

## **JOINT DECLARATION**

### **XXIII MEETING OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE COMMUNITY OF LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN STATES (CELAC)**

Buenos Aires, October 26, 2022

The Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, gathered in the City of Buenos Aires on October 26, 2022, with the objective of evaluating the report on the activities of the schedule established in the Plan of Action of the Pro Tempore Presidency, consolidate the compromise with unity and integration of the region, continue the dialogue on the institutional strengthening of the mechanism and deepen the debate on the future of regional integration and the strategies of external relations:

1. They reaffirmed that CELAC is the only mechanism for dialogue and agreement that brings together the 33 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, and it represents the highest expression of the will to achieve unity in diversity, on the basis of a common agenda of welfare, peace and security for the peoples, with the aim of consolidating the Latin American and Caribbean community;
2. They underlined that Latin America and the Caribbean is a region of peace, formally proclaimed at the II CELAC Summit, held in Havana in January 2014, and a nuclear weapon free zone, which advocates for the peaceful settlement of disputes in the region and in the world, as well as the validity of a system based on friendly relations and cooperation among themselves and with other regions and countries, in order to banish forever the use and threat of the use of force.
3. They reaffirmed that the CELAC agenda is committed both to political agreement and the effective overcoming of poverty and inequalities through social, economic, productive, cultural and environmental integration, through crosscutting policies aimed at equity with a gender perspective;
4. They proposed holding a meeting of Ministers of Economy and Finance in order to design a common agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean that can respond to the current global economic crisis;
5. They reaffirmed the regional priority regarding social, economic and productive recovery, putting science, technology and innovation at the service of sustainable development. Likewise, they agreed that the empowerment of women and girls is necessary to achieve more just and inclusive societies and considered education and culture as essential engines of progress, based on work and social justice;

6. They agreed that the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean have been highly vulnerable to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, with alarming levels of poverty, indebtedness, social inequality, labor informality, environmental degradation, gender inequality and racial discrimination, among other challenges. This, added to the complex situation the world is going through, obliges the region to make an additional effort in order to guarantee food and energy security, universal access to health and environmental sustainability;
7. They committed to implement governmental actions to place the individual at the center of health and resilience policies, the integration of the provision of health services, including physical and mental health services, taking into account the specific needs of groups in situation of vulnerability and/or historically discriminated;
8. They endorsed their support for the implementation of the Sanitary Self-Sufficiency Plan for Latin America and the Caribbean prepared by ECLAC and approved unanimously at the VI Summit of Heads of State and Government held in Mexico City in 2021;
9. They expressed their concern about the ongoing challenges and threats that COVID-19 continues to present to food necessities, and agreed to take effective actions to strengthen the food supply chain and guarantee food security in the region, supporting agricultural and rural development;
10. They highlighted the importance of advancing policies to address the world drug problem, with a public health approach, and with sustainable and differentiated socioeconomic alternatives to criminality. And, in this regard, agreed to strengthen an integrated, multidisciplinary, balanced, sustainable, comprehensive approach, respectful of Human Rights and based on scientific evidence, with measures that mutually reinforce each other in the face of the complexity of the drug problem in the region and join forces to address the threats, risks and vulnerabilities it generates;
11. They expressed their concern about the negative impacts of climate change, especially in the Small Island developing States of the region, landlocked countries and the nations of the Central American Isthmus, while reaffirming the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and “The future we want”, emphasizing the political commitments achieved and its means of execution;
12. They encouraged the States to advance fruitfully in the upcoming negotiating processes, especially in the next Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, in line with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, advocate for the need for adequate financing mechanisms; and reiterate the commitment of the States to achieve the objectives set in the Paris Agreement, especially in terms of means of implementation, mitigation, adaptation, losses and damages;

13. They recognized the value for the countries of the region that the forthcoming negotiation process of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee has, to develop a legally binding international instrument, on plastic pollution, including the marine environment;

14. They remarked the importance of strengthening the Fund for Climate Adaptation and Comprehensive Response to Natural Disasters of CELAC created by signatory countries of the Voluntary Contribution Agreement, through economic contributions that include extra-regional partners. In this regard, they decided to give the Fund a new impulse in order to promote a comprehensive, resilient and sustainable vision of development that contributes to strengthening the capacity to respond to disasters in the countries of the region;

15. They agreed to develop the evaluation of regional electricity interconnection projects, promoting the integration of renewable sources from the generation, and energy efficiency in the transmission and distribution of energy in Latin America and the Caribbean, in line with the objective of promoting the strengthening of the regional connectivity;

16. They highlighted the need to strengthen South-South and Triangular cooperation mechanisms, as vehicles for the foreign policies of the countries, for the mobilization of knowledge, good practices and the promotion of strategic alliances that allow the effective reactivation and preparation for future situations of global crisis;

17. They stressed the multidimensional approach on which the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) rest and the new international challenges to development that require a greater balance in the response between the domestic and international components of public policies, they affirmed that there are several aspects that must be thoroughly reformed in the international cooperation system in order to adapt to the changes that have occurred on the international scene;

18. They pointed out the need to transcend the framework of the traditional Official Development Assistance (ODA). They reiterated their concern about the difficulties faced by countries that have graduated as high- and middle-income countries, and have been excluded from development financing flows, as their national realities indicate that structural gaps persist in the economic well-being of society. They committed to reflect on the challenges faced by countries moving from one income category to another, the weaknesses of the current classification of countries based exclusively on income, and the need to redefine development cooperation instruments and frameworks to support countries in that transition;

19. They reiterated their commitment to building a more just, inclusive, equitable and harmonious international order, based on the respect for International Law, multilateralism, and the principles of the United Nations Charter, including the

sovereign equality of States, international cooperation for development, respect for territorial integrity and non-intervention in the internal affairs of States;

20. They reaffirmed their commitment to the consolidation of democracy, the respect of Human Rights and the defense of sovereignty, free from threats, aggressions and unilateral coercive measures contrary to International Law, in an environment of peace, stability and justice;

21. They reiterated the calling 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 grave damage to the well-being of the Cuban people. Likewise, they reiterated their rejection of the unilateral lists and certifications that affect Latin American and Caribbean countries. In this regard, they requested the exclusion of Cuba from the unilateral list of countries that allegedly sponsor international terrorism.

22. They recognized the importance of strengthening the mutual cooperation of both States and societies to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, as well as to reduce and prevent violence resulting from crime and transnational organized crime. In this regard, they renewed the commitment to promote police and judicial cooperation, as well as to strengthen inter-agency cooperation mechanisms in matters of internal security, including digital security matters, in accordance with the international obligations assumed and the legal system of each country;

23. They stressed the importance of promoting culture and creative industries as development goals in the 2030 agenda, joining efforts to strengthen regional integration between the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean from cultures and the arts, supporting artistic and cultural training processes and professional artists so that children and adolescents know and appropriate traditions and knowledge, and are means of preserving and transmitting ancestral knowledge and memory, as well as their own cultural innovations for future generations;

24. They highlighted the Regional Launch of the International Decade of Indigenous Languages 2022-2032, held on August 9, 2022, a space in which the States expressed their willingness to carry on efforts to continue working for the promotion and protection of the rights of indigenous peoples in Latin America and the Caribbean, within the framework of Resolution 74/135 of the United Nations General Assembly, which proclaims the period 2022-2032 as the International Decade of Indigenous Languages. They also welcomed the establishment of the Ibero-American Institute of Indigenous Languages.

25. They agreed to promote and protect the rights of Afro-descendant peoples in the region and reiterated their support for the work of the CELAC Working Group for Afro-

descendants in favor of social, cultural, economic and political reparation for descendants of the victims of transatlantic trafficking of slaves;

26. They reaffirmed their commitment to promoting safe, ordered and regular migration, in strict respect of human rights and under the principles of solidarity and shared responsibility. In this regard, they expressed the need to address the multidimensional causes of migration, and combat the crimes of human trafficking and migrant smuggling, with a humanitarian and regional and international cooperation perspective, promoting social cohesion and seeking the integration of migrants, as well as assistance to host communities. Likewise, they committed to deepen the work aimed at strengthening citizen rights in the region. In this regard, they made a call to the European Union to convene the IV International Conference of Donors in solidarity with refugees and migrants, and to mobilize additional resources to support social integration projects;

27. They recognized the Argentine Pro Tempore Presidency for having resumed the Community's practice of intervening and presenting joint and consensual initiatives in the United Nations and other multilateral forums, strengthening the region and contributing to its legitimate interests are duly considered;

28. They expressed their satisfaction for promoting the expansion and strengthening of the bloc's ties with regional and subregional organizations, and their recognition to the experience of those work for the region. They also welcomed the progress made in deepening political dialogue with extra-regional partners, among which are included the European Union, China, India, the African Union, and ASEAN, ratifying CELAC as an important speaker for Latin America and the Caribbean in front of the international community;

29. They welcomed the reactivation, after four years, of the dialogue between all CELAC members with the European Union, which will allow the re-launching of exchanges between both blocs and the recovery of bi-regional cooperation spaces at the highest level in order to deepen their strategic partnership;

30. They appreciated the holding of the CELAC-CAF International Seminar "Latin America and the Caribbean: Unity in Diversity", in August 2022, which was attended by eminent political and academic personalities as a forum for joint reflection on the challenges and projections of integration in Latin American and the Caribbean. They highlighted the importance of the participation of social actors with the support of regional and international organizations in the design of public policies that consolidate unity within diversity in the region;

31. They highlighted the range and depth of the issues addressed in the CELAC 2022 Work Plan promoted by the Argentine Pro Tempore Presidency through 60 activities based on 15 lines of action, which were agreed upon by the entire membership;

32. They reaffirmed the expressed in the Special Declaration of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States on the need to provide support to the Republic of Haiti due to its implications for peace and security in the region on September 19, 2022. In this regard, they reiterated their deep concern over the progressive deterioration of the public security and humanitarian situation in the Republic of Haiti, and recognized the need to reach regional and extra-regional consensus that, with the consent and participation of Haiti, allow it to provide support to confront the proliferation of organized crime, combat illicit arms trafficking and the strengthening of citizen security. In this sense, they highlighted 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 drawing up a roadmap that will allow them to emerge from the complex crisis that affects them;

33. They reaffirmed, on the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United Nations General Assembly resolution 37/9, their firmest support for the legitimate rights of the Argentine Republic in the sovereignty dispute over the Malvinas, South Georgias and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas, as well as the permanent interest of the countries of the region to resume negotiations between the Governments of the Argentine Republic and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in order to find, as soon as possible, a peaceful and definitive solution to the said dispute, in accordance with resolution 2065 (XX) of the United Nations General Assembly and other relevant resolutions, including those of the Organization of American States (OAS), as stated in the previous Declarations of the Rio Group and the Summit of Latin America and Caribbean (CALC), in particular the Unity Summit, held in the Riviera Maya, Mexico, on February 23, 2010, which are part of the historical heritage of the CELAC;

34. Finally, they thanked the Argentine government for convening the ministerial meeting, which made it possible to consolidate the political initiative of the region, unify the plurality of views in a strengthened regional voice, and reaffirm the inalienable commitment to the regional integration process.

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