTER-AMERICAN PROGRAM FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

(2006 – 2009)

(Version revised by the Style Committee and the Working Group)



## INTER-AMERICAN PROGRAM FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

(2006 – 2009)

(Adopted at the Fourth Plenary Session held on December 5, 2006)

### I. BACKGROUND

The member states of the OAS recognize that sustainable development requires an integral approach involving economic, social and environmental elements moving in tandem to support development, to reduce poverty and to promote equality, equity, and social inclusion.

OAS member states have defined and reiterated their support for sustainable development in a number of meetings, declarations, and resolutions. In particular, Declarations and Plans of Action have defined the role of sustainable development and the environment in contributing to economic, social, educational, and cultural development.

A number of resolutions adopted since the Summit of the Americas on Sustainable Development, held in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia in 1996, have reiterated the support of OAS member states to the objective of sustainable development.

The Strategic Plan for Partnership for Development 2006-2009, approved by the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) at its eleventh regular meeting in 2006 (CIDI/RES. 178 (XI-O/06)), and adopted by the General Assembly at its thirty-sixth regular session in 2006 (resolution AG/RES. 2201 (XXXVI-O/06)) establishes sustainable development and the environment as a priority area of CIDI activity. The Strategic Plan emphasizes, *inter alia*, within that priority area, the importance of:

- Supporting member states in their efforts to integrate environmental protection within policies, regulations, and projects on natural resource management;
- Strengthening the capability of member states to identify and mitigate the risks of natural and man-made disasters, in order to mainstream planning of both areas within economic development policies, working at the sector-specific levels with the private sector and civil society;
- Supporting public-private collaboration in human resource capacity-building in the sharing of scientific information, best environmental management practices, regulatory standards, and enforcement issues, and encouraging the use of information and communication technologies in support of sustainable development;
- Promoting the development of sustainable energy policies and projects, in cooperation with the private sector, in order to expand renewable energy, energy efficiency, and energy security in the region;

- Ensuring that sustainable development policies and projects help reduce poverty, particularly in rural areas, identify and support new competitive and investment opportunities, and create and sustain jobs and livelihoods.

The Declaration and Plan of Action -- adopted at the Summit of the Americas on Sustainable Development, held in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia in 1996 -- reaffirm that human beings are entitled to live a healthy and productive life in harmony with nature.

The Inter-American Program to Combat Poverty and Discrimination (adopted in 1997) outlines actions and policies with respect to social development, emphasizing that social and economic development are part of the same process. Accordingly, OAS member states are committed to promoting human rights, and supporting the exchange of information on such issues, *inter alia*, as modernizing public institutions and social management; strengthening mechanisms for participation of civil society; and promoting and financing social investment.

The Third Summit of the Americas – held in Quebec City, Canada, in 2001 – reaffirmed the commitment of the member states to strengthen environmental protection and sustainable use of natural resources, and focused on several priority areas, including: disaster management; vulnerability assessments of Small Island Developing States; agricultural management and rural development; efficient transportation systems; energy; natural resources management and biodiversity protection; health; hemispheric security; and integrated water resource management.

Member states have reiterated their support for sustainable development in several declarations and resolutions. For example, the Inter-American Democratic Charter -- adopted in Lima, Peru, in September 2001 –establishes values and principles of liberty, equality, and social justice, and recognizes that democracy promotes the preservation and good stewardship of the environment. Article 15 of the Charter encourages member states to implement policies of environmental protection, including application of various treaties and conventions, to achieve sustainable development for the benefit of future generations.

The Hemisphere is facing important challenges related to the management of the environment at national and regional levels to achieve sustainable levels of social and economic development. Since 1992, a number of international meetings have been held with the goal of advancing the sustainable development agenda and underlining the relationship among poverty, inequality, inequity, and social exclusion. Examples include the Earth Summit, held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992; the International Conference on Financing for Development —held in Monterrey, Mexico, in 2002 – at which the “Monterrey Consensus” was adopted; the United Nations World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Johannesburg in 2002. Commitments and initiatives adopted by the member states at the regional and global levels within the Summit of the Americas process; in the Monterrey Consensus, whose goal is to, *inter alia*, “achieve sustained economic growth and promote sustainable development”; and at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, call for hemispheric action.

The Declaration of Kingstown on the Security of Small Island States, adopted in January 2003 in Kingstown, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, at the Second High-Level Meeting on the Special Security Concerns of Small Island States, notes that small island states have peculiar characteristics which render them especially vulnerable and susceptible to security risks, threats,



concerns and other challenges of a multidimensional and transnational nature, involving political, economic, social, health, environmental, and geographic factors.

In the Declaration of Santiago on Democracy and Public Trust: A New Commitment to Good Governance for the Americas, adopted by the OAS General Assembly in 2003, member states established that democratic governance obliges us to focus on the responsible management of public affairs as an essential factor in the sustainable development of our countries with social, ethnic, and gender equity.

Within the broad area of security, environmental security has been linked to sustainable development. The Special Conference on Security, held in Mexico, in October 2003, in its Declaration on Security in the Americas stated that the security threats, concerns, and other challenges in the hemispheric context are of diverse nature and multidimensional scope, and the traditional concept and approach must be expanded to encompass new and nontraditional threats, which include political, economic, social, health, and environmental aspects. To this end, the Declaration recognizes that environmental deterioration affects the quality of life of our peoples and may constitute a threat, concern, or challenge to the security of states in the Hemisphere. Special attention has been given to the small island states, whose environmental vulnerability, especially with regard to natural disasters, is greater owing to their geographic situation, their size, and the scale of their economies, among other factors.

The Declaration of Nuevo León adopted at the Special Summit of the Americas, held in Monterrey, Mexico, in January 2004, emphasized the member states' commitment to increase cooperation and strengthen the institutions responsible for coordinating and implementing measures to reduce the impact of natural disasters on people, and highlighted the belief that ensuring environmental health for the people of the Americas represents an investment for long-term well-being and prosperity.

Mention must be made also of the work carried out at the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Plan of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, held in Port-Louis, Mauritius in 2005.

The Declaration of Mar del Plata of the Fourth Summit of the Americas held in 2005 reaffirms, among others, the commitment of member states to coordinating international efforts in support of sustainable development policies, as well as to promoting greater access for people to health care.

## II. MANDATE AND CONTEXT

The objectives of the Inter-American Program are set out broadly in the mandates of the Summit of the Americas (Miami 1994, Santiago de Chile 1998, Quebec City 2001, Monterrey 2004, and Mar del Plata 2005) and especially the Summit of the Americas on Sustainable Development (Bolivia, 1996), as well as the General Assembly, CIDI, CIDS and other resolutions. For example, in 1996, the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS) established an Inter-American Committee on Sustainable Development (CIDS) as a subsidiary organ of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI). The CIDS is charged with formulating policy objectives in support of sustainable development, and of preparing an Inter-American Program for

Sustainable Development (PIDS). In establishing the PIDS, the General Assembly emphasized the importance of ensuring that OAS activities were closely coordinated with developments in other international organizations. In this regard, the OAS role in implementing all aspects of the PIDS will be consistent with, and complementary to, those of other relevant regional and multilateral entities, particularly with the United Nations.

General Assembly resolution AG/RES. 1440 (XXVI-O/96), resolution CIDI/CIDS/RES.1 (III-O/02), AND Article 95 of the OAS Charter provide that CIDI formulate a strategic plan involving policies, programs and projects in support of integral development. In this context, the OAS will:

- a) Serve as a hemispheric forum to promote dialogue and coordinate progress in the area of sustainable development;
- b) Support the exchange of information relating to sustainable development, and facilitate the exchange of experiences among countries, institutions, and organizations; and
- c) Act as a partner in cooperation among stakeholders involved in sustainable development in those areas in which the OAS General Secretariat has a comparative advantage.

In addition, member states recognize that the Inter-American Program should contribute to the implementation of plans of action and recommendations set out in Agenda 21 adopted at the Earth Summit, held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, the Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, adopted in Johannesburg in 2002, as well as declarations and plans of action adopted in a variety of international and regional conferences, including, *inter alia*, the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, held in Bridgetown, Barbados, in 1994.

At the Summit of the Americas on Sustainable Development, the Declaration of Santa Cruz de la Sierra and the Plan of Action for the Sustainable Development of the Americas (the Plan of Action of Santa Cruz) were adopted. The Plan of Action proposes a range of initiatives to be carried out by governments, individually and collectively.

The First Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High Level Authorities, held in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, in December 2006, adopted this Inter-American Program for Sustainable Development 2006-2009, and in the “Declaration of Santa Cruz + 10” called for its implementation.

### III. STRATEGIC AREAS OF ACTION

The objective of the Inter-American Program for Sustainable Development is to serve the interests of member states by reaffirming strategic priorities of action for the period 2006 to 2009, within the overarching framework of sustainable development.

The Inter-American Program for Sustainable Development will carry out its priority activities in the following areas:

3.1 Sustainable agriculture and the sustainable management of forests and other natural resources

Sustainable agriculture and the sustainable management of forests and other natural resources require an integral approach to the various themes that comprise this area and the identification of successful opportunities through cooperation in regard to environmental management at the project and policy level.

The OAS will take the following actions in this area:

- a. Serve as a regional forum for:
  - i) Advancing the dialogue in integrated approaches to alternative land uses and planning.
  - ii) Facilitating the adoption of strategies and integrated policies, in coordination with other institutions such as the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Commission on Sustainable Development of the United Nations (CSD), the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), multilateral technical and financial cooperation agencies, such as the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the World Bank, the Permanent Secretariats of the United Nations Conventions on Biological Diversity and to Combat Desertification, and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) and the Ramsar Regional Center for the Western Hemisphere (CREHO), and others as appropriate, to address the needs of access to, transfer of, and incorporation of appropriate production technologies and sustainable management of the natural resources in our region, as well as improving the quality of life of the poorest rural segments of society. Special emphasis should be given to areas and countries affected by processes of desertification, within the framework of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.
- b. Promote the exchange of information for:

Supporting the governments in their establishment of an inter-American network for sharing of information and best practices related to sustainable agriculture, the sustainable management of forests, and other related topics, taking into account the experience and activity of other multilateral, regional and national initiatives and programs in this area, such as the Sustainable Development Network Programme (SDNP-UNDP).

c. Provide cooperation for:

Developing action plans and/or carrying out, at the request of member states, projects for the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources including protection of watersheds and sensitive biodiversity resources.

3.2 Water Resources, Land, and Health

The Inter-American Program has the objective of improving water resources management practices in order to assure quality water for human consumption and ensure its sustainable use for the current and future generations without damaging the environment. The Program also calls for the OAS to cooperate with various institutions, organizations and agencies in the Inter-American and United Nations systems to provide support to the member states, particularly in integrated water resource management. The development of actions related to integrated water resources management builds on the experience that the OAS has acquired over the past decades working in water resource management throughout the Hemisphere.

Land degradation is recognized as one of the major global environmental and sustainable development challenges of the 21st century. The Inter-American Program, working in coordination with other regional and international organizations, supports and promotes integrated and cross-sectoral approaches to address land degradation issues within the framework of sustainable development, assisting governments, when requested.

The countries of the Hemisphere have emphasized that one of the pillars of human development is equitable access to health services. Efforts must be made to develop care and promotion strategies to prevent and minimize the negative impacts to the environment and human health.

The OAS will take the following actions in this area:

a. Serve as a regional forum to:

- i) Support, with the consent of States concerned, mechanisms for inter-governmental dialogue and cooperation in the development of policies, strategies, and for integrated water resource management, in accordance with relevant international laws, and integrated land management.
- ii) Facilitate and strengthen the dialogue to address the problems that create linkages between environmental degradation and health, in support of the Health and Environment Ministers of the Americas (HEMA) initiative, with the participation of the Pan-American Health Organization, and the United Nations Environment Programme.
- iii) Support initiatives in full collaboration with the Pan-American Health Organization to integrate actions related to provide good

quality water and sanitation for the population.

- iv) Promote cross-sectoral approaches to integrated water resources management in accordance with relevant international law, and land use planning, integrating the ecological, economic, and social dimensions in program and project design.
- b. Promote the exchange of information to:
- i) Support actions to encourage the dissemination and exchange of information and experiences in water resources management and land tenure and management among the countries of the Hemisphere, by strengthening information mechanisms and networks.
  - ii) Support and promote special meetings such as World Water Forums, and the Inter-American Dialogue on Water Management at the hemispheric level, as well as support subregional meetings to facilitate discussion among water authorities and the society concerned with water management.
  - iii) Share best practices, disseminate information, and facilitate discussions related to strengthening policy, institutional, and legal frameworks, to address water and land resource degradation problems, and the linkages between environmental degradation and health issues.
  - iv) Strengthen the policy dialogue between the Pan American Health Organization and the OAS to foster promotion of initiatives related to water and health.
- c. Provide cooperation to:
- i) Support member states in the formulation and execution of strategic action programs for integrated water management to promote sustainable development.
  - ii) Establish, among member states, mechanisms for integrated water resources management, taking into consideration public participation in the decision-making process.
  - iii) Support member states in their efforts to strengthen institutional capacity and policy, regulatory and legal programs related to the implementation of integrated water resource management and land management practices, including rehabilitation of ecosystems.
  - iv) Support activities of member states in the formulation and implementation of programs and projects oriented to addressing

threats to health caused by environmental degradation, including threats to water quality that entail problems associated with hazardous wastes and persistent organic pollutants.

- v) Support member states in the design and implementation of programs and projects for sustainable fisheries management and sustainable aquaculture development.
- vi) Support member states in advancing the development of programs and institutional policies that enable the recognition of wetlands as indispensable ecosystems in the recharge of aquifers, in the conservation of biodiversity, and the supply of quality water, as well as the strengthening of actions that ensure the ecological wealth of wetlands.

### 3.3 Natural Hazards Risk Management

One fundamental component in sustainable development is the support provided to reduce vulnerability to natural hazards through an integrated approach and thus avoid disasters or mitigate their effects on people, infrastructure and the natural resources base, which support economic development. Activities such as assistance with policy formulation, hazard and vulnerability assessments, training in disaster mitigation techniques, and formulation of mitigation measures for development investment projects are carried out as part of ongoing technical cooperation programs with collaborating national, regional, and international institutions. In this sense, the commitments adopted by the Permanent Council and the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) through its Joint Consultative Body of the Committee on Hemispheric Security and the Permanent Executive Committee of CIDI (CEPCIDI), in compliance with resolution AG/RES. 2114 (XXXV-O/05) and 2184 (XXXVI-O/06), will be taken into account, in particular in the areas related to systematic risk management, including risk identification, risk reduction, and risk transfer. Commitments assumed in the *Declaration of Hyogo*, adopted at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, held in Kobe, Japan, January 2005, will also be taken into account. Support will be focused and given to national and regional initiatives on issues of prevention, mitigation, and attention to disasters through an integrated approach, which would include organizations on civil protection and disaster management and development planning agencies.

The OAS will take the following actions in this area:

- a. Serve as a hemispheric forum to support national, regional and hemispheric actions to:
  - i) Promote sustainable development by reducing the vulnerability of economic and social infrastructure to natural hazards in national development plans.
  - ii) Promote sustainable public/private natural hazard risk management mechanisms that substantially lessen loss of life, prevent and reduce

potential damage, and shorten the effects of the disaster recovery period.

- iii) Improve public awareness and decision-making in development planning by disseminating hazard-prone area maps.
  - iv) Foster catastrophe loss protection in the region by supporting the efforts of development lending institutions and the insurance industry to improve natural hazard risk management.
  - v) Encourage private sector and civil society involvement in community-based disaster preparedness and prevention activities.
  - vi) Support the implementation of OAS General Assembly and CIDS resolutions on natural hazards vulnerability reduction.
  - vii) Promote the strengthening of early warning systems that are people-centered, in particular, systems whose warnings are timely and understandable to those at risk, which take into account the demographic, gender, cultural, and livelihood characteristics of the target audiences.
  - viii) Consider the characteristics and special needs of the Small Island Developing States and other vulnerable countries in relation to adapting to the adverse impacts of climate change and of climate variability and, in this sense, grant them, as deemed appropriate, special attention in terms of facilitating financial resources, technology transfer, and capacity-building.
- b. Encourage the exchange of information to:
- i) Facilitating the interpretation of natural hazard information.
  - ii) Reducing natural hazard vulnerability through emergency preparedness, planning, investment, and scientific research.
  - iii) Reducing or eliminating the destructive effects of recurring hazardous events on people and their economic and social infrastructure through the application of appropriate risk reduction measures.
  - iv) Supporting established networks for the exchange of experiences and methods in the forecasting and mitigation of natural hazard events.

- c. Provide cooperation to:
- i) Promote community-based prevention, preparedness, mitigation and response in cases of disaster.
  - ii) Identify natural hazard assessments and the evaluation of financial, economic and physical risk.
  - iii) Promote hazard-resistant building practices and standards.
  - iv) Assist in the implementation of vulnerability and risk audits of lifelines and critical facilities in order to promote life safety and loss reduction.
  - v) Foster the study of the use of vulnerability reduction incentives and hazard mitigation in the property insurance industry.
  - vi) Facilitate technical training and information dissemination.
  - vii) Support the incorporation of natural hazards mitigation goals and objectives in national development plans, the adoption of appropriate building codes and zoning procedures, and the preparation, strengthening and implementation of regional disaster reduction plans.
  - viii) Support the coordination of international and national activities aimed at the preparation of sector vulnerability profiles and investment plans to reduce vulnerability to natural disasters.

#### 3.4 Conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity

Biodiversity plays a critical role in the sustainable development in the countries of the region. It is a key component of the fight against hunger and other manifestations of poverty. It is essential to the well-being of humanity and the world as a whole. To avoid the loss of biodiversity, efforts must be made for formulating public policies consistent with relevant international commitments regarding the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components, and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources, including by appropriate access to genetic resources, and by appropriate transfer of relevant technologies, taking into account all rights over those resources and to technologies, and by appropriate funding, with due consideration for both the benefits and risks of biotechnology. Efforts will also be made for recognizing and valuing the importance of traditional knowledge and its potential contribution to sustainable development.

The OAS will take the following actions to encourage the development and coordinated work in this area taking into account the relevant instruments, such as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Convention on International Trade in



Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, the Convention on Desertification (UNCCD) and the Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and other relevant regional and multilateral mechanisms.

- a. Serve as a regional forum for:
  - i) Promoting integrated approaches to land use that mainstream conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity into the land-use planning and land management process.
  - ii) Promoting discussion of biodiversity at the inter-American level in order to advance strategies for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.
  - iii) Promoting networks such as Inter-American Biodiversity Information Network (IABIN) and other actions and activities that facilitate sharing information and the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and otherwise support the achievement of the objectives in the conventions listed above. In addition, to explore the development of the Western Hemisphere Migratory Initiative (WHMSI), in a manner that reflects the interests and priorities of all member states.
  - iv) Facilitating the adoption of strategies, and integrated policies, to address the needs of access to, transfer of, and incorporation of appropriate production technologies and sustainable management of the natural resources in our region, on mutually agreed terms, as well as improving the quality of life of the poorest rural segments of society, in coordination with other organizations, and promote dialogue to avoid duplication of efforts. Special emphasis should be given to understanding linkages between the processes of desertification and biodiversity, ecosystem functions and services, water-related issues, and climate change.
  - v) Strengthening the capacity of member states to promote sustainable forest management and to address illegal practices, according to national legislation, through the promotion of forest law enforcement and governance at the national, sub-national, regional and sub-regional levels, including through collaboration with inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations, and the private sector, as appropriate.
  - vi) Supporting the effective implementation and enforcement, at the national and sub-national levels, of laws, policies and regulations that address illegal trade in endangered species and protection of wild flora and fauna, including through the implementation of CITES, as well as the promotion of strategies to address the loss of habitat for wildlife.

- b. Promote the exchange of information for:
  - i) Supporting the governments in the management of an Inter-American Biodiversity Information Network to promote compatible standards and inter-operable means of collection, communication, and exchange of information relevant to decision-making and capacity building on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.
  - ii) In coordination with governments, identifying gaps in knowledge and new fields of interest, as well as a research agenda to support conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.
  - iii) Improving regional cooperation for biodiversity management through the sharing of experience and expertise in protected areas and natural habitats.
  - iv) Creating and strengthening the capacity to address critical issues at a regional level such as invasive species, migratory species, amphibian declines, wildlife trafficking, and the spread of wildlife and zoonotic diseases, among others.
  - v) Developing the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) and building capacity in member countries to participate actively in the development of data layers and assessment of environmental information as it relates to sustainable development and protection of human health and biodiversity.
  
- c. Provide cooperation for:
  - i) Carrying out regional, sub-regional, and bilateral projects for the management and sustainable use of biological diversity, including wildlife and forests, and formulating strategies and considering coordinated action plans for managing natural ecosystems and biological resources shared by two or more countries.
  - ii) Supporting countries, upon joint agreed request, in identifying new protected areas in the region, and formulating plans for the management of protected areas and buffer zones with similar characteristics, and for establishing, restoring or consolidating biological corridors, as jointly agreed by those countries where the Protected Area would be located.
  - iii) Promoting integrated soil management and measures to combat desertification through sustainable development projects and integrated regional studies for such purposes as reversing significant degradation and erosion, in conformity with the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.

- iv) Assisting member states, at their request, in strengthening activities in support of the development of environmental legislation to conserve biodiversity and water resources and to combat desertification.
- v) Strengthening technical and institutional capacity for the conservation and sustainable use of plants, animals, and ecosystems.
- vi) Building cooperative initiatives at a hemispheric, regional, and sub-regional level among environmental, natural resource, and law enforcement authorities to enhance the capacity to detect and effectively respond to illegal transboundary trade in wild flora and fauna to strengthen implementation of obligations under CITES.

### 3.5 Coastal Zone Management and Adaptation to Climate Change

A key component of the Inter-American Program is the support to countries and sub-regional and regional institutions in their efforts to respond to the adverse effects of climate change, particularly sea-level rise, in coastal and marine areas through vulnerability assessment, adaptation planning, and capacity building. In this context, the OAS will promote measures to counter the adverse effects of climate change in the the socio-economic fields.

The OAS will take the following actions in this area:

- a. Promote the exchange of information in order to:
  - i. Formulate policies and options for cost-effective response and adaptation to the impacts of global climate change.
  - ii. Enable the further integration and linkages between initiatives and projects addressing adaptation to climate change, and mitigation of natural disasters.
  - iii. Establish databases and information systems to allow key regional and national institutions to acquire, analyze, store, and disseminate data on climate change and the impacts on natural and man-made systems.
  - iv. Increase knowledge on the impact of climate change and greenhouse gas emission on socio-economic sectors and natural resources.
- b. Provide cooperation in order to:
  - i. Establish and operate sea level/climate and coral reef monitoring networks.
  - ii. Develop appropriate methodologies for coastal vulnerability and risk assessment and mapping.

### 3.6. Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Promotion

The Inter-American Program considers the development and use of renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies and systems as key components of sustainable development.

The OAS will take the following actions in this area:

- a. Serve as a regional forum for:
  - i) Organizing and implementing the Renewable Energy in the Americas Initiative (REIA), which builds collaborative partnerships to accelerate the use of renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies throughout the Americas.
  - ii) Participation in renewable energy and energy efficiency partnerships launched at the World Summit for Sustainable Development (WSSD).
  - iii) Promoting policy and regulatory measures to advance the use of renewable energy and energy-efficiency technologies in the Americas.
  - iv) Developing and accessing innovative financing mechanisms suited to the technical characteristics of renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies and appropriate to the social and economic needs of the demographically diverse end-users.
  - v) Identifying and promoting renewable energy and energy efficiency project opportunities in the Americas.
  - vi) Sharing information on renewable energy and energy efficient technologies and delivering technical assistance and training on matters related to sustainable energy development.

### 3.7 Capacity Building and Institutional Strengthening for Sustainable Development and Environmental Management

The exercise of democracy promotes the preservation and good stewardship of the environment. Democratic governance requires the development of responsible management of public affairs as an essential factor in the sustainable development of the member states, and the promotion of civil society participation. Governance and environmental management place priority in identifying best practices, developing technical skills at the institutional and local levels to assess and manage linkages among environmental, social, and economic issues, which are the components of sustainable development. The OAS will collaborate with the development of integral policies that take said components into account. In that regard, the OAS will work towards the development and strengthening of environmental law, in support of sustainable development priorities established by the member states.

Environmental management will consider at the outset and in an adequate manner the protection of those communities that depend on the natural resources for their economic subsistence.

The OAS will take the following actions in this area:

- a. Serve as a regional forum to:
  - i) Facilitate dialogue towards the consideration of technical, social and economic issues in environmental management, including the rights that may derive from those of the traditional indigenous knowledge, stressing that they are issues related to the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the Convention on Biological Diversity, that deal specifically with the topic.
  - ii) Facilitate the exchange of information and experiences in environmental law and policies, in particular, through the governmental experts designated by the member states to participate in the activities of the Inter-American Forum on Environmental Law (FIDA).
  - iii) Continue collaborating through FIDA in cooperative efforts towards developing and strengthening environmental laws, policies, and institutions, and in cooperation with member states, reinforce instruments or incentives of environmental compliance utilized by the member states in the establishment of their policies and legislation.
  - iv) Exchange information concerning environmental cooperation activities in the territory of the member states and develop a list of relevant programs and projects funded by cooperation partners in the Americas.
- b. Promote the exchange of information to:
  - i) Foster collaboration with public, private, and civil society organizations interested in the law and environmental policy.
  - ii) Foster collaboration among experts on environmental law and policies.
  - iii) Support the development and implementation of national and international environmental policies.
  - iv) Support member states in complying with the commitments acquired through environmental agreements and in making decisions related to sustainable development, taking into account the environmental, economic and social dimensions.

- v) Generate profiles of best practices for sustainable development and environmental management of trade transportation corridors in coordination with regional infrastructure integration strategies.
- c. Provide cooperation to:
- i) Develop capacities in support of good environmental management especially in the areas of environmental policies, legislation, regulations and standards.
  - ii) Support member states in the incorporation of environmental policies into their development plans.
  - iii) Build capacity, through technical and analytical support, upon request of member states, to undertake environmental impact assessments to minimize economic, environmental, and social externalities.
  - iv) Support the development of environmental legislation in member states.

#### IV. COOPERATION AND FINANCING

We entrust the General Secretariat of the OAS, within the framework of its mandate, and in coordination with other entities and international organizations, to promote the mobilization of resources and technical assistance, for the implementation of agreed regional and sub-regional programs and projects on sustainable development, including the objective of poverty eradication.

#### V. IMPLEMENTATION AND FOLLOW-UP

The General Secretariat, through the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development and its Department for Sustainable Development, in coordination with and with the assistance of the competent specialized offices and units, will support the activities that arise from the program.

Member States recognize the multi-disciplinary and inter-sectoral nature of sustainable development and the environment. Accordingly, the Program implementation shall emphasize close, ongoing cooperation and coordination with multilateral and regional organizations that are charged with implementing programs, projects, and policies of relevance to the priorities identified herein. Moreover, the Program implementation shall take into account developments in other bodies, and identify synergies with international and regional organizations, the private sector, civil society, community groups, research bodies and others in order to ensure that measurable progress is made. In order to ensure that the implementation of the Program proceeds in an efficient, cost-effective, and cooperative manner, a programmatic monitoring and evaluation system shall be established.

The Department for Sustainable Development will present to the Permanent Executive Committee of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CEPCIDI) an annual work

program based on the guidelines of the CIDI strategic plan. In addition, the Department of Sustainable Development will prepare semester progress reports on the implementation of this Inter-American Program for Sustainable Development. In its annual work program the Department of Sustainable Development will, *inter alia*, monitor and evaluate the implementing of the Inter-American Program, and define a strategy for mobilizing funds to support the financing of the Program. The annual work program will include provision for monitoring the implementation and evaluating the results of the Program. A comprehensive ample evaluation of the impact will be undertaken in the final year of the Program, in accordance with the existing resources available for this purpose. The Department shall also present reports on the implementation of the program to the Inter-American Committee on Sustainable Development or other appropriate sectoral meetings, which can propose updates to the Program.

There are three sources of funds to support the implementation of the Program: the regular budget, the Sector Account for Sustainable Development and Environment of the Special Multilateral Fund of CIDI (FEMCIDI) and external funds. There is a relationship among these three funding sources, and the extent of the regular budget and FEMCIDI to raise and manage external funds. Its purpose is also to ensure efficiency and effectiveness in serving the needs of the member states in their execution of mandates in the area of sustainable development.

The resources in the sectoral Account for Sustainable Development and Environment of FEMCIDI should be used to implement activities arising from the Program. Accordingly, member states are encouraged to present multinational projects following these criteria, and the Department for Sustainable Development is to support member states that so request in the formulation of such projects, and shall cooperate with those member states in the search for additional external funding sources for its execution.

Moreover, the Department for Sustainable Development will provide support for the design and implementation of pilot projects to promote effective participation in innovative programs designed to promote sustainable development and environmental issues.





APPENDIX III

**FIRST INTER-AMERICAN MEETING OF MINISTERS AND  
HIGH-LEVEL AUTHORITIES ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

December 4 to 5, 2006  
Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia

OEA/K/XLIII.1  
CIDI/RIMDS/doc.3/06 rev. 1  
4 December 2006  
Original: Spanish

ANNOTATED AGENDA

(Approved at the first plenary session held on December 4, 2006)

1. Adoption of the Annotated Agenda
2. Election of officers  
  
Election of the Chair and Vice Chair of the First Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities on Sustainable development at the first plenary session.
3. Integrated water resource management
  - Achieving the millennium development goals related to water, as set out in the United Nations Millennium Declaration
  - Advancing good governance in the management of water resources
  - Advancing integrated water resource management within the context of hydroclimatic variability
  - Enhancing synergies to strengthen cooperative mechanisms in water management
  - Cross-cutting themes
4. Natural disaster risk reduction
  - Supporting cooperative partnerships and best practices that make progress in both risk mitigation and risk transfer, in particular, governance-related building codes and standards, adaptation monitoring and enforcement
  - Strengthening economic analysis associated with the benefits and costs of risk mitigation and risk sharing, and mainstream risk mitigation and expenditures in development planning
  - Advancing risk sharing and risk transfer initiatives at the regional and sub-regional levels, including through insurance pooling
  - Cross-cutting themes

5. Sustainable agriculture, forestry, and tourism
  - Advancing successful practices and approaches to sustainable agriculture, forestry, and tourism
  - Identifying challenges and obstacles to sustainable management of agriculture, forestry, and tourism
  - Advancing partnerships and innovative mechanisms for financing in support of job creation and sustainable development of agriculture, forestry, and tourism
  - Promoting public participation, good governance, gender equity, and the inclusion of indigenous communities in environmental management
  - Cross-cutting themes
  
6. Adoption of the Inter-American Program for Sustainable Development 2006-2009
  
7. Adoption of the Declaration of Santa Cruz +10
  
8. Other business

APPENDIX IV

**FIRST INTER-AMERICAN MEETING OF MINISTERS AND  
HIGH-LEVEL AUTHORITIES ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**  
December 4 to 5, 2006  
Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia

OEA/Ser.K  
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22 February 2006  
Original: textual

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(Final version)



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APPENDIX V

**PRIMERA REUNIÓN INTERAMERICANA DE MINISTROS  
Y ALTAS AUTORIDADES DE DESARROLLO SOSTENIBLE**  
4 – 5 de diciembre de 2006  
Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia

OEA//XLIII.1  
CIDI/RIMDS/doc.4/06  
9 mayo 2007  
Original: español / inglés

**LISTA DE DOCUMENTOS REGISTRADOS POR LA SECRETARÍA  
AL 9 DE MAYO DE 2007**

<b>Número del documento</b>	<b>Título <sup>1/</sup></b>	<b>Idioma <sup>2/</sup></b>
CIDI/RIMDS/doc. 1/06 rev. 2 CIDI01833	Temario  (Aprobado en la primera sesión plenaria celebrada el 4 de diciembre de 2006)	E I F P
CIDI/RIMDS/doc. 2/06 rev. 3 CIDI01832	Calendario  (Aprobado en la primera sesión plenaria celebrada el 4 de diciembre de 2006)	E I F P
CIDI/RIMDS/doc.3/06 rev. 1 CIDI01834	Temario Anotado  (Aprobado en la primera sesión plenaria celebrada el 4 de diciembre de 2006)	E I F P
CIDI/RIMDS/doc.4/06 CIDI01809	Lista de documentos registrados por la Secretaría al 6 de diciembre de 2006	E I F P
CIDI/RIMDS/doc.5/06 CIDI01883	Lista de participantes  (Versión final / Final version)	TEXTUAL
CIDI/RIMDS/doc.6/06 CIDI01812	Informe final sobre el Taller de Gestión de Desastres Naturales	E I
CIDI/RIMDS/doc.7/06 CIDI01813	Informe final sobre el Taller de Gestión Integrada de Recursos Hídricos	E I
CIDI/RIMDS/doc.8/06 CIDI01814	Informe final sobre el Taller “El Apoyo al Desarrollo Sostenible a través de la agricultura, la silvicultura y el turismo”	E I  E I

- 
1. Título registrado en el idioma original.
  2. E = español, I = inglés, F = francés, P = portugués

Número del documento	Título <sup>1/</sup>	Idioma <sup>2/</sup>
CIDI/RIMDS/doc.8/06 add. 1 CIDI01815	Taller sobre el Apoyo al Desarrollo Sostenible a través de la agricultura, la silvicultura y el turismo	
CIDI/RIMDS/doc.9/06 CIDI01816	La economía de la Mitigación de Desastres en el Caribe	E I
CIDI/RIMDS/doc.10/06 CIDI01817	Buena gobernabilidad y gestión de los recursos hídricos	E I
CIDI/RIMDS/doc.11/06 CIDI01818	Informe consolidado – Recomendaciones de la sociedad civil y representantes de los pueblos indígenas	E I
CIDI/RIMDS/doc.12/06 CIDI01819	Foro de Consulta virtual con la sociedad civil y los pueblos indígenas	E I
CIDI/RIMDS/doc.13/06 CIDI01820	Final report and recommendations on Panel of experts with private sector in the preparatory process	E I
CIDI/RIMDS/doc.14/06 CIDI01821	Resumen del informe final del Panel sobre Tendencias Ambientales y Buena Gobernabilidad	E I
CIDI/RIMDS/doc.15/06 CIDI01822	Valoraciones ambientales como una herramienta de apoyo para los pagos por servicios ambientales	E I
CIDI/RIMDS/doc.16/06 CIDI01823	Visión general de los efectos de los acuerdos de comercio en América Latina y el Caribe	E I
CIDI/RIMDS/doc.17/06 CIDI01824	Pagos por servicios ambientales	E I
CIDI/RIMDS/doc.18/06 CIDI01825	Facilitación del comercio, etiquetado y certificación para la agricultura y la silvicultura	E I
CIDI/RIMDS/doc.19/06 CIDI01826	Recomendaciones de la mesa redonda con la sociedad civil y representantes de los pueblos indígenas en el marco de la Primera Reunión Interamericana de Ministros y Altas Autoridades de Desarrollo Sostenible	E I
CIDI/RIMDS/doc.20/06 CIDI01827	Proyecto de Declaración de Santa Cruz +10	E I F P
CIDI/RIMDS/doc.21/06 rev. 2 CIDI01899	Programa Interamericano de Desarrollo Sostenible 2006-2009	E I F P

<b>Número del documento</b>	<b>Título <sup>1/</sup></b> (Versión revisada por la Comisión de Estilo y el Grupo de Trabajo)	<b>Idioma <sup>2/</sup></b>
CIDI/RIMDS/doc.22/06 CIDI01835	Proyecto de resolución: Voto de agradecimiento al pueblo y gobierno de Bolivia  (Presentado por la Delegación de Jamaica)	E I F P
<b>Declaración</b> CIDI/RIMDS/DEC.1/06 rev. 1	Declaración de Santa Cruz +10  (Versión revisada por la Comisión de Estilo)	E I F P
<b>Resoluciones</b> CIDI/RIMDS/RES. 1/06 CIDI01836	Voto de agradecimiento al pueblo y gobierno de Bolivia  (Adoptada en la Cuarta Sesión Plenaria, celebrada el 5 de diciembre de 2006)	E I F P
<b>Documentos Informativos</b> CIDI/RIMDS/INF. 1/06 CIDI01864	Palabras del Embajador Albert R. Ramdin, Secretario General Adjunto de la Organización de los Estados Americanos en la Primera Reunión Interamericana de Ministros y Altas Autoridades de Desarrollo Sostenible	E I F P
<b>Orden del Día</b> CIDI/RIMDS/OD-1/06	PROYECTO ORDEN DEL DÍA  <u>Fecha:</u> Lunes 4 de diciembre de 2006 <u>Hora:</u> 9 :00 a.m. – 9 :20 a.m. <u>Lugar:</u> Gran Salón, Hotel Los Tajibos	E I





**ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES**  
Inter-American Council for Integral Development  
(CIDI)



APPENDIX VI

**FIRST INTER-AMERICAN MEETING OF MINISTERS AND  
HIGH-LEVEL AUTHORITIES ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**  
December 4 to 5, 2006  
Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia

OEA/Ser.K/XLIII.1  
CIDI/RIMDS/doc.19/06  
4 December 2006  
**Original: Spanish**

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ROUNDTABLE WITH CIVIL SOCIETY AND  
INDIGENOUS PEOPLES REPRESENTATIVES IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE FIRST  
INTER-AMERICAN MEETING OF MINISTERS AND HIGH-LEVEL AUTHORITIES  
ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

(Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, December 4, 2006)



RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ROUNDTABLE WITH CIVIL SOCIETY AND  
INDIGENOUS PEOPLES REPRESENTATIVES IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE FIRST  
INTER-AMERICAN MEETING OF MINISTERS AND HIGH-LEVEL AUTHORITIES  
ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

(Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia. December 4, 2006)

I. INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

1. The member states should establish, in the OAS framework, an inter-American committee to study surface and ground water in the region, and facilitate participation by civil society and indigenous peoples therein.
2. The member states should promote the planning of water resources management systems to study and identify solutions in connection with the causes of water shortages, with participation by directly affected populations, environmentalists, researchers, and civil society organizations.
3. The member states should recognize that water is essential to life, and should take measures to increase civil society participation in water resources management. Such participation should be inclusive. Civil society should also be included in consultations on public policy adoption.
4. The member states should take account of participation by indigenous peoples and peoples of African descent in both consultations and decision-making in connection with integrated water resources management.
5. The member states should enact domestic legislation establishing that water is a resource essential to life and guaranteeing full access to water and sanitation.
6. The member states should incorporate a concept of sustainability that takes account of the value of water to current and future generations.
7. The member states should include the concept of the importance of land use planning in water resources management, in a process that respects the diversity and interests of communities.
8. Public policies should be put in place that enhance governance, develop capacities, promote decentralization, and include water as a cross-cutting theme.
9. National strategies should be strengthened, regional cooperation in water resources management stepped up, and additional public water and sanitation investment programs put in place. The OAS should complement the work of the United Nations system in this area.

10. The member states should recognize the efforts made by indigenous peoples and communities to protect natural resources and should take account of their participation in decision-making regarding water resources use.
11. The member states should focus on promoting integrated watershed management policies, research to gain an understanding of the different societal issues in integrated watershed management, enhancement of the quality of agricultural life, additional conservation measures, training, and water resources control.
12. Civil society organizations and indigenous peoples have underscored the need for state policies to protect the headwaters and springs on which their communities depend.

## II. NATURAL DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT

13. The member states should implement policies that accord greater attention to and respect for natural resources, as any alteration thereof has serious consequences and attendant climatic impact.
14. Decisions taken by states should take account of policies to prevent, address, and mitigate natural disasters that contain appropriate prevention measures taken with participation by multidisciplinary teams of societal stakeholders, indigenous representatives, multilateral organizations, and governmental agencies.
15. The member states should include in policies they formulate promotion of mechanisms for local societal control to mitigate the impact of natural disasters at every level.
16. The member states should promote programs to encourage and follow up on consultation processes, as well as national and regional media and educational natural disaster prevention programs.
17. In view of the evident relationship between natural disasters and the problems that generate them, such as deforestation and climate change, the member states should promote action plans, urban development programs, and education and land use programs that, in addition to quantifying the costs of disasters, provide for adoption of legal instruments and their effective enforcement.
18. The member states should adopt regional forest conservation policies and take them into account in a framework of viable processes and strategies for participation in planning.
19. The member states should implement land use tools and/or policies.
20. The member states should also consider establishing limited access and use areas around rivers and lakes to prevent calamities suffered by those living along rivers

that ensue from natural disasters. In addition, water supply protection legislation should be enacted and riverbank clearing prohibited.

21. The member states should make efforts to formulate and adopt land use provisions.
22. The member states should adopt measures that take account of participation by indigenous peoples in disaster prevention and mitigation programs.

### III. SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE, SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT, AND SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

23. Biodiversity information systems are essential tools in supporting and influencing decision-making and policy formulation at the governmental, sectoral, and individual levels. Therefore, member states should continue to work on and expand the scope of such systems, incorporating the knowledge of original indigenous peoples and communities.
24. The member states should promote inter-American information networks, such as the Inter-American Biodiversity Network (IABIN), the Migratory Species Initiative, and other such networks that strengthen conservation of biodiversity in the Western Hemisphere.
25. The member states should promote local participation, as it is essential to biodiversity conservation and sustainable biodiversity use. There is increasing evidence of further integration of local communities and authorities resulting from successful experiences based on their organizational and institutional strengthening, interaction of traditional and scientific knowledge, participatory planning, strategic alliances, and education.
26. The member states should promote generation of financial resources, as they reinforce a sense of identity and imply that inhabitants need not migrate to seek other sources of livelihood. The financial sustainability of such processes may be achieved by means of different mechanisms, such as consolidation of trust funds, biocommerce, ecotourism, climate change mitigation programs, and other environmental services.