

# ARGENTINE PRO TEMPORE PRESIDENCY CELAC 2022

► **LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN:  
UNITY IN DIVERSITY AND ZONE OF PEACE**



Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
International Trade and Worship  
Argentina



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**CELAC 2022**  
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**CELAC**  
Comunidad de Estados  
Latinoamericanos y Caribeños



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## Authorities of the Argentine Pro Tempore Presidency



**Alberto Fernández**

›President of Argentina



**Santiago Andrés Cafiero**

›Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Trade  
and Worship



**Emb. Gustavo Martínez Pandiani**

›National Coordinator  
›Undersecretary for Latin America and the Caribbean



**Min. Marina Mantecón Fumadó**

›Deputy National Coordinator  
›Director of Regional Affairs









## Remarks by the President of the Nation, Alberto Fernández, at the opening of the VII Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC)

Good morning to all of you. Dear presidents; dear vice presidents; Prime ministers; chancellors; to all delegations. It is a great joy for me to welcome you to our beloved homeland, Argentina; that part of our great homeland, which is Latin America and the Caribbean.

Today we, the Argentines and Argentina, are finishing the exercise of the Pro Tempore Presidency that we have had throughout 2022. It was a particularly difficult year, but we are confident that we have taken the voice and positions of Latin America and the Caribbean to all corners of the world and made ourselves heard for the problems we are facing.

Before giving an account of what we have done, I want to ask everyone for a huge round of applause to celebrate the return of Brazil to CELAC. It is not necessary to tell you what a joy of having dear friend Lula presiding over our sister Brazil means for an Argentine and for the President of Argentina. But it is also, without a doubt, very important because a CELAC without Brazil is a much emptier CELAC; with its presence today we are complete.





Throughout this year – as I was telling you- we have gone through very difficult times due to the end of the pandemic and the effects of a war that has been unleashed and has put the world and the economy, and our economies, in crisis. I made a commitment to all of you when I assumed the Presidency of CELAC, which was not only to devote myself to the debates, to the discussions, to the proposals of Latin America, but also to incorporate the needs of the Caribbean, which are undoubtedly many and in somewhat different from that of Latin America.

The Caribbean, beyond the common problems we have in Latin America as debt and poverty; has an additional problem, which is the problem of climate change. And in all the Forums where I was, I carried the voice of the Caribbean demanding attention for climate change. I raised it in two occasions at G20, where Argentina is a member; I raised it in France; I raised it at the G7, when we had to talk about how the influence of the climate had a negative impact on such an important place, of enjoyment for millions of human beings in the world, due to the natural beauty that the Caribbean; and problems for those who live there.

As President of CELAC, my first visit was to Barbados, precisely, to speak with Mia; and for Mia to tell me what the Caribbean needs. And there we held a meeting, via Zoom, with other members of the Caribbean countries; and I was very concerned that the Caribbean was represented by someone who presides over the last country on the continent facing south, something that we share with Chile. And I think we have called the attention of the world in that aspect; I also believe that we have taken steps because, together with Mexico, we have created an assistance fund for the Caribbean, precisely for the problems that the Caribbean must face as a consequence of climate change.





Then, there are problems in the region that we all know perfectly well. We live in the most unequal continent in the world and we must once and for all face a process that leads us towards equality and social justice in our nations. And for that we have to work together because it is much easier to achieve these results working together, in a world where globalization exists, than to continue doing it separately.

During this time, I took care of demanding respect for all our nations. And I went to the Summit of the Americas and carried the voice of Latin America and the Caribbean demanding an end to the blockades that Latin American and Caribbean countries still suffer. Blocks are very perverse methods of sanction; not to governments, but to the peoples and, therefore, we cannot continue to allow it. Cuba has been under a blockade for more than six decades and that is inexcusable; Venezuela suffers the same and we have to raise our voices.

And what we also have to do is work to guarantee and strengthen the institutional framework in our region. We believe in democracy; and democracy is definitely at risk; after the pandemic we have seen how far-right sectors have stood up and are threatening our peoples. And what we must not allow is that this recalcitrant and fascist right wing puts the institutionality of our peoples at risk. We have seen it time and time again. We saw it, first, with the coup that Bolivia experienced, which -thanks to God- only lasted a year and "Lucho" Arce was able to achieve the Presidency of the Nation elected by his people. We saw it a few days ago when madness invaded the streets of Brasilia, a week after President Lula took office; And we suffer from it systematically in our towns, here in Argentina also when someone tried to kill our vice president. And we should not allow that, we should not allow it. And we have to work together and we have to be categorical in defending democracy and institutions. It is something that Latin America and the Caribbean owes itself and it is something that the region cannot ignore.

I think a new opportunity is opening up for us; CELAC returned, now we are in a complete CELAC with Brazil. And the opportunity to unite the region is an imperative imposed on us, and we have to achieve it. The world has had changes; after the pandemic, globalization does not work the way it used to; globalization also revealed the shortcomings of the economic system. When one notices that ten people in the world have the same patrimony as 40 per cent of humanity, one realizes the injustice of this world. During the pandemic we were able to see how the vaccines were distributed and when we saw that 90



percent of the vaccines were destined for 10 percent of the central countries; to the central countries, which represent 10 percent of humanity, there we also realized how unfair the world was.

Now, we have all the possibilities to grow together, we have all the possibilities to develop together. All we have to do is deepen our dialogues, respect each other in diversity. All those who are here have been chosen by their peoples and their peoples legitimize them as rulers and, therefore, regardless of how each people decides, in diversity we must respect each other and in diversity we must grow together.

I think we have a great opportunity ahead of us; yesterday with dear President Lula we were able to advance in the bilateral relationship between Argentina and Brazil; and just as we advance we must advance with the entire continent; This is an effort that we must make, knowing that it is an effort that is well worth because it has to do with the progress of our peoples and that we cannot delay any longer. The reality is that we have to transform all these wishes and all these words into institutions and actions. We have to make integration a reality, we have to make integration actions that allow us to advance and progress.





I thank each and every one of you for being here today joining us. I have peace of mind that this year I put Latin America and the Caribbean in the place in the concert of the nations that Latin America and the Caribbean deserves. I have the peace of mind of having told the north; that while missiles fly in the north, hunger deepens in the southern hemisphere. I have the peace of mind of having asked and demanded before all the Forums for the end of the war and that it stop condemning Latin America and the Caribbean to starvation. I have the peace of mind of having asked all the Forums for the end of the blockades. I have the peace of mind of having promoted with the contact group, of which we are also a part with Mexico, and where the President of Colombia, with the President of France, were able to call Venezuela back to dialogue; trying to make democratic coexistence in Venezuela a reality. I have the peace of mind of having done all that. I have the peace of mind of having taken care of bringing vaccines to the peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean that needed it. It is with this peace of mind that I receive you today, and I encourage you to understand once and for all that alone we are worth little, that together we can have an overwhelming force; and that the time has come to make the Caribbean and Latin America a single region that defends the same interests for the progress of our peoples.

*Thank you.*







## **Remarks by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship, Santiago Cafiero, at the VII Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC)**



It is an honour for me to welcome you to our country on the occasion of the VII CELAC Summit.

Our community supports integration as a fundamental value to build a territory of peace and solidarity in Latin America and the Caribbean.

For this reason, CELAC member countries share the idea that cooperation enhances individual capacities and transforms the concrete realities of our citizens.

This last year has been a year of intense work for us, which we were able to carry out thanks to the efforts, support and accompaniment of all of you.

Today we can affirm, without a doubt, that CELAC is an example of collective construction, a common tool that is essential to lead Latin America and the Caribbean towards the development and progress that our peoples yearn for.



Within the framework of the Argentine Pro Tempore Presidency of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, our country developed an ambitious Work Plan based on 5 pillars that led to the implementation of more than 60 innovative activities, which were agreed upon by the entire membership and involved the articulation of the interests and priorities of the member States and of the region as a whole.

These five pillars were oriented towards the following objectives:

- 1.** The post-pandemic social, economic and productive recovery with the purpose of promoting the reconstruction of the region with an inclusive and supportive perspective. As Pro Tempore Presidency, we promoted activities and discussions on health, labour and social policies, aimed at surveying and organizing national capacities in the region to improve responses to problems and challenges in these areas. I would like to highlight in particular the advances in the implementation of the CELAC Sanitary Self-Sufficiency Plan.
- 2.** Science, technology and innovation for development and inclusion. On this point, we acted with the conviction that only with more science, technology and innovation will the region develop in a balanced and inclusive manner. In this sense, we promoted actions aimed at the articulation of regional public policies in the field of science, technology and innovation to begin to outline the bases for scientific-technological cooperation that deepens and



strengthens the integration process in Latin America and the Caribbean. At the same time, we outlined academic mobility strategies to strengthen our professional capacities.

**3.** Environmental cooperation and disaster risk management. With this objective, we set out to make visible the importance of the consequences of climate change in the region, with special attention to its effects on the island States of the Caribbean. At the same time, we promoted activities to strengthen the regional position in the negotiations related to climate change, and thus promote comprehensive and sustainable development for the region within a just transition framework. In this area, the joint work with ECLAC to operationalize the Fund for Climate Adaptation and Comprehensive Response to Natural Disasters was very important.

**4.** Culture and education for our peoples. In 2022 we carried out numerous activities aimed at promoting the cultural and educational integration of the region, such as: guaranteeing universal access to the educational system for boys, girls, adolescents and young people; work for digital inclusion and prepare young people for the world of work, among others. I would also like to mention that we have implemented Spanish language training courses that brought together more than 200 officials from the English-speaking Caribbean countries.

**5.** The empowerment of women and actions regarding gender. This axis was present transversally in all the activities carried out. We promote the access of women in all their diversity to quality paid jobs, as well as the recognition of care tasks, to close structural gaps in terms of asymmetries and achieve gender equality.

All these activities were carried out with the cooperation of various regional and multilateral organizations, which are our strategic partners, and with whom we share the vision of the problems and challenges we face. I would like to especially thank the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) for its collaboration; the Development Bank of Latin America (CAF); the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA); the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS); the Caribbean Community (CARICOM); the Organization of Ibero-American States for Education, Science and Culture (OEI); the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA); and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). In relation to the international scenario, the Argentine Pro Tempore Presidency opted to strengthen CELAC's links with the following extra-regional partners:





- ▶ China, with whom we held five specialized meetings on transportation; development and poverty reduction; digital technology; disaster risk management and science, technology and innovation.
- ▶ ASEAN, with whom we agree on the importance of building a link between both regional blocs and exploring the possibility of developing a common agenda based on shared needs and interests.
- ▶ African Union, with whom we agreed to revitalize our relations given that the current international context makes it necessary to exchange views between the countries that make up the Global South, to find shared solutions to the common problems we face.
- ▶ India, with whom we shared our points of view on the main challenges that the post-pandemic implies for the international community and the importance of creating spaces for cooperation and coordination between countries of the Southern Hemisphere.



- ▶ European Union, with whom, after 4 years of silence in the bi-regional relationship, we discussed an agreed work agenda, based on the commitment to jointly address global challenges and strengthen multilateralism.

None of these activities would have been possible without the invaluable collaboration of the member countries and their work teams. Neither without the active participation and involvement of the national coordinations, the different areas of this Foreign Ministry and other departments of the National Public Administration of the Argentine Republic. I thank you all deeply.



As the culmination of the 2022 Work Plan, today we are going to adopt the Declaration of Buenos Aires. I have the firm conviction that it will be a decisive impulse to continue developing a common perspective that makes our ideas, challenges and problems a destination for shared work.



**VII**

# **CUMBRE DE JEFAS Y JEFES DE ESTADO Y DE GOBIERNO**

**DE LA COMUNIDAD DE ESTADOS LATINOAMERICANOS  
Y CARIBEÑOS (CELAC)**

▶ 24 de enero, 2023 | Buenos Aires







## Declaration of Buenos Aires

# VII Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC)

*Buenos Aires, January 24, 2023*

*The Heads of State and Government of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), gathered in Buenos Aires on January 24, 2023, convinced of the importance of this intergovernmental mechanism of regional integration, consultation, dialogue and political agreement to promote and project Latin America and the Caribbean in the discussion and debate of global agenda issues:*

**1. Affirm** the commitment of CELAC members to firmly advance in the process of integration, promoting unity and the political, economic, social and cultural diversity of their peoples, with the aim that Latin America and the Caribbean projects itself as a community of sovereign nations capable of deepening consensus on issues of common interest and contributing to the welfare and development of the region, as well as the urgent overcoming of poverty and existing inequalities and inequities;

**2. Stress** the full validity of the Proclamation of Latin America and the Caribbean as a Zone of Peace, signed at the II CELAC Summit held in Havana in January 2014 that recognizes the region as a zone of peace and free of nuclear weapons by virtue of the provisions of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean and its Protocols (Treaty of Tlatelolco), supported on the promotion and respect for the Purposes and Principles of the United Nations Charter and the international law, that promotes the peaceful settlement of disputes, a system based on respectful relations of friendship and cooperation, free of threats, aggressions and unilateral coercive measures contrary to international law, in an atmosphere of peace, stability and justice, in order to ban forever the use and threat



of the use of force;

**3. Reiterate** our commitment to democracy, to promote, protect and respect all human rights, international cooperation, the rule of law, multilateralism, respect for territorial integrity and non-intervention in the internal affairs of States and the defense of sovereignty, as well as the promotion of justice and the maintenance of international peace and security;

**4. Recall** that, in the spirit of what was stated in the Declaration of the Unity Summit of Latin America and the Caribbean of the Riviera Maya of 2010, democracy is a conquest of the region that does not admit interruptions, in accordance with the legal system of the States, or setbacks, and, in this regard, **we reiterate** our firmest commitment to the preservation of democratic values and to the full and unrestricted validity of the institutions and the rule of law in the region; access to public functions and its exercise; and respect for the constitutional faculties of the different powers of the State and the constructive dialogue between them; the holding of free, periodic, transparent, informed elections based on universal and secret suffrage as an expression of the sovereignty of the people, citizen participation, social justice and equality, the fight against corruption, as well as respect for all civil and political rights recognized in the applicable international instruments;

**5. Reiterate** our commitment to advancing in unity and regional, political, economic, social and cultural integration, and the decision to continue working together towards Sustainable Development to face the health, social, economic and environmental crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, the increasing risk of natural disasters and the degradation of the planet's biodiversity, among others factors;

## ► **Post-pandemic economic recovery, food and energy security**

**6. Agree** that the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean have been specially affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, which has deepened the levels of poverty, food and nutritional insecurity, indebtedness, social inequality, labor informality, environmental degradation and gender inequality; therefore, we **highlight** the importance of promoting sustainable economic recovery with a cooperation, inclusive, equitable, sustainable and solidarity approach;





**7. Express** our concern given that several countries of Latin America and the Caribbean emerged from the pandemic with higher levels of public debt and **underline** the need for international and regional financial institutions, such as Multilateral Development Banks, to optimize credit facilities through fair, transparent and accessible mechanisms without exclusions, that help countries that request them quickly recover from insolvency and access to international financial markets, incorporating for it a human rights perspective and taking into account countries' vulnerabilities;

**8. Convey** that the current international context of multiple interrelated crises particularly affect the region, that suffers the impact of the interruption of supply chains, the excessive volatility of food, fertilizers and energy prices, and financial instability, among others. **We recognize** that the effects of this crisis have revealed the fragilities of the agri-food systems and the inequalities in our societies, have exacerbated the adverse impacts of climate change, the disruption of input markets and the increase in global inflation which entails the potential for a global recession;

**9. Highlight** the importance of camelids and their significant contribution to food security and their contribution to the survival of populations that live in areas of low temperatures, in arid and drought conditions, for which we **reaffirm** their commitment to the success of the celebration of the International Year of Camelids in 2024, in accordance with the provisions of the Resolution of the United Nations General Assembly A/RES/72/210 of December 20, 2017;

**10. Welcome** the "Bridgetown Initiative", proposed by the Government of Barbados as a plan with the potential to significantly redesign the global financial system in order to improve the response to climate crises and the particular development challenges, thus allowing developing countries, in particular, to have the fiscal space in order to work towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);

**11. Recognize** that it is necessary that the economic models of the countries of the region prioritize productive development with social inclusion and direct their available resources to achieve this end. **We stress** that this objecti-



ve can only materialize through strong social cohesion within the countries, which requires political dialogue instances and mechanisms on the highest level;

**12. Agree** to coordinate, with the technical support of ECLAC, the holding of a meeting of Ministers of Economy and Finance in the first semester of 2023, on a date to be defined, in order to design a common agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean that can respond to the current global economic crisis;

**13. Recognize** the central role of our region in worldwide food and nutrition security as the main net food exporting region and in environmental sustainability given the forest, water, soil and biodiversity resources, and **we commit** to work together with the international community, to strengthen this global role;

**14. Reiterate** our commitment to promote effective actions aimed at guaranteeing food security by supporting agricultural and rural development, promoting the increase in sustainable food production and food availability, as well as a fairer, more transparent, equitable and predictable international trade system for agricultural products. Similarly, **we commit ourselves** to promoting energy transition actions in order to guarantee our fellow citizens a sustainable, accessible, affordable, reliable and safe energy sector, within the framework of the SDGs;

**15. Congratulate ourselves** for the results of the Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of Agriculture and **highlight** the importance of updating, according to the new international context and the challenges that our region faces, the Plan for Food Security, Nutrition and the Eradication of Hunger of CELAC 2025 (SAN- CELAC) with the technical assistance of FAO, IICA, ECLAC, ALADI and other cooperation agencies;

**16. Welcome** the relaunch of the CELAC Working Group on Labor as a mechanism for consultation and convergence based on institutionalized tripartite social dialogue characterized by its permanent and open nature;

## ► **Health strategy**



**17. Emphasize** the importance of improving the coordination of the national capacities and straightening them to better face current and future challenges in health matters, promoting a solidarity and cooperation approach. Likewise, **we commit ourselves** to continue implementing government actions that place the person at the core of health and resilience policies, assuring that the provision of health services takes into account the specific needs of groups in a situation of vulnerability and/or historically discriminated against, such as indigenous peoples, Afro-descendants, women, children, youth, the elderly and people with disabilities, acknowledging the critical role of caregivers;

**18. Welcome** the results of the CELAC Ministerial Meeting on Health carried out by the Argentine Pro Tempore Presidency and **highlight** the importance of giving continuity to the CELAC Health Self-Sufficiency Plan, with objective of strengthening the local and regional production and distribution of vaccines, medicines and critical supplies through technology transfer to complement effective support for innovation, research and technological development;

**19. Endorse** that the CELAC Sanitary Self-Sufficiency Plan will allow the strengthening of the mechanisms for joint international purchase of vaccines and essential medicines; the use of public procurement mechanisms for medicines for the development of regional markets; the creation of consortia for the development and production of vaccines; as well as the strengthening of convergence mechanisms and regulatory recognition, including primary health care systems for universal access and equitable distribution of vaccines;

**20. Value** the contributions of the I and II Meeting of CELAC on health matters for the presentation of the “Strategy to approach the purchase of high-cost medicines”; the IV Meeting of the Network of Experts on Infectious Agents and Emerging and Reemerging Diseases; the “Report on research, development and production capacities of vaccines in CELAC countries” and the “Working document for the Strengthening of joint international purchase mechanisms for vaccines and essential medicines”;

**21. Affirm** CELAC’s support for the World Health Organization (WHO) and The Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) and **express** our willingness to continue actively participating in the process of drafting specific amend-



ments to the International Health Regulations (2005), maintaining focus on the needs of low- and middle-income countries, and negotiation of an international instrument on prevention, preparation and response to pandemics, which guarantees universal and equitable access to essential supplies such as vaccines, medicines and diagnostic tests;

## ► **Addressing the world drug problem**

**22. Reaffirm** the need to adopt effective policies with a preventive, integrated, multidisciplinary and balanced approach regarding the World Drug Problem, according to national legislations, under the principle of common and shared responsibility, respectful of Human Rights, based on scientific evidence and taking into consideration the effects on public health, the environment, international cooperation and social justice;

**23. Believe** that according to the Principle of Common and Shared Responsibility, it would be discordant and disproportionate to locate the responsibility in Latin American and Caribbean countries. Therefore, the States and other actors that play an intensive role in the dynamics associated with substance use should undertake mechanisms aimed at prevention that ensure a joint and horizontal effort within the framework of global multilateral initiatives to address the World Drug Problem;

**24. Reiterate** that addressing the world drug problem requires effective international cooperation, in observance of national legislation, legally binding international instruments to which CELAC members are Parties, and other relevant international instruments, fully respecting the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter, especially respect for national sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of States;

## ► **Environmental cooperation**

**25. Renew** our willingness to work in a coordinated and concerted manner with the objective of reaffirming international climate action as a global priority, in the current context of multiple crises, and **reiterate** our willingness to jointly support the multilateral process based on the urgent need for action



of each country and always in accordance with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and their respective national capacities;

**26. Welcome** the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, which envisions mobilizing at least US\$200 billion annually from public and private sources to finance the execution of biodiversity-related plans and strategies; and increase total international financial flows from developed to developing countries to \$20 billion a year by 2025 and \$30 billion a year by 2030;

**27. Recall** the urgency that developed countries fulfill their commitment to jointly mobilize 100 billion dollars per year from 2020 and until 2025 for climate financing, in order to support developing countries, especially Small Island Developing States, the landlocked countries and the countries of the Central American Isthmus, and the COP26 commitment to at least double funding for adaptation, also considering the importance of mitigation, as well as guaranteeing resources for the loss and damage fund agreed at COP27 and strengthen regional coordination within the framework of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its Paris Agreement;

**28. Welcome** Brazil's candidacy to host the 30th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP-30), in 2025, in the city of Belém do Pará;

**29. Follow** with concern the increase in trade restrictive measures adopted with the justification of conserving the environment, in a context of growing economic uncertainty and multiple crises, which complex world economic prospects and particularly affect the capacities of developing countries to meet their SDGs. **We agree** that unilateral trade restrictions inconsistent with World Trade Organization (WTO) principles are inadequate to address environmental concerns and the promotion of sustainable development;

**30. Stress** our duty to defend the right to life on our Mother Earth, as well as the provision of the necessary financing, to obtain urgent and concrete results based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capacities, ensuring climate justice and the indispensable po-





licy of reparations to compensate for losses and damages and to encourage direct, unconditional and respectful cooperation;

**31. Emphasize**, in accordance with the Rio Conventions, that the provision of financing from developed countries to developing countries as well as capacity building, scientific and technical cooperation, and technology transfer, are essential factors to achieve the established objectives in the environmental agreements and their protocols;

**32. Welcome** the approval of the CELAC Ministerial Declaration on the Environment as a result of the CELAC Meeting of Ministers of the Environment and we **agree** to continue the dialogue on environmental matters within the framework of the mechanism, in order to continue strengthening common positions and raising the voice of the region, strengthen the work and exchange of knowledge and capacities, and accelerate the implementation of the commitments adopted under the Rio Conventions;

**33. Concur** that plastic pollution is one of the main global environmental problems. We **take note** of the mandate of the United Nations Environment Assembly 5 (UNEA) where the International Committee for Environmental Protection for Negotiation was established to develop a legally binding international instrument on reducing plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, whose first round of negotiations took place in Punta del Este, Uruguay, between November 28 and December 2, 2022;

**34. Highlight** that Latin America and the Caribbean is represented by Antigua and Barbuda, Ecuador and Peru on the board of the Intergovernmental Negotiation Committee (INC), that will develop a legally binding international instrument to address the problem of plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, particularly given the fact that its presidency has fallen in our region;

**35. Recognize** the importance of increasing the production of renewable energy and accelerating the energetic transition in a sustainable, fair, equitable and inclusive manner, contributing to the energy security of the countries of the region; taking into account the different realities, capacities and levels of development of each member country and respecting their national policies and priorities;



**36. Reaffirm** the commitment of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean with the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs, within the framework of resolution 64/292 of the United Nations General Assembly, which recognizes the human right to water and sanitation, and we **highlight** regional efforts to advance in SDG 6 towards the Conference on the Comprehensive Midterm Review of the Achievement of the Goals of the International Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development 2018-2028” to be held in New York from 22 to March 24, 2023;

### ► **Comprehensive disaster risk management**

**37. Stress** the importance of regional cooperation in disaster risk management and reduction as a safeguard for sustainable development, placing special emphasis on the Small Island States of the Caribbean, landlocked countries and the countries of the Central American Isthmus, which suffer the greatest proportion of the impacts of the climate and sanitary crisis, coordinating existing convergences in different regional and sub-regional organizations in Latin America and the Caribbean in an effort to take advantage of the potential of each one. Likewise, we express our **willingness** to work together to have standardized guidelines that promote disaster risk management on a regional scale;

**38. Reaffirm** our commitment with the progress made in the dialogue with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and highlighted the importance of prompt regulation of the CELAC Fund for Climate Adaptation and Comprehensive Response to Natural Disasters (FACRID), created by the signatory countries of the Voluntary Contribution Agreement, aware of the serious impact of climate change and the effects it has on the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, in order to implement projects for prevention, response preparation, mitigation and disaster recovery in the region, allowing capacity building and the sharing of knowledge for disaster risk reduction;

**39. Agree** that the VIII Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas and the Caribbean that will be held in Punta del Este, Uruguay, between February 28 and March 2, 2023 and that will have science and technology as its focus will provide an opportunity to strengthen cooperation, improve humanitarian aid mechanisms, exchange on common problems, capitalize on experiences and share good practices, being a valuable meeting point between different actors of the region that work on comprehensive



emergency and disaster risk management and adaptation to climate change and variability;

## ► **Science, technology and innovation for social inclusion**

**40. Welcome** the adoption of the “Declaration of Buenos Aires on Science, Technology and Innovation” and **recognize** that the contributions from the scientific-technological sector are a fundamental tool to consolidate sovereignty and achieve sustainable development;

**41. Concur** on the necessity to deepen the joint work to define priorities, coordinate actions, articulate scientific research and technological transfer, in order to diversify the productive and export matrix, favoring regional and global competitiveness, generating qualified work, especially in priority areas such as the health sector, in care and access to safe, effective and quality supplies. In this sense, **we highlight** the importance of developing synergies between national and sub-regional programs aimed at the training of high-level scientists, including the mobility of researchers and the exchange of information on best practices and experiences;

**42. Consider** imperative the strengthening of regional and sub-regional institutions that promote the articulation in science, technology and innovation between CELAC countries, as a way to improve development levels and the impact of investment in the scientific and technological field as an instrument for the transformation of occupations, equity, quality and employment prospects, skills and labor relations;

**43. Underline** the necessity to promote spaces for dialogue between the public, academic, business, community organizations and civil society sectors at the national and regional level, in order to develop joint strategies and articulated agendas that promote innovation and technology transfer. In this sense, **we approve** the establishment of five working groups made up of representatives designated by the Member States, on the following areas: Ancestral Science, Aerospace Research, Regional Evaluators Network, Energy Transition and Biotechnology (with emphasis on Agriculture and Health), whose competencies, work modalities and expected results must arise from



the agreement of the National Coordinators;

**44. Recognize** the use of technology, creativity and innovation as an opportunity for the development and strengthening of the culture of our peoples, as well as the technological tool that allows virtual access to cultural spaces;

## ► Digital transformation

**45. Highlight** the relevance of guaranteeing universal access to connectivity in the digital era without discrimination, especially to groups in vulnerable situation and in remote and rural areas, ensuring the investments in necessary infrastructure and promoting the development of digital skills and competences, in order to narrow digital gaps, including gender gaps, as well as to achieve the SDGs;

**46. Recognize** the role of information and communication technologies as essential tools for the promotion of human well-being, development, knowledge, economic growth and social inclusion. **We also stress** the need to ensure and take measures so that the Human Rights of people are not violated through the use of these technologies, such as the right to privacy and the protection of their personal data, guaranteeing a safe and protected experience for the citizenship both in their online interactions and with the infrastructure that operates through the use of information and communication technologies;

**47. We reaffirm** the validity of the positions assumed by CELAC regarding the peaceful use of ICTs and **call on** the international community to avoid unilateral acts that are not compatible with the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and International Law;

**48. Reiterate** the importance of continuing to work on the digital transformation of the States of the region, in order to guarantee agile, efficient, modern, accessible and inclusive public services. In particular, we **emphasize** the need to promote the adoption of an open government approach in the design and implementation of public policies and social protection systems, to ensure that the provision of public services is focused on citizens and their



needs, as well as to encourage proper accountability. Likewise, **we highlight** the importance of transparency and access to public information in the context of the digital transformation of States, in accordance with their own plans and programs to combat poverty and human development;

**49. Reflect** on the shift towards digital environments, which was accelerated by the pandemic and makes it possible for youth to find new forms of growth, innovation and social participation;

**50. Recognize** that the malicious use of new technologies has promoted transnational organized crime and misconducts that threaten the well-being and integral development of children and adolescents, such as child sexual abuse, gender violence and human trafficking. Likewise, disinformation and the visible increase in cyber-attacks, including those through artificial intelligence and the use of algorithms, create risks to the stability of the essential infrastructure of States, companies and the well-being of people. **We stress** the need to improve coordination and cooperation between States in the fight against the use of information and communication technologies for criminal purposes;

**51. Agree** that disinformation on social networks can create parallel realities and induce political radicalization, creating a threat to democratic values and the rule of law and the stability of the social contract. For this reason, we **highlight** the need to expand cooperation and coordination between States to advance in the fight against disinformation and illegal content on the Internet;

**52. Reflect** on the use of technologies in the military field, whose implementation includes certain automated forms of decision-making and how these applications must be regulated, given that in certain circumstances they can cause, contribute or facilitate the commission of violations and abuses of international humanitarian law. In this spirit, we **celebrate** the holding of the Regional Conference on the social and humanitarian impact of autonomous weapons, to be held from February 23 to 24, 2023, in San José, Costa Rica.

## ► **Infrastructure for integration**

**53. Highlight**, in particular, the Bi-Oceanic Corridors, as very relevant, concrete-



te projects for the region, with high strategic value that seek the socio-economic development of the countries, increase physical integration, trade, investment, tourism, and thereby provide greater job opportunities and better quality of life for the people, as well as promote regional complementarity in all aspects of society. In this sense, **we highlight** the initiatives that will facilitate land connections between the Pacific and Atlantic oceans, such as the Bi-Oceanic Integration Rail Corridor Project that unites Brazil, Bolivia, Paraguay and Peru and the Bi-Oceanic Road Corridor Puerto Murtinho (Brazil) - Carmelo Peralta (Paraguay) - Misión la Paz (Argentina) - Puertos del Norte (Chile), whose importance will make foreign trade logistics viable, generating economic growth in the region, reducing transportation costs and times. Said circumstance requires adding support from representatives of local communities and parliamentarians from States, provinces, and regions directly linked to the development of infrastructure and integration works;

**54. Reaffirm** the importance of the Paraguay-Paraná Waterway as a navigable water system that facilitates regional integration and constitutes a concrete way to enable navigation and commercial transport on equal terms, as well as favor development, modernization and efficiency, allowing access under competitive conditions to overseas markets;

**55. Reiterate** the importance of sub-regional integration mechanisms in the area of fluvial navigation, based on the freedom of navigation and transit of vessels, goods and people through international rivers, in accordance with domestic legislation and international law. **We highlight** the relevance of guaranteeing competitive access to regional and overseas markets for landlocked countries, in order to consolidate river transport as a factor in the development of international trade;

**56. Recognize** the importance of promoting regional connectivity through the development of energy integration infrastructure projects that have an impact on the economic performance of Latin America and the Caribbean, taking advantage of the complementarity and availability of energy resources in the region. Within this framework, **we agree** to evaluate regional electrical interconnection projects in accordance with the sovereign rights of the countries to establish criteria that ensure sustainable development in the use of their natural resources and national capacities;





## ► Situation of women, youth and girls

**57. Recognize** that the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated pre-existing socio-economic and other gaps, evidencing a differentiated impact based on gender, the decisive role of paid and unpaid domestic and care work for the sustainability of life, society and the economy, and exposing the increase in levels of domestic and other gender related violence, and the inequitable distribution of care work as one of the main causes of gender inequalities that hinder the exercise of rights and economic autonomy of women, adolescents and girls;

**58. Acknowledge** with concern the persistence of gaps between men and women in the labor market, decent work wages, quality employment, full and effective participation in strategic sectors within the labor market and access to protection and social security, as well as a social organization that assigns paid and unpaid domestic and care work to women, adolescents and girls, together with the insufficiency of care policies and services that ensure gender co-responsibility;

**59. Affirm** that equality in care arises from international obligations enshrined in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child among others, and **advocate** to continue promoting the recognition of the right to care, and the development of public policies that ensure access to care and co-responsibility following the principles of equality, equity and non-discrimination;

## ► Youth

**60. Stress** the importance of incorporating the voice of the youth of the region in the strategies that promote social welfare and equal opportunities. Likewise, we **reaffirm** the commitment to give continuity to the “Council of Youth of Latin America and the Caribbean” as a privileged instance to foster participation in the agendas of the governments of the region and the problems raised by the youth are taken into account in the design and adoption of public policies;

**61. Recognize** that youth are part of a segment of the population with high rates of precariousness and job instability, high indebtedness and lack of fi-



nancial education, especially youth in rural areas and women, adolescents and girls who dedicate most of their time to care duties from an early age. Likewise, we **underscore** the importance of guaranteeing access to justice in cases of gender violence in all its forms and the need for greater investment in the education system, with a perspective based on human, gender and health rights, in pursuit of personal, labor and social development of the youth of the region;

## ► **Afro-descendants**

**62. Ratify** the commitment to promote, respect, guarantee and protect the rights of Afro-descendants and reiterate our support for the work of the CELAC Working Group for Afro-descendants in favor of social, cultural, economic and political reparation for the descendants of the victims of the transatlantic slave trade. We **reaffirm**, likewise, the objective of deepening the processes of eradication of all forms of racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance, in search of societies with higher levels of equity and racial justice;

**63. Welcome** the holding of the First Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on People of African Descent, which was held in Geneva, from the 5th to the 8th of December 2022;

## ► **Indigenous languages**

**64. Highlight** the “Regional Launch of the International Decade of Indigenous Languages 2022-2032”, which has been configured to make visible, conserve, revitalize and promote the active, free and spontaneous use of indigenous languages at the local, national and regional level; and **reaffirm** our willingness to continue developing, in close partnership with indigenous peoples, public policies and international actions that integrate aspects of linguistic diversity and multilingualism in the efforts of sustainable development, and thus contribute to the success of the Decade;

**65. Welcome** the establishment of the Ibero-American Institute of Indigenous Languages to promote the use, conservation and development of the



indigenous languages spoken in Latin America and the Caribbean, working from the States, in guaranteeing the cultural and linguistic rights. Likewise, **we invite** the States of Latin America and the Caribbean to be part of the creation and strengthening of the Ibero-American Institute of Indigenous Languages, and that cooperation efforts can be added to support this initiative;

**66. Ratify** our commitment to the provisions of the special declaration on the International Decade of Indigenous Languages 2022-2032, issued within the framework of the VI CELAC Summit, held on September 18, 2021 in Mexico City, in which their individual and collective rights are recognized, including the right of indigenous peoples to revitalize, use, promote and transmit to future generations the languages and oral and philosophical traditions, their writing systems and their literature, therefore **we recognize** the importance of establishing alliances to coordinate joint actions in this regard;

## ► Migration

**67. Agree** that migration is a social process that contributes positively to the social, cultural and economic development, both in host countries and in countries of origin and transit of migrants, and that it must be addressed from a comprehensive point of view, in order to maximize its benefits and reduce the risks and challenges to response capacity that migratory flows through irregular channels entail, as well as promote national and regional migration policies for their adequate socioeconomic integration. In this sense, we **express** our commitment to continue advancing in the promotion of the integration and insertion of migrants, prevention against transnational networks of smuggling of migrants and assistance to host communities, including new agents of change, such as local governments, in the management;

**68. Reaffirm** our commitment to safe, orderly, and regular migration, while we **reiterate** our willingness to continue working to keep countering the multidimensional causes of migration through irregular channels. Likewise we **highlight** the need to count with permanent principles for international migration management, such as full respect of the human rights of migrants regardless of their immigration status, as well as the integration of said migrants through adequate and expeditious procedures to access migration re-





gularity and, the safe and dignified voluntary return to the countries of origin or habitual address, as the basis of national and regional migration policies;

**69.** Within this framework, we **reject** all forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, hate speech and other related forms of discrimination and intolerance against migrants. Likewise, we **underline** the importance of maintaining a fluid and permanent dialogue on migration governance in the established specialized forums, to promote the principles of solidarity, international cooperation and shared responsibility in the management of migrations, in accordance with domestic law and the migratory policies of each country;

**70. Recognize** the relevance of reactivating the CELAC Meetings on Migration and the CELAC-EU Structured and Integral Dialogue on Migration, allowing the renewal of previously established commitments;

## ► **Disability**

**71. Celebrate** the inclusion in the CELAC agenda of the subject of the Human Rights of people with disabilities; through the holding of a Seminar and the adoption of the first Declaration on the matter. We **stress** that it is the duty of States to adopt all necessary measures to guarantee effective access to human rights for people with disabilities and the removal of physical and attitudinal barriers that prevent their effective exercise;

## ► **Education**

**72. Reaffirm** that education, at all levels is a fundamental human right and the basis for the effective realization of other rights. We **sustain** that guaranteeing inclusive, equitable and quality education is an essential condition for peace, sustainable development and socio-economic growth. In this sense, we **recognize** that education, from the initial level to the higher level, is a public and social good whose main guarantor is the State;

**73. Agree** that education is a key tool in the regional integration project to promote the well-being of individuals, communities and Nations, through the



construction of democratic citizenship, social justice, the democratization of knowledge and access to new technologies and economic resources for its financing, with priority given to the most vulnerable and low-income socio-economic groups;

**74. Recognize** that to improve the situation of education in the region urgent decisions and transformations that assign a central role for the educational community must be promoted, considering the cultural relevance and historical contributions of indigenous and Afro-descendant peoples. We **underscore** the importance of having adequate financing for education and that it occupies a prominent place on the public agenda of our States. Likewise, we **agree** on the relevance of preparing students for life and for job placement, ensuring a full face-to-face development that, together with the valuable contribution of virtual education, adds to the strengthening of content and learning from areas that incorporate the issue of human rights and gender equality;

**75. Welcome** the adoption of the “Declaration of the III CELAC Ministerial Meeting on Education”, whose objective is to strengthen educational systems, at all levels, to move towards inclusive, equitable and quality education. Therefore, we **agree** that the challenges of an educational policy agenda require the presence and leadership of the States and the articulation between the national and local governments, in addition to the participation of civil society and the inclusion of education stakeholders, educational communities, as applicable;

## ► **Culture**

**76. Emphasize** the role of culture and the arts in the advancing of regional unity and integration of democratic, peaceful and inclusive societies, recognizing them as constituent forms of cultural diversity and as the ideal instrument for the expression of the diverse and plural Cultural Heritage of Latin America and the Caribbean, thus reaffirming the regional identity through the learning of our own history for self-determination. **We take note** of the efforts countries make to strengthen their regulations, training, and standardization of inventories of cultural assets to prevent and combat their illicit trafficking;



**77. Value** the terms and actions contained in the “Declaration of Buenos Aires of the V Meeting of Ministers of Culture of CELAC”, as well as the “Special Declaration for the Strengthening of the Cultural and Creative Economy”, which recognize the role of the cultural sector in advancing the social and economic development of our societies. In addition, **we pointed out** that cultural dynamics are a determining factor of mutual enrichment in strengthening the values of democracy and coexistence in societies, as well as it is a fundamental axis of the processes of reconstruction, equality and social inclusion, essential to achieve sustainable regional development;

**78. Celebrate** the “Film Week For Young Filmmakers Of CELAC”, the commemoration of the “Bicentennial of the “Hug of Guayaquil”, and the meetings of the technical bodies and cultural agents of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, within the framework of the “X edition of the Market of Cultural Industries of Argentina (MICA)”;

**79. Highlight** the innovation of the cultural sector during COVID, therefore, **we make a call** to continue using technological tools to carry out virtual cultural events and tours to museums, libraries, archaeological sites, fairs, festivals and any event that promotes and strengthens the culture of our peoples;

**80. Recognize** the relevance of the UNESCO World Conference on Cultural Policies and Sustainable Development, whose Final Declaration acknowledges culture as a global public good and offers a guide for the work of UNESCO and its Member States in the field of cultural policies and sustainable development. Likewise, it defines a set of cultural rights to be integrated into public policies, from the social and economic rights of artists to the right of indigenous peoples to safeguard and transmit ancestral knowledge, and the protection and promotion of cultural and natural heritage;

## ► **Cooperation between diplomatic academies**

**81. Acknowledge** the importance of the cooperation program regarding the teaching of the Spanish language for diplomatic officials of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) implemented during the year 2022 by the Institute of the Foreign Service of the Nation (ISEN) of the Argentine Republic and **recommend** its continuity in the time as a concrete and permanent integration





tool. Likewise, **we congratulate ourselves** on the successful organization in Buenos Aires of the second edition of the “Update and Training Program for young diplomats on the CELAC-EU strategic association”, jointly organized by the EU-LAC Foundation and the Institute of the Foreign Service of the Nation (ISEN);

**82. Value** the implementation of the Spanish Course for Beginners, carried out in collaboration with the Organization of Ibero-American States for Education, Science and Culture (OEI) aimed at English-speaking public officials and agents from the Caribbean countries, as a strategic tool to bring together the countries of the CELAC through language;

**83. Insist** on deepening cooperation and exchange between the diplomatic academies of the member States, in order to share instruments, best practices and relevant information, particularly for the promotion of knowledge on regional integration and the role of CELAC in the current international situation;

## ► Cooperation on space and nuclear matters

**84. Highlight** the importance of advancing in space cooperation in order to address the challenges and opportunities that the use of space technology and its applications represent for the achievement of the SDGs in the region. In this sense, we **appreciate** that the dialogues held between the countries of the region on the interests and opportunities for cooperation in space matters and, which we **aspire** to see embodied in the future Latin American and Caribbean Space Agency (ALCE);

**85. Value** the adoption of the “Joint Action Plan for Cooperation on peaceful uses of nuclear science and technology for sustainable development (2022-2023)” between CELAC Member States and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and **commit ourselves** to work on existing capacities at the regional level, including through the Regional Cooperation Agreement for the Promotion of Nuclear Science and Technology in Latin America and the Caribbean (ARCAL), with a view to providing concrete responses to the challenges posed by their application in the fields of health, agriculture, food safety, the environment and energy, among others;



## ► **Public integrity, prevention and fight against corruption**

**86. Highlight** the relevance of generating and consolidating a culture of public integrity with a focus on people that allows the prevention, prosecution and punishment of breaches of integrity and acts of corruption. Likewise, we **express** that this objective needs to be addressed in a multidimensional way, including measures that consider, public transparency, the good use of public resources, the reinforcement of the public function, and responsible participation of the private sector, according to the legislation of each State;

**87. Stress** the constant compromise assumed by the mechanism to strengthen the preventive approach in the fight against corruption, in order to reflect the particular problems that arise in the countries of the region and the consequences that affect their development, as well as to establish joint actions that allow for more efficient cooperation, designed within the Specialized Working Group on Prevention and Fight against Corruption. We **endorse** our commitment to the Joint Declaration emanating from the V Meeting of Ministers, Ministers and High Authorities for the Prevention and Fight against Corruption, held in Mexico City on October 27, 2021;

**88. Highlight** the implementation of effective mechanisms such as corruption alerts, the promotion of reporting culture and protection of whistleblowers, the development of training in anti-corruption matters and the construction of strategies for a better detection and prevention of cases, increased confidence within the population and a regional focus;

**89. Reaffirm** that, through transparency, accountability, access to public information, citizen participation and the use of technologies, key initiatives have been presented in the prevention and control of corruption. For this reason, we **emphasized** the importance of collaboration between the relevant interested parties, including public officials, the private sector, civil society and citizens;

**90. Reiterate** the obligation of the States to advance in the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption and its mechanism,



commemorating in 2023 the twentieth anniversary of its entry into force. We **welcome** the Political Declaration emanating from the Special Session of the General Assembly against corruption on the challenges and measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthen international cooperation (UNGASS2021);

**91. Highlight** the need to strengthen cooperation, the exchange of best practices and timely analysis of information, to deal with Transnational Organized Crime and the emerging forms of crimes committed by criminal networks, including through information and communication technologies, to promote the prevention and confrontation of corruption and money laundering, among other scourges;

### ► **Intervention in multilateral forums and coordination with regional organisms**

**92. Recognize** the importance of intervening jointly and presenting agreed initiatives in the different multilateral forums, strengthening the position of the region and contributing to our legitimate interests being duly considered in the international sphere;

**93. Promote** the holding of a greater number of joint interventions in all multilateral venues, on issues of common interest, convinced that this will directly contribute to strengthening the role and leadership of the region in international organizations;

**94. Express** our commitment to consolidate CELAC's presence in the global sphere, promoting the expansion and strengthening of the bloc's ties with international, regional and sub-regional organizations. In this sense, we **value** the development of strategic alliances and joint work with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC); the Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean (CAF); the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO); the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA); the Association of Caribbean States (ACS), the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS); the Caribbean Community (CARICOM); the Central American Integration System (SICA); the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA); and the Caribbean Disas-





ter Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA); among others; We **highlight** the holding of the CELAC-CAF International Seminar “Latin America and the Caribbean: Unity in Diversity”, held on August 18, 2022, as a valuable contribution to the reflection on the challenges and projections of regional integration;

**95. Recognize** the excellent work carried out by the Dominican Republic as Pro Tempore Secretariat of the Ibero-American Conference in the last biennium. We **wish** success for the XXVIII Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government, which will take place on March 25, in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic;

**96. Congratulate** Cuba for its election as President of the Group of 77 and China in 2023. We **trust** that during its administration the interests of our region will be promoted and the relations of cooperation and solidarity of the Member States will be consolidated for the benefit of our peoples;

**97. Welcome** the candidacy of the city of San Carlos de Bariloche, Argentina, to host the Specialized Expo 2027/28 of the Bureau International des Expositions (BIE), and **celebrate** the application of a Latin American and Caribbean country to be the venue of said crucial event, under the motto “Nature + Technology = A new beginning”, topics of high interest and cooperation for our peoples;

## ► **Dialogue with extra-regional partners**

**98. Congratulate ourselves** for the progress made in terms of deepening the political dialogue of Latin America and the Caribbean with extra-regional partners, including the European Union, China, India, the African Union and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN);

**99. Value**, within the framework of the “2022-2024 Action Plan of the CELAC-China Forum”, the holding of specialized meetings, a number of them at ministerial level, on transportation; development and poverty reduction; digital technology; disaster risk management and science, technology and innovation; as well as the holding of the China-CELAC Forum Summit in 2024, on the occasion of the celebration of the tenth anniversary of the establishment of that important space for cooperation and exchange;



**100. Congratulate ourselves** on the holding of the III Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the CELAC with the European Union, which made it possible to reactivate the inclusive dialogue between the blocs of both regions, after more than four years, to recover the bi-regional cooperation spaces and adopt a 2022-2023 Roadmap to enrich exchanges and contribute to the main axes of the bi-regional work in preparation for the III Summit of Heads of State and Government during 2023;

## ► Haiti

**101. Reaffirm** the “CELAC Special Declaration on the need to provide support to the Republic of Haiti due to its implications for peace and security in the region” adopted on September 19, 2022. In this regard, we **reiterate** our deep concern over the progressive deterioration of the public security and humanitarian situation in the Republic of Haiti, calling on all Haitian political and social actors to reach the necessary consensus to address the serious humanitarian and security crisis that afflicts the country. We **recognize** the need to reach regional and extra-regional consensus that, based on the international cooperation principle and with the consent and participation of Haiti, allow the provision of support to face the proliferation of organized crime, combat illicit arms trafficking and strengthen citizen security. Likewise, **we highlight** the sub-regional, regional and international efforts to accompany the dialogue process between the government and the different political parties and institutions of Haitian society with the aim of outlining a roadmap that will allow them to emerge from the complex crisis that afflicts them;

**102. Take note** of the ongoing efforts of the Haitian government to further broaden the consensus between Haitian political actors and civil society. We **welcome** the signing on December 21, 2022 of the document entitled “National Consensus for an Inclusive Transition and Transparent Elections.” We **urge** the government to continue with its open policy towards the various sectors of national life, with a view to making democratic institutions operational as soon as possible, as soon as the security environment and technical means allow it. We **encourage** member countries that have the possibility to study the options presented by the Secretary General of the United Nations in his letter of September 8, 2022 addressed to the President of the



Security Council (S/2022/747), with a view to participate in the specialized multinational force requested by Haiti, to help the Haitian security forces fight against the proliferation of organized crime and the illicit trafficking of arms and ammunition, eradicate the gangs that have taken the country hostage, preventing the free circulation of people and goods, limiting the access of the vulnerable population to humanitarian aid and health care and hindering the preparations for the organization of free, transparent and inclusive elections. We **recognize** the need to achieve consensus at the regional and extra-regional level, based on the principle of regional cooperation, with the consent and participation of the Republic of Haiti;

## ► **Cuba**

**103. Reiterate** the call of the United Nations General Assembly to put an end to the economic, commercial and financial blockade against Cuba, which in addition to being contrary to international law, causes serious damage to the well-being of the Cuban people. Likewise, we **reiterate** our rejection of the unilateral lists and certifications that affect Latin American and Caribbean countries. In this regard, we **request** the exclusion of Cuba from the unilateral list of countries that allegedly sponsor international terrorism;

## ► **Venezuela**

**104. Welcome** the agreements reached on November 26, 2022 within the framework of the dialogue and negotiation process between the Government of Venezuela and the Unitary Platform of Venezuela, promoted by the governments of Mexico and Norway. In this sense, we **welcome** the support of the international community to the implementation of said agreements;

## ► **Malvinas**

**105. Pledge** to continue working within the framework of International Law, and in particular, Resolution 1514 (XV) of the United Nations General Assembly of December 14, 1960, to ensure that the region of Latin American and the Caribbean is a territory free of colonialism and colonies;

**106. Reiterate** the strongest regional support for the legitimate rights of the Argentine Republic in the sovereignty dispute over the Malvinas, South Geor-



gia and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime spaces, as well as the permanent interest of the countries of the region in the resumption of negotiations between the Argentine Republic and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in order to find, as soon as possible, a final and peaceful solution to this dispute, in accordance with the provisions of the Resolution 31/49 of the General Assembly of the United Nations;

## ► **Puerto Rico**

**107. Reaffirm** the Latin American and Caribbean character of Puerto Rico and recognize the efforts made and the resolutions adopted by the United Nations Special Committee on Decolonization on the situation in Puerto Rico. We **reiterate** that this is a matter of high interest for CELAC;

## ► **General dispositions**

**108. Congratulate** ourselves for the positive exchange of views on the institutional functioning of the mechanism and the contributions regarding the improvement of internal procedures, rotation of the presidencies, and full participation and representativeness of all member States;

**109. Celebrate** the reincorporation of Brazil to CELAC and its participation in the VII Summit of Heads of State and Government, as a sign of Brazil's commitment to unity and the joint work in the region;

**110. Value and appreciate** the work and effort made by the Argentine Republic during its presidency, in compliance with the mandates issued from the 2022 Action Plan and we **thank** the Argentine Government for the call to the VII CELAC Summit of Heads of State and Government, which made it possible to consolidate the political initiative of the region, unify the plurality of perspectives in a strengthened regional voice and reaffirm the inalienable commitment to the regional integration process;

**111. Salute** the incoming Pro Tempore Presidency of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, first country of the Anglophone Caribbean to assume said responsibility, we **assure** our full support and wish success in the performance of the function assumed.





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## Report on the Argentine Pro Tempore Presidency and Work Plan 2022

Argentina held the Pro Tempore Presidency of CELAC during 2022 on the principles of Unity in Diversity and Latin America and the Caribbean as a Zone of Peace, articulating a broad Work Plan that included 15 axes and more than 60 activities.

We undertook our task with the deep conviction that working together, without excluding anyone and appreciating our cultural richness, consolidating the voice of Latin America and the Caribbean on the global stage, while strengthening the region to face the current challenges.



The Covid-19 pandemic showed us the importance of solidarity between Latin American and Caribbean nations and valued CELAC as a mechanism for dialogue and political agreement, in a context in which multilateral institutions were put to test by an unprecedented crisis.

The Argentine Pro Tempore Presidency sought to move from a pandemic agenda to a post-pandemic agenda. In this sense, it prioritized the social, economic and productive recovery as one of the central axes of the 2022 Work Plan, with a comprehensive approach, having as a horizon the reduction of gender gaps and inequality.

In the same spirit, we revalue the role of science, technology and innovation as a tool at the service of development and inclusion, as well as the importance of education and culture for our peoples.

We made progress in the implementation of the Health Self-Sufficiency Plan for Latin America and the Caribbean, prepared by CELAC, to contribute to the resilience of the region's health systems and the search for strategies that strengthen the development and production of strategic medical supplies.

In addition, the Argentine Pro Tempore Presidency gave priority to cooperation in environmental matters and we continued with the operationalization of CELAC's Fund for Climate Adaptation and Comprehensive Response to Natural Disasters, an increasingly important issue in light of climate change that threatens the Caribbean States.

In the understanding that CELAC constitutes the ideal platform to improve the region's position externally, the Argentine Pro Tempore Presidency sought to deepen the mechanism's relationship with its extra-regional partners and various regional integration spaces and organizations, deepening existing relations, and exploring new links with other global players.

The CELAC countries uphold integration as a fundamental value, which has brought enormous benefits in economic, social, cultural and political terms, and has allowed throughout our history to build in Latin America and the Caribbean a territory of peace and solidarity.

The 33 CELAC countries share the idea that cooperation enhances individual capacities and is capable of transforming the concrete realities of our citizens. The results achieved every time the region managed to prioritize the collective good over individual interest should encourage the membership to make the necessary efforts to overcome any obstacle in our regional integra-



tion process.

Today we can affirm, without a doubt, that CELAC is an example of collective construction, aware of the value of each of its members, as well as a space for dialogue and political agreement without exclusions, which makes it a fundamental tool to lead Latin America and the Caribbean towards the development and progress that our peoples yearn for.

## ► **CELAC activities agenda 2022**

*To launch an innovative agenda in the region, the Argentine Pro Tempore Presidency implemented a 15-axis Work Plan that resulted in 60 activities agreed upon by the entire membership, including seminars, workshops, technical meetings, and meetings of high authorities and ministers.*

The activities agenda was organized on **5 thematic pillars**:

**1. POST-PANDEMIC SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND PRODUCTIVE RECOVERY;** promoting the reconstruction of the region with an inclusive and supportive perspective. The Argentine Pro Tempore Presidency promoted activities and discussions on health, labour and social policies aimed at coordinating the national capacities of the countries of the region;

**2. SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION AT THE SERVICE OF DEVELOPMENT AND INCLUSION;** seeking to turn the advances that the CELAC countries have achieved in this field in the well-being of the population, with social inclusion as the central axis;

**3. COOPERATION IN ENVIRONMENTAL MATTER AND DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT;** making visible the importance that the consequences of climate change have for the region, especially for the island States of the Caribbean;

**4. CULTURE AND EDUCATION FOR OUR PEOPLE;** recovering the central role of both elements in the integral identity of the peoples and essential elements of development and social justice;

**5. EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN AND GENDER;** highlighting the transversality of the issue in all aspects developed within the framework of CELAC, particularly those related to the empowerment and economic autonomy of women,





*the reduction of gaps and the comprehensive care agenda.*

## ► Strategic partners

In this task, and aiming at combining efforts and avoiding wasting resources, CELAC has created a network with the following multilateral organizations in the region that share the same vision:

- *Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC);*
- *Development Bank of Latin America (CAF);*
- *Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA);*
- *Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS);*
- *Caribbean Community (CARICOM);*
- *Organization of Ibero-American States for Education, Science and Culture (OEI);*
- *Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA);*
- *Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).*

## ► Relationship with extra-regional partners

The Argentine Pro Tempore Presidency sees regional integration as a cooperation tool in an increasingly complex world. With this objective, CELAC's links with extra-regional partners have been strengthened, such as:

### ► China:

**Meeting between the Pro Tempore Presidency of CELAC and the People's Republic of China.** During the meeting, the status of implementation of the CELAC-China Action Plan 2022-2024, preparatory of the 2024 CELAC-China Forum Summit, was analysed. Within the framework of the Argentine Pro Tempore Presidency, the CELAC-China Forum held five specialized meetings on transportation; development and poverty reduction; digital technology; disaster risk management and science, technology and innovation. The Foreign Ministers agreed that the link between CELAC and China continues to strengthen with the incorporation of new topics that respond to the interests and needs of the entire membership.

### ► Asean:

**Meeting between the Pro Tempore Presidency of CELAC and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Cambodia, in his capacity as the Presidency of ASEAN.** The Foreign Ministers agreed on the importance of revitalizing the relationship between both regional blocs and exploring the possibility of developing a common agenda based on shared needs and interests.

### ► African Union:





**Meeting between the Pro Tempore Presidency of CELAC and the Chancellor of Senegal in her capacity as Presidency of the African Union.** The Foreign Ministers agreed that the current international context makes it necessary to exchange views between the countries that make up the Global South, in order to find shared solutions to the common problems we face. Both Presidencies vowed to lead a process of rapprochement between the 88 countries that make up both blocs.

## ► India:

**Meeting between the Pro Tempore Presidency of CELAC and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of India.** During the meeting, the points of view of CELAC and India were shared on the main challenges that the post-pandemic implies for the international community and the importance of generating spaces for cooperation and coordination between countries of the Southern Hemisphere. The Foreign Ministers agreed on the importance of revitalizing the Permanent Dialogue Mechanism between CELAC and India, designing a road map with concrete actions for the 2023-2024 biennium.

## ► European Union:

The **III meeting of CELAC-UE Foreign Ministers** was held on October 27 in Buenos Aires, interrupting the 4 years of bi-regional silence. The meeting had an agreed thematic agenda as a result of the agreement between both blocks. Similarly, the CELAC-EU Roadmap for the III EU-CELAC Summit scheduled for 2023 was approved.

## ► Institutional strengthening

Argentina considers important to strengthen CELAC and promoted the discussion on the establishment of a rotation mechanism for the Pro Tempore Presidency that will continue to be debated among the membership.

## ► VII Summit of CELAC Heads of State and Government

As the culmination of the 2022 Work Plan, the VII Summit of CELAC Heads of State and Government will adopt the Declaration of Buenos Aires, with post-pandemic recovery, climate change, regional health strategy, science, technology and innovation, education, culture, as its main thematic axes.

In addition, **11 Special Declarations** are to be adopted at the initiative of the Member States on specific topics:

- *Special Declaration on the Question of the Malvinas Islands;*
- *Special Declaration on Nuclear Disarmament;*
- *Special Declaration on Support for the fight against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations;*
- *Special Declaration on the Necessity of putting an end to the economic, commercial and financial bloc of the United States of America against Cuba;*



- *Special Declaration on Conservation of the oceans and their sustainable use;*
- *Special Declaration on Promotion of the empowerment of women and gender equality: a pending challenge in the CELAC space;*
- *Special Declaration on the Fight against the illicit traffic of firearms, their parts, components and ammunition;*
- *Special Declaration on the International Decade of Indigenous Languages 2022-2032;*
- *Special Declaration on Food Systems and Traditional and Sustainable Knowledge and Practices;*
- *Special Declaration on Harmony with Nature;*
- *Special Declaration on regional electricity integration in CELAC countries.*

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## CELAC Activities Report 2022

Within the framework of the Argentine Pro Tempore Presidency (PPTA) of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), an ambitious 2022 Work Plan was developed based on 5 pillars whose objective was post-pandemic social, economic and productive recovery; Science, Technology and Innovation for Development and inclusion; Environmental Cooperation and Disaster Risk Management; Culture and Education for our Peoples; and the relationship and cooperation with extra-regional partners, in addition to the inclusion of issues such as gender and diversity as a transversal axis.

In this sense, an annual schedule of 60 activities agreed upon by the entire membership was carried out, as a way of articulating the interests of the Member States and the region as a whole:

### ► XXXIV Meeting of National Coordinators (virtual)

**Date:** March 29.

**Participants:** CELAC National Coordinators.

**Brief description:** During the meeting, the CELAC Activities Plan for 2022 was presented and unanimously approved based on the Work Plan presented by the Pro Tempore Presidency.

### ► Start of the “Spanish language course for CELAC Diplomats” (virtual)

**Date:** May 2.

**Participants:** Young diplomats from non-Spanish-speaking CELAC countries.

**Brief description:** In order to support the continuous dialogue strengthening in our region and the construction of political and cultural exchanges, the Argentine Pro Tempore Presidency of CELAC made available to CARICOM member countries a virtual Spanish course designed specifically for diplomats from English-speaking countries in the region.

### ► “CELAC - CARICOM Seminar Exchange of Experiences and lessons learned on the strategies applied by the countries in the framework of the COVID-19 pandemic” (White Helmets / CDEMA / CARPHA / OECO) (hybrid)

**Date:** May 4.

**Participants:** Representatives of the Ministries of Health, Tourism, Education and





Foreign Relations (White Helmets); National Disaster Coordinators of the CDEMA Participating States and other CELAC Member States; Representatives of the OECS Commission; Caribbean Public Health Agency, Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency, University of the West Indies.

**Brief description:** The “CELAC - CARICOM Seminar” explored three main thematic areas, facilitating regional dialogue in order to identify possible areas for strengthening cooperation between Argentina and the Caribbean: Experiences and lessons learned in the management of the tourism sector in pandemics ; Vaccines and the COVID-19 Pandemic - Present and future; Cooperation and coordination in the humanitarian response to COVID-19.

► **II and III Preparatory Meeting for the CELAC Education Ministerial Meeting (virtual)**

**Date:** May 10 and 17.

**Participants:** Competent authorities in the field of initial, primary, secondary and higher education.

**Brief description:** Dialogue between the membership for the establishment of priorities, design and negotiation of the Ministerial Declaration.

► **CELAC Education Ministerial Meeting (on-site)**

**Date:** May 27.

**Participants:** Ministers of Education of CELAC.

**Brief description:** During the Meeting, the “Declaration of the III Meeting of Ministers of Education of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States” was adopted, which focused on the following commitments: Guarantee full attendance; Guarantee universal access for boys, girls, adolescents and young people to the educational system; Transformation of the traditional school; digital inclusion; Retrieve content and learning; Prepare young people for the world of work.

► **Preparatory technical meeting for the CELAC Ministerial of Culture (virtual)**

**Date:** May 12.

**Participants:** Competent authorities in matters of culture.

**Brief description:** Dialogue between the membership for the establishment of prio-



rities, design and negotiation of the Ministerial Declaration.

► **Meeting of Ministers of Culture within the framework of the X edition of the Argentine Cultural Industries Market (MICA) (hybrid)**

**Date:** May 19.

**Participants:** Ministers of Culture of CELAC

**Brief description:** The main objective of the Meeting was to resume the bloc's cultural agenda, as well as to provide a space in which the Ministers could discuss concrete initiatives to contribute to strengthening regional integration. Among the topics included in the work agenda, the following stood out: 1) Approval of the Ministerial Declaration; 2) Review and update of the CELAC cultural action plan; 3) Special Declaration for the strengthening of the cultural and creative industries of the region; 4) Regional dialogue for the World Conference on Cultural Policies (MONDIACULT), UNESCO/Mexico, 2022.

► **CELAC - SELA Seminar "Strategies for post-pandemic economic recovery in Latin America and the Caribbean" (virtual)**

**Date:** May 19.

**Participants:** Officials responsible for issues related to subregional integration mechanisms and authorities for trade promotion, exports and investments, subregional integration mechanisms and telecommunications.

**Brief description:** The central axis of the activity was the creation of technical roundtables headed by the subregional integration mechanisms, accompanied by trade promotion, export, and investment agencies. The purpose of these roundtables was to create a discussion space for the design of strategies that boost the regional exportable offer, as well as position the region in new markets.

► **III CELAC - ECLAC Meeting for the Coordination of the Health Self-Sufficiency Plan for Latin America and the Caribbean (virtual)**

**Date:** May 17.

**Participants:** Competent authorities in health matters.

**Brief description:** The development of the ECLAC Health Self-Sufficiency Plan for Latin America and the Caribbean was requested by the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) to the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in April 2021, searching for a comprehensive strategy



with a view to achieving health self-sufficiency in the region, specifically focused on strengthening capacities for the production and distribution of vaccines and medicines. The third working meeting dealt with the possibility of drawing up an action plan to strengthen technical capacities in the member countries in order to create a space for permanent coordination to strengthen the joint purchase of vaccines and essential medicines.

► **Launch of the initiative “Youth Council of Latin America and the Caribbean” (on-site)**

**Date:** May 23.

**Participants:** Each CELAC Member State was able to designate up to 4 young people between 18 and 35 years of age, with at least middle/high school education.

**Brief description:** The event, which lasts annually, has as its main objective the generation of a space for training and exchange of ideas between young people from Latin America and the Caribbean (18-35 years old). Likewise, this initiative seeks to strengthen the empowerment of young people as development agents in their countries and contribute to the formulation of a comprehensive regional proposal with a youth perspective. The project contemplates working simultaneously with 4 parallel groups of young people from Latin America and the Caribbean who will develop their activities around 4 thematic axes defined based on work axes proposed by the Argentine Pro Tempore Presidency for 2022.

► **CELAC Forum - China for Transport Cooperation (virtual)**

**Date:** May 24.

**Participants:** Transport Ministers of CELAC.

**Brief description:** This activity was part of the CELAC China 2022-2024 Action Plan adopted at the last Foreign Ministers Summit held on December 3, 2021. The transportation issue is a new work item within the framework of the CELAC-China Forum, responding not only to China's initiative but also to the strategic priorities established in the Work Plan of the Argentine Pro Tempore Presidency of CELAC. As a result of the meeting, a Joint Declaration was adopted establishing the China-CELAC Transport Cooperation Forum (CCTCF) at the ministerial level on a biannual basis.

► **Meeting of the Specialized Working Group on Prevention and Fight against Corruption (virtual)**

**Date:** May 26.



**Participants:** National authorities competent in anti-corruption matters.

**Brief description:** In compliance with the lines of action approved for 2022 by the Specialized Working Group on Prevention and Fight against Corruption, the first meeting gave impetus to compliance with the commitments established for the implementation of the following axes identified as priorities: Ethics and Integrity in the Public Service; Business Integrity and Public-Private Partnerships; Open Government and Open Data for the prevention and fight against corruption.

### ► **Participation of the President of the Nation in the Summit of the Americas as President Pro Tempore of CELAC**

**Date:** June 6 to 10.

**Participants:** Heads of State and Government of the Americas.

**Brief description:** Speech by the President of the Nation at the opening of the IX Summit of the Americas on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States.

### ► **CELAC intervention in the framework of the C-24**

**Date:** June 13 to 24.

**Participants:** Members of the Special Committee in charge of examining the Situation regarding the Application of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (C-24).

**Brief description:** Within the framework of the 2022 session of the Special Committee on Decolonization in charge of examining the situation regarding the application of the Declaration of Independence to colonial countries and peoples (C-24), CELAC made two interventions, one referred to the “Malvinas Question” and another on the “Puerto Rico Question”.

### ► **CELAC Seminar “Genders and technology: public policies to reduce gaps”**

**Date:** June 30.

**Participants:** Competent national authorities on digital technology and gender issues - Secretariat for Technological Innovation of the Public Sector.

**Brief description:** The seminar addressed the generation of public policies and ac-





tions that collaborate in reducing the gender gap in the Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) sector, including public-private collaboration.

► **IV CELAC-ECLAC Meeting for the Coordination of the Health Self-Sufficiency Plan for Latin America and the Caribbean (virtual)**

**Date:** July 5.

**Participants:** Competent health authorities.

**Brief description:** This meeting addressed the work axis on the development and regional production of vaccines. As a result, a survey of the installed capacities in the countries of the region in this matter was generated.

► **CELAC dialogue with IICA Director General: “Global food security: challenge for the agri-food systems of the Americas” (on-site)**

**Date:** July 5.

**Participants:** Agricultural Attachés of countries of the Americas to the European Union (EU), based in Brussels, Belgium, and the Director General of IICA, Manuel Otero.

**Brief description:** Virtual dialogue organized by the Embassy of Argentina to the EU in order to discuss strategies and lines of action in the face of the current situation of global increase in food and energy prices, along with the crisis in the market of chemical fertilizers.

► **CELAC-China Forum on Development and Poverty Reduction (virtual)**

**Date:** July 13.

**Participants:** Representatives of government departments of China, Argentina, representatives of international and regional organizations of CELAC, including the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the Development Bank of Latin America (CAF), as well as representatives of academia, business communities and the media.

**Brief description:** The meeting was held with the objective of promoting in-depth cooperation between the Asian country and Latin America in poverty reduction and rural development. In the aforementioned, it was agreed to advance joint efforts in favor of urban-rural development and digital technology.



► **CELAC-China Forum for Cooperation on Digital Technology (virtual)**

**Date:** July 19.

**Participants:** Vice Minister of the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology of China, representative of the Argentine Pro Tempore Presidency of CELAC, representatives of the information and communication authorities of CELAC member States.

**Brief description:** The purpose of the forum was to share perspectives on cooperation in digital technology between China and Latin America and the Caribbean. Exchanges related to topics such as the construction of new infrastructures, artificial intelligence, 5G, universal telecommunications services and management of the radioelectric spectrum were promoted.

► **Regional Financial Inclusion Meeting (FONCAP) (virtual)**

**Date:** July 21.

**Participants:** Competent authorities in financial matters.

**Brief description:** The virtual meeting consisted of multidisciplinary debates on new technologies and tools available to States for the achievement of efficient financial inclusion. The thematic axes were the access and use of digital wallets, microcredits as a tool for financial inclusion, and the sending of remittances and digital tools.

► **Commemoration of the Bicentennial of the “Hug of Guayaquil” (virtual)**

**Date:** July 26.

**Participants:** Members of CELAC and CLACSO. Activity open to the public.

**Brief description:** International colloquium on the occasion of the commemoration of the 200th anniversary of the meeting between Simón Bolívar and José de San Martín, where a space for diverse reflection on the understanding of the past and present meanings of the emancipatory struggles in our continent was proposed, as well as its significance for the construction of Latin American and Caribbean identities.

► **CELAC round table: “Towards the empowerment and economic autonomy of women” (virtual)**

**Date:** July 29.



**Participants:** Officials and academics from CELAC member countries competent in gender matters and members of civil society.

**Brief description:** The objective of the activity was to reflect on the challenges of the post-pandemic context from a gender and diversity perspective, having as a horizon the economic autonomy of women in all their diversity, in order to close the structural gaps in terms of inequality and achieve equality of genders. For this reason, strategies to promote women's access to quality paid jobs and recognition of care tasks were discussed.

► **Consultative meeting of the CELAC Labor Working Group (virtual)**

**Date:** August 1.

**Participants:** Competent authorities in labor matters of CELAC, regional organizations of workers and employers.

**Brief description:** The meeting dealt with the constitution of the network of focal points on labor matters, as well as the approval of the 2022 Work Plan of the Working Group and the schedule of meetings. Likewise, the drafting and approval of the operating regulations of the aforementioned Group was sought.

► **CELAC-SELA Seminar "Food systems and disaster management" (virtual)**

**Date:** August 2.

**Participants:** Representatives of the focal points competent in policies in matters of disaster risk management, institutions and regional organizations specialized in the matter.

**Brief description:** The discussion forum covered the main processes that have transformed the levels of disaster risk in Latin America and the Caribbean, and its current condition. In this sense, the needs and features that a regional action framework for disaster risk management should have were discussed. Likewise, sub-regional advances were exchanged for the identification of priorities in the matter.

► **Regional Launch of the International Decade of Indigenous Languages 2022-2032 (hybrid)**

**Date:** August 9.

**Participants:** Indigenous representatives of CELAC Member countries, CELAC authorities, International Organizations competent in the matter.



**Brief description:** The Regional Launch of the International Decade of Indigenous Languages 2022-2032 has been configured as an awareness-raising space that mobilizes wills and commitments towards all parties: governments, indigenous organizations, civil society, academia, the private sector including non-governmental organizations, together with the Indigenous Peoples, to make visible the advancement in line with conserving, revitalizing and promoting the active, free and spontaneous use of indigenous languages at all levels: local, regional and national.

► **XXXV Meeting of CELAC National Coordinators (on-site)**

**Date:** August 18.

**Participants:** CELAC National Coordinators.

**Brief description:** The objective of the meeting consisted in the presentation of a follow-up report on the activities carried out by CELAC within the framework of the Argentine Pro Tempore Presidency and the beginning of the dialogue on the importance of institutionally strengthening CELAC, with the presentation of a base document for the discussion. The aforementioned referred to three axes: a) a rotation mechanism of the Pro Tempore Presidency based on the criteria of sub-regional representation; b) the constitution of the Extended Troika as CELAC's ad hoc secretariat; c) other initiatives proposed by the membership.

► **CELAC-CAF Seminar “Latin America and the Caribbean, the future of integration. Unity in Diversity” (on-site)**

**Date:** August 18.

**Participants:** Representatives of civil society, the academic sector, multilateral organizations and political referents.

**Brief description:** The Seminar proposed the generation of a space for debate around the present and future opportunities and challenges of the integration of Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as the impact of the current global scenario on the development model of the region. The event consisted of three plural panels integrated by prominent figures in the field of regional integration.

► **Commemoration of the International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition (virtual)**

**Date:** August 23.

**Participants:** National Institute against Discrimination, Xenophobia and Racism





(INADI), CELAC delegations competent in policies against racial discrimination.

**Brief description:** The objective of the III Meeting of the Working Group on Afro-descendants consisted of positioning the issue once again on the CELAC agenda and promoting a space for the exchange of views and good practices among the countries of the region. Additionally, during the meeting the first reading of the draft Declaration of the CELAC Working Group was carried out, whose subsequent negotiation was in writing.

► **CELAC-China Ministerial Forum for Cooperation on Disaster Risk (virtual)**

**Date:** August 25.

**Participants:** Authorities from CELAC member countries and the People's Republic of China competent in matters of security and emergency management.

**Brief description:** The purpose of the meeting was to strengthen cooperation in the field of monitoring and evaluation of disaster risk, reinforce reciprocity in the field of prevention, mitigation and response to disasters, based on the agreements of the Joint Action Plan for China-CELAC Cooperation in key Areas (2022-2024).

► **CELAC-China Forum for Cooperation in Science, Technology and Innovation (virtual)**

**Date:** September 2.

**Participants:** Representatives of the Science and Technology departments of the CELAC countries and of the People's Republic of China.

**Brief description:** The purpose of the meeting was to strengthen cooperation in STI between China and CELAC, particularly in relation to the advancement of clean energies in order to stimulate the development of a low-carbon economy, promote the development of digital technology to facilitate productivity, as well as communication and satellite development.

► **V Coordination Meeting of the CELAC-ECLAC Health Self-Sufficiency Plan "Mechanisms for joint international purchase of vaccines and medicines" (virtual)**

**Date:** September 8.

**Participants:** Competent health authorities.



**Brief description:** In order to continue with the implementation of the Health Self-Sufficiency Plan, the PTP proposed the promotion of three lines of action: a) joint regional negotiation mechanisms for prices of vaccines and essential medicines; b) convergence and regulatory recognition; and c) regional development and production of vaccines. In relation to this, experiences were exchanged with the objective of generating proposals and inputs that can be later addressed during the Meeting of the Ministries of Health of the CELAC Member countries.

► **Cooperation Meeting on Space Affairs (virtual)**

**Date:** September 14.

**Participants:** Representatives of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, as well as national space agencies and government agencies in charge of the matter.

**Brief description:** During the meeting, the relevance of space technology and its contributions to the sustainable development of the region was discussed, particularly in terms of climate change mitigation, food security, disaster risk reduction, among other topics. Likewise, the importance of training human resources in the space area was highlighted and it was proposed to follow up on the status of the Constitutive Agreement of the initiative of the Latin American and Caribbean Space Agency (ALCE).

► **Working Breakfast of Foreign Ministers of CELAC - ACS - CAF (on the margins of the UNGA) (on-site)**

**Date:** September 19.

**Participants:** Ministers of Foreign Affairs of CELAC and the ACS.

**Brief description:** Within the framework of the Working Breakfast, it was highlighted that, given the global situation, it is important to strengthen dialogue and identify cross-cutting axes that allow promoting the regional agenda and jointly face the existing challenges in terms of post-pandemic reactivation with a view to achieving inclusive and sustainable socioeconomic recovery, as well as access to sources of financing for development; the serious effects of climate change and threats to international peace and security.

► **Meeting between the Pro Tempore Presidency of CELAC and the Chancellor of the People's Republic of China (on the margins of the UNGA) (on-site)**

**Date:** September 19.



**Participants:** Foreign Minister Santiago Cafiero and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, Wang Yi.

**Brief description:** During the meeting, the status of implementation of the CELAC China Action Plan 2022-2024 was analyzed. Within the framework of the Argentine Pro Tempore Presidency, the CELAC-China Forum held five specialized meetings in 2022 on transportation; development and poverty reduction; digital technology; disaster risk management and science, technology and innovation. The Foreign Ministers agreed that the bond between CELAC and China continues to strengthen with the incorporation of new topics that respond to the interests and needs of the entire membership.

► **Meeting between the Pro Tempore Presidency of CELAC and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Cambodia (on the margins of the UNGA) (on-site)**

**Date:** September 20.

**Participants:** Foreign Minister Santiago Cafiero and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Cambodia.

**Brief description:** Within the framework of the 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly, Foreign Minister Santiago Cafiero met with Cambodian Minister of Foreign Affairs Prak Sokhonn in his capacity as ASEAN Chairman. The Foreign Ministers agreed on the importance of revitalizing the relationship between both regional blocs and exploring the possibility of developing a common agenda based on shared needs and interests.

► **Meeting between the Pro Tempore Presidency of CELAC and Senegal as Presidency of the African Union (on the margins of the UNGA) (on-site)**

**Date:** September 20.

**Participants:** Foreign Minister Santiago Cafiero and Foreign Minister of Senegal Aï-sata Tall Dal.

**Brief description:** The Foreign Ministers agreed that the current international context makes necessary the exchange of views between the countries that constitute the Global South, in order to find shared solutions to the common problems we face. Both Presidencies promised to lead a process of rapprochement between the 88 countries that structure both blocs.

► **Meeting between the Pro Tempore Presidency of CELAC and the Chancellor of the Republic of India (on the margins of the UNGA) (in person)**



**Date:** September 19.

**Participants:** Foreign Minister Santiago Cafiero, Foreign Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, Foreign Minister of Guatemala, Vice Foreign Minister of Colombia and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of India.

**Brief description:** During the meeting, the perspectives of both CELAC and India were shared on the main challenges that the post-pandemic implies for the international community and the importance of generating spaces for cooperation and coordination between countries of the Southern Hemisphere. The Foreign Ministers agreed on the importance of revitalizing the Permanent Dialogue Mechanism between CELAC and India, designing a road map with concrete actions for the 2023-2024 bienniums.

► **CELAC Senior Officials Meeting on Climate Change (virtual)**

**Date:** September 28.

**Participants:** Environment and climate change authorities from CELAC Member countries.

**Brief description:** The purpose of the Meeting was to strengthen the regional position in the climate change negotiations, particularly in the financing and adaptation agendas, towards the COP27 (held between November 6-18, 2022) and future negotiations in other forums. Likewise, the importance of unity and collaboration to address the climate crisis and promote comprehensive and sustainable development within a just transition framework in the region was reaffirmed.

► **CELAC Seminar: “Comprehensive care agenda in the region: Advances and challenges” (virtual)**

**Date:** September 30.

**Participants:** Officials and academics competent in gender matters from the CELAC member States.

**Brief description:** During the meeting, public care policies in the region and the challenges in their implementation were analyzed, given that the governments of the region have taken different measures to recognize, redistribute and reduce the burden of care work carried out in the family sphere, emphasizing the visibility and valorization of care work as one of the axes to achieve the economic autonomy of women.





► **Extraordinary meeting of National Coordinators (virtual)**

**Date:** October 3.

**Participants:** CELAC National Coordinators.

**Brief description:** The purpose of the meeting was to address the logistical and technical preparations for the XXIII Meeting of CELAC Foreign Ministers and the III Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of CELAC and the EU.

► **CELAC Social Dialogue for an Inclusive, Sustainable and Resilient Recovery: external debt, development, real economy and employment (virtual)**

**Date:** October 6.

**Participants:** Authorities from labor departments, Embassy officials designated to participate, representatives of workers and employers, and international organizations.

**Brief description:** The Dialogue proposed a space for debate and tripartite regional exchange among the actors in the work sphere with the aim of sharing experiences, reaching consensus and finding lines of action aimed at sustainable recovery, centered on people and inclusive economic growth and development. At the end of the meeting, a joint communiqué was adopted reflecting the agreements that were reached.

► **CELAC Film Week. Cycle of Young Latin American and Caribbean Directors (hybrid)**

**Date:** October 12 to 14.

**Participants:** Activity open to the public.

**Brief description:** The purpose of the cycle was to promote and disseminate the vision of the new generations of audiovisual artists in the region through the projection, in the Manuel Belgrano Auditorium of the Argentine Foreign Ministry, of short films and feature films made by young people between 18 and 35 years of age, which were selected by the Argentine Embassies in the different CELAC Member countries.

► **CELAC - SELA Seminar "Towards a comprehensive migration policy in the region" (virtual)**

**Date:** October 18.



**Participants:** Competent authorities in matters of migration public policies, government authorities, representatives of regional organizations, the private sector and the academic sector.

**Brief description:** The meeting promoted work on cooperation mechanisms for a comprehensive governance of migration that includes the discussion of strategic programs, aimed at the inclusion of migrants in the productive cycles of the host countries and their incorporation into labor laws and social security. Likewise, it was proposed to capitalize on the positive relationship between migration and regional socioeconomic development, as well as the elaboration of sustainable solutions for problematic migratory situations.

► **CELAC Ministerial Meeting on Science, Technology and Innovation (hybrid)**

**Date:** October 19.

**Participants:** Ministers and High Authorities in Science, Technology and Innovation of CELAC.

**Brief description:** The Meeting proposed the articulation of regional public policies on science, technology and innovation and begin to outline common elements for scientific-technological cooperation that deepens and enhances the integration process in Latin America and the Caribbean. At the end of the meeting, the Ministerial Declaration was approved, evidencing the reached consensuses.

► **Meeting of CELAC Ministers of the Environment (hybrid)**

**Date:** October 24.

**Participants:** Highest Environmental Authorities of Latin America and the Caribbean.

**Brief description:** The Meeting of Ministers of Environment sought to strengthen the regional position in the negotiations related to climate change, particularly in the financing and adaptation agendas, with a view to COP 27 and future negotiations in other forums. At the same time, inquiries about the implementation of the commitments reached in the multiple consultation spaces were made. The meeting concluded with the approval of the Ministerial Declaration of CELAC Ministers of the Environment.

► **XXXVI Meeting of National Coordinators (on-site)**

**Date:** October 25.



**Participants:** CELAC National Coordinators.

**Brief description:** During the meeting, it was discussed the way to implement an eventual institutional strengthening of CELAC, in order to provide greater predictability to its management, maintenance over time of the implemented lines of action and the safeguarding of its historical heritage. Likewise, logistical information regarding the XXIII Meeting of CELAC Foreign Ministers was provided and the Draft Declaration was discussed with a view to its approval in the aforementioned.

► **XXIII Meeting of CELAC Foreign Ministers (on-site)**

**Date:** October 26.

**Participants:** Ministers and High Authorities of Foreign Relations of CELAC.

**Brief description:** During the meeting, an assessment was made about the work schedule of the Pro Tempore Presidency and perspectives were exchanged on the institutional strengthening of CELAC and the common regional challenges. Likewise, the delegations discussed the III Meeting of CELAC-EU Foreign Ministers and made reference to the Summit of Heads of State and Government, which took place on January 24, 2023. Finally, the CELAC Declaration of Ministers of Foreign Affairs was approved.

► **III Meeting of Foreign Ministers CELAC - European Union (on-site)**

**Date:** October 27.

**Participants:** Ministers and High Authorities of Foreign Relations of CELAC and the European Union.

**Brief description:** The Meeting constituted the resumption of the bi-regional dialogue based on the commitment to jointly address global challenges and continue strengthening multilateralism. It was discussed the importance of guaranteeing an inclusive, equitable and sustainable post-pandemic economic recovery and it was agreed to deepen cooperation in the areas of food security, the fight against climate change, international security, migration and the promotion of Human Rights; as well as the deepening of commercial relations between both regions. The commitments assumed were reflected in the adoption of the CELAC-EU Bi-regional Roadmap 2022-2023, where various high-level meetings are scheduled.

► **II Course for Young Diplomats “CELAC - European Union Strategic Association” (EULAC Foundation) (hybrid)**



**Date:** October 31.

**Participants:** Officials of the foreign service of the countries of the European Union, Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as the European External Action Service.

**Brief description:** The course intended to contribute to mutual understanding, learning, and dialogue between diplomats and experts from both regions in order to identify opportunities for bi-regional collaboration and promote greater involvement in the strategic association between Latin America and the Caribbean and Europe between young officials of the diplomatic services of both regions.

► **CELAC Seminar “Open government: inclusion and citizenship” (virtual)**

**Date:** November 1.

**Participants:** Authorities in matters of public innovation, administration and government integrity of the CELAC membership.

**Brief description:** The Seminar proposed a debate about public policies in development related to the promotion of citizen participation in the digital sphere, the opening of data in government management and the federalization of tools for transparency and collaboration. In addition, work was done on the consolidation of projects at the local and national level that incorporate the open government approach into public policies.

► **Meeting of the Specialized Working Group on Prevention and Fight against Corruption (virtual)**

**Date:** November 9.

**Participants:** Competent anti-corruption authorities of CELAC countries.

**Brief description:** During the meeting, the status of implementation of the commitments established in the following priority axes was analyzed: Ethics and Integrity in the Public Service; Business Integrity and Public-Private Partnerships; and Open Government and Open Data for the prevention and fight against corruption. At the same time, work was done to strengthen technical cooperation at the regional level and experiences on the protection of whistleblowers of corruption were exchanged.

► **IV Meeting of the CELAC Network of Experts on Infectious Agents and Emerging and Reemerging Diseases (virtual)**

**Date:** November 14.





**Participants:** Virologists and epidemiologists from CELAC Member States.

**Brief description:** The space sought to discuss the impact that the pandemic has had on vaccination coverage and epidemiological surveillance of vaccine-preventable viral diseases. In this sense, local experiences were shared and strategies aimed at reversing this situation were proposed.

► **Meeting of the Working Group on Institutional Strengthening of CELAC (virtual)**

**Date:** November 15.

**Participants:** CELAC National Coordinators.

**Brief description:** The purpose of the Meeting was to advance in the debate on the institutionalization and strengthening of CELAC, giving continuity to the dialogues held during the last meetings of National Coordinators, in order to achieve greater articulation both within the mechanism and in its relationship with extra-regional partners. Due to this, the need to define a rotation mechanism for the Pro Tempore Presidency was discussed, in order to have greater predictability, expedite decision-making and equalize the opportunities of access to the exercise of the PTP.

► **CELAC Meeting of Ministers of Health (virtual)**

**Date:** November 24.

**Participants:** High health authorities of the CELAC Member States, representatives of ECLAC and PAHO.

**Brief description:** During the meeting, the work carried out within the framework of the PTPA regarding the implementation of the Health Self-Sufficiency Plan was presented, addressing the axes of strengthening the mechanisms for the joint purchase and negotiation of international prices of vaccines and essential medicines, as well as its development and regional production. At the end of the meeting, the Ministers approved a Special Health Declaration.

► **CELAC Seminar “Promotion of the Human Rights of Persons with Disabilities” (virtual)**

**Date:** November 28.

**Participants:** Competent authorities on Disability and representatives of Civil Socie-



ty from CELAC Member countries.

**Brief description:** The Seminar proposed an exchange of experiences among the Member States regarding the implementation of state actions aimed at guaranteeing rights and removing both physical and attitudinal barriers that prevent the effective exercise of the rights of people with disabilities in the region. In particular, strategies implemented to promote awareness in societies with a view to achieving full inclusion of people with disabilities were shared.

► **Meeting of the Working Group on Institutional Strengthening of CELAC (virtual)**

**Date:** November 29.

**Participants:** CELAC National Coordinators.

**Brief description:** The meeting continued the previously initiated dialogue on the relevance of defining a methodology to be used for the rotation of the CELAC Pro Tempore Presidency in order to build a system with greater long-term predictability. In this sense, the delegations presented their proposals and addressed technical issues related to the organization of the next Summit of Heads of State and Government of CELAC.

► **Meeting of High Authorities CELAC - FAO - IICA “Integration and exchange of experiences to advance food security in Latin America and the Caribbean” (hybrid)**

**Date:** December 13.

**Participants:** Ministers and High Authorities of Agriculture.

**Brief description:** The purpose of the Meeting was to exchange good practices and experiences adopted in the countries to boost economic recovery, improve food security and nutrition, as well as reinforce regional governance spaces and strategies for political dialogue towards the transformation of food systems and the guarantee of food and nutrition security in Latin America and the Caribbean by 2030.

► **CELAC-SELA Forum “Towards a Strategic Association for Latin America and the Caribbean” (hybrid)**

**Date:** December 16.

**Participants:** Representatives of regional, sub-regional and multilateral integration



organizations of Latin America and the Caribbean, delegates of CELAC and SELA member countries.

**Brief description:** The forum proposed to analyze and contextualize the challenges of integration for the development of Latin America and the Caribbean in order to discuss common support strategies that can be implemented in regional, sub-regional and multilateral mechanisms, for the benefit of integration for the development of the region.

► **I, II, III and IV Preparatory Meeting for the VII Summit of Heads of State and Government of CELAC (virtual)**

**Date:** December 21.

**Participants:** CELAC National Coordinators.

**Brief description:** During the course of the meeting, the CELAC National Coordinators discussed the draft Declaration of Heads of State and Government and referred to various logistical issues to be resolved towards the VII Summit, which took place on January 24.

► **XXXVII Meeting of National Coordinators (on-site)**

**Date:** January 23, 2023.

**Participants:** CELAC National Coordinators.

**Brief description:** During the meeting, the agreed texts of the Declaration of Buenos Aires and the 11 Special Declarations that were adopted at the VII Summit of Heads of State and Government of CELAC were negotiated and validated.

► **VII Summit of Heads of State and Government of CELAC (on-site)**

**Date:** January 24.

**Participants:** Heads of State and Government of CELAC.

**Brief description:** As the culmination of the Argentine Pro Tempore Presidency, the meeting of CELAC leaders was held, with the on-site participation of the 33 CELAC member States. The Declaration of Buenos Aires and 11 Special Declarations agreed upon by the membership were approved. Also participating as special guests were representatives of China, India, the European Union, the African Union, ASEAN and the FAO. During the Summit, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines was elected as Pro Tempore Presidency for 2023.



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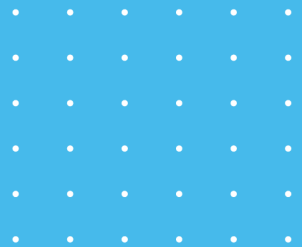
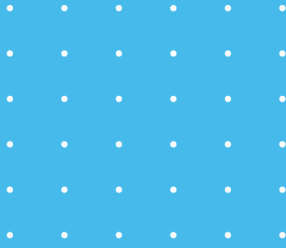
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