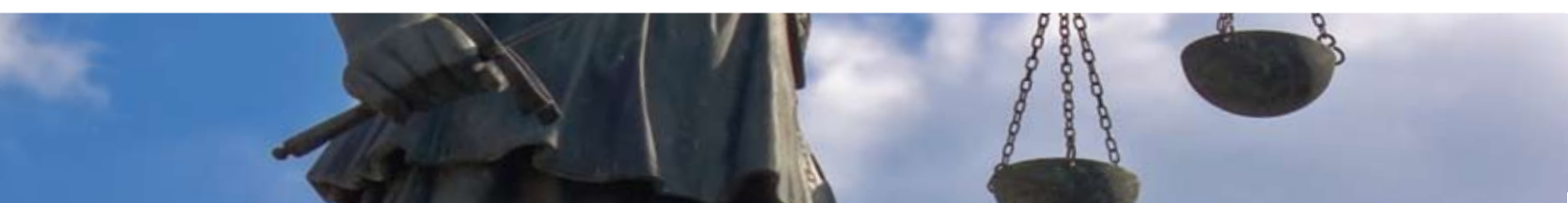




Joint Summit Working Group

# Achievements of the Summits of the Americas From Mar del Plata to Port of Spain



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**Joint Summit Working Group**

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From Mar del Plata to Port of Spain

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### **ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES**

17th and Constitution Avenue, N.W.

Washington, DC 20006 U.S.A.

Internet: [www.oas.org](http://www.oas.org)

Email: [summit-info@oas.org](mailto:summit-info@oas.org)

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Secretary General  
**José Miguel Insulza**

Assistant Secretary General  
**Albert R. Ramdin**

Summits of the Americas Secretariat  
Director  
**David Morris**

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### **THE SUMMITS OF THE AMERICAS SECRETARIAT**

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**Achievements of the  
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**Joint Summit Working Group**

## **Acronyms**

### **Member institutions of the Joint Summit Working Group (JSWG)**

OAS	Organization of American States
IDB	Inter-American Development Bank
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
PAHO	Pan American Health Organization
World Bank	World Bank Group
IICA	Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture
CABEI	Central American Bank for Economic Integration
CAF	Andean Development Corporation
CDB	Caribbean Development Bank
IOM	International Organization for Migration
ILO	International Labour Organization
ICA	Institute for Connectivity in the Americas

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## Foreword

This report presents the efforts of the twelve institutional partners of the Joint Summit Working Group (JSWG)<sup>1</sup> to implement and support the commitments adopted by the Heads of State and Government at the Fourth Summit of the Americas held in Mar del Plata, Argentina in November 2005. The theme of the Fourth Summit was: “Creating Jobs to Fight Poverty and Strengthen Democratic Governance”. As such, this compilation focuses on the work done since 2005 in the areas of Growth with Employment, Training the Labor Force, Micro-, Small- and Medium-Sized Enterprises, Creating Decent Work, Strengthening Democratic Governance, and Social Development.

In addition, the JSWG members have in this volume attempted to provide a brief overview of strategies and actions that can contribute to the implementation of the commitments being made in the framework of the Fifth Summit of the Americas in Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago in April 2009. The theme for the Fifth Summit is: “Securing Our Citizens’ Future through Human Prosperity, Energy Security, and Environmental Sustainability”. These statements are an attempt to initiate consideration of the cooperative and individual efforts that will be necessary to confront the significant challenges facing the Americas in the coming years.

<sup>1</sup> The Organization of American States (OAS), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the World Bank Group, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), ), the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI), the Andean Development Corporation (CAF), the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), the International Organization on Migration (IOM), the International Labour Organization (ILO), and the Institute for Connectivity in the Americas (ICA)





# Introduction from the OAS Secretary General

On behalf of the member institutions of the Joint Summit Working Group (JSWG), and in my capacity as the Chair of the Group, I am pleased to present this edition of institutional reports on the implementation of commitments assumed at the Fourth Summit of the Americas, held in Mar del Plata in November 2005.

Since its outset, the Summits process has played a fundamental role in the creation of spaces for dialogue for the JSWG to promote democracy, peace, and greater social justice, as well as the opportunity for these institutions to play a significant role in renewed engagement with the countries of our Hemisphere, in a spirit of solidarity and cooperation, to tackle the many challenges we face.

The promotion of democracy has to be understood in the context of the promotion of concrete and real benefits to the population at large. In this sense, institutions need to assure that democracy generates shared benefits for everyone so that governments can clearly show how everyone reaps the benefits of democracy.

The participation of citizens in the realm of politics increasingly relates to the greater demands of the population to witness improvement in their quality of life, the generation of sustainable development, and better welfare. In this sense, the commitments made at Mar del Plata made an essential contribution.

Growth, employment --especially decent work--, poverty, environmental sustainability, energy security, discrimination and crime are all issues that can be resolved with the democratic adoption and implementation of effective and efficient public policies. In this regard, the Summits process has looked for multi-dimensional ways to strengthen democracy and governance, reduce poverty and increase opportunities in the Americas.

The Summits of the Americas process--now 15 years old--has been able to join forces with all the entities of the inter-American system to face the challenges posed at the hemispheric level by new global realities. The Summits demonstrate the importance of good regional governance in the context of globalization and the need to seek joint solutions to problems that are truly transnational and hemispheric in nature--problems to which all of us can and must help find solutions.

It is of the utmost importance that the Summit process demonstrates enhanced capacity to effectively deliver on commitments, show results, mobilize necessary resources, strengthen partnerships, and meet the expectations of citizens. I am a strong believer that multilateral processes are the best approach to confronting common challenges.

It is with genuine appreciation that I recognize the tremendous contributions to the Summit process of the institutional members of the JSWG; all of which have made a presentation to this compilation and committed to contributing resources and technical and analytical support to achieving the goals of the Summits of the Americas.

**José Miguel Insulza**  
Secretary General  
Organization of American States



# Message from the Government of the Republic of Argentina

## Introductory Note

The Fourth Summit brought together the Heads of State and Government of the Americas at Mar del Plata on November 4 and 5, 2005, under the theme “Creating Jobs to Fight Poverty and Strengthen Democratic Governance.” A noteworthy aspect of the event was the broad participation therein by organizations representing the region, such as civil society, workers’ and employers’ organizations, indigenous peoples, the private sector, and legislators, who had an opportunity to provide their input for and contributions to the Summits of the Americas process.

The Summit placed an emphasis on overcoming problems related to poverty, social inclusion and social cohesion, and on identifying ways to create more and better jobs, especially “decent work.” This term stems from the definition adopted by the International Labor Organization (ILO), which includes aspects such as respect for the Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, occupational health and safety, and employment and social dialogue. The creation of more and better jobs was therefore considered as the principal way to address poverty and prevent social exclusion, taking an approach to these matters – which are among the most important for our countries and their development process – that emphasized social inclusion and social equity.

For the achievement of these objectives, three main paths were identified: investment in infrastructure, training the labor force, and micro, small and medium-sized enterprises. In addition, it was decided to work to develop a framework for the creation of decent work that included a solid and inclusive institutional framework based on the coordination of economic, labor, and social public policies, a legal framework upholding the rule of law, responsible fiscal policies, respect for the ILO fundamental rights and principles, and a regulatory framework seeking to incorporate the informal sector and unregistered work into the formal sector.

These objectives, translated into mandates by the Declaration and Plan of Action of the Fourth Summit, were implemented by both the countries and the organizations that make up the inter-American system. On June 21, 2001, some of these international organizations (OAS, IDB, PAHO, and ECLAC) signed a letter of understanding whose objective was to increase coordination in supporting the implementation and follow-up of the Summits of the Americas mandates. The letter of understanding created the Joint Summit Working Group (JSWG), which later came to comprise the World Bank, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), the Andean Development Corporation (CAF), the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (BCIE), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the International Labor Organization (ILO), and the Institute for Connectivity in the Americas (ICA), upon their request to participate.

At the working meeting of the JSWG held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on May 23, 2006, the partner organizations began to make headway in establishing a method and coordination among themselves for effective implementation of the objectives set forth in the Plan of Action.

These *Hemispheric Reports* on Mandate Implementation make evident the highly important work of the Joint Summit Working Group in coordinating the implementation of the mandates, thus demonstrating the support provided by these eminent organizations to the Summits of the Americas mandates to ensure concrete and wide-ranging outcomes. To be emphasized is the need for fluid efforts among the countries and organizations so that the Summits process continues to move ahead in furthering the implementation of the mandates and contributing to the development of our countries.



# Message from the Government of the Republic of Trinidad & Tobago

It is a significant honor for Trinidad and Tobago to host the Fifth Summit of the Americas in our capital city of Port of Spain from April 17 - 19, 2009 under the theme "*Securing Our Citizens' Future by Promoting Human Prosperity, Energy Security and Environmental Sustainability*". We are equally proud that this prestigious forum is being held for the first time in the Caribbean and in particular, in a Member State of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

The Summit of the Americas presents the sole occasion on which the Heads of State and/or Government of this hemisphere can engage each other on pressing regional priorities, amidst global economic and political developments, and agree on modalities for collective action. Dialogue between and among our countries is vital and the value of regional cooperation, involving all stakeholders, cannot be underestimated. Indeed, the Honorable Patrick Manning, Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, best articulated this perspective when he stated that "*... in this increasingly inter-connected world where many uncertainties abound and change is constant, pursuing development cannot be an insular exercise.*"

An important stakeholder and partner in the Summit process has been the Joint Summit Working Group (JSWG) whose expertise, led by the Organization of American States (OAS), has been invaluable in supporting the negotiations of the **Declaration of Commitment of Port of Spain**. The Declaration addresses such core development issues as, inter alia, energy, health, the environment, climate change, education, labor, and security for which one or more institution of the JSWG has a remit.

Presentations made by members of the JSWG to the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG) or in the various Policy Dialogues convened on the thematic pillars of the Fifth Summit contextualized the areas under negotiation and thereby contributed to an enhanced preparatory process towards a productive and meaningful Fifth Summit.

We look forward to a renewed commitment by the JSWG institutions, under the chairmanship of the OAS, to supporting the successful implementation of the objectives set out in the Declaration of Commitment of Port of Spain so that the citizens of our region can experience tangible benefits.

**H.E. Glenda Morean-Phillip**  
Permanent Representative  
of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago  
to the Organization of American States (OAS)



# Organization of American States

## OAS

The Summits of the Americas (OAS) process guides the Organization of American States (OAS) in its role as the principal multilateral political forum for the Americas by reinforcing and initiating strategic actions to achieve sustainable results in the priority areas of the inter-American agenda.



In particular, the Summits have served to undergird the inter-American Ministerial process in its efforts to strengthen the capacity of OAS Member States to effectively address the pressing challenges they face in key priority areas.



# Introduction

The Summits of the Americas (OAS) process guides the Organization of American States (OAS) in its role as the principal multilateral political forum for the Americas by reinforcing and initiating strategic actions to achieve sustainable results in the priority areas of the inter-American agenda. Since the Fourth Summit in Mar del Plata, Argentina in 2005, the Summits process has informed the work of the OAS General Secretariat (OAS/GS) in the areas of Democracy, Human Rights, Security, and Development.

In particular, the Summits have served to undergird the inter-American Ministerial process in its efforts to strengthen the capacity of OAS Member States to effectively address the pressing challenges they face in key priority areas. Indeed, many of the initiatives generated by the Summit process exemplify the impetus that a mandate issued at the Summit level provides to the inter-American system, as well as the strong linkages this process has developed among Member States and the institutions of the Joint Summit Working Group (JSWG), social actors, and the Summits themselves. The Fifth SOA will direct the OAS/GS and strengthen its work with Member States over the course of the next several years to address the challenges facing the Hemisphere.

## I. Democracy

The OAS/GS strives to support Member States in their commitments made in Mar del Plata to: strengthen and implement the OAS and Inter-American Democratic Charters; improve government accountability and transparency; fight corruption; increase citizen participation; pro-

mote hemispheric cooperation to strengthen democratic governance; and to provide support to the government and people of Haiti in their efforts to promote stability and socio-economic development.

### I. a: Commitment to OAS and Inter-American Democratic Charters

The OAS/GS seeks to foster a climate that will promote democratic governance and the socio-economic development of countries in the region. A methodology for political analysis with multiple scenarios has been developed, which facilitates focusing efforts on identifying situations which could negatively impact democratic governance. This work is primarily intended to address the political aspects of democratic governance through initiatives to promote and strengthen democratic sustainability in the region. The OAS/GS has provided support in response to requests from Member States through fielding special missions to address political and institutional crises by facilitating dialogue among a broad spectrum of stakeholders in the search for common positions. Several recent cases attest to the success of this approach. In the disruption of relations between Colombia and Ecuador, as well as the confrontation between the Government of Bolivia and regional leaders in the eastern part of the country, the OAS/GS moved swiftly to help broker effective solutions to these crises. In the case of Colombia and Ecuador, the OAS adopted a resolution allowing the Secretary General to implement a mechanism to restore a climate of confidence and to initiate a process of political facilitation that helped to diminish tensions and normalize relations between the two neighbors.

The OAS, through, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), has increased collaboration with Member States and expanded the effective protection of fundamental rights of the citizens of the Americas.

### **I. b: Accountability, transparency and the fight against corruption**

The OAS/GS has provided technical secretariat services to the Mechanism for Follow-up on the Implementation of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption (MESICIC) since its inception. The Committee of Experts, made up of representatives from each of the 28 states party to the Mechanism, meets regularly to adopt reports covering the topics analyzed in the context of the various rounds of the Mechanism. Since Mar del Plata, the second round of MESICIC review was completed, with a total of 28 country reports adopted, as well as a Hemispheric Report summarizing the results. The third round of review is currently under way. In 2006 the OAS/GS successfully concluded a pilot project for supporting states in the creation of national Plans of Action to implement the recommendations of the MESICIC Committee. The OAS/GS has gone on to expand the project in other Member States of the mechanism, with financial support from the Anticorruption Fund.

In order to promote accountability and to fight against corruption, the OAS/GS has also been working to implement a group of initiatives to contribute to the establishment and consolidation of a culture that promotes transparency, confidence in state institutions, public accountability and civil society participation. As such, it provided technical support to the OAS Permanent Council to advance in their discussions regarding the promotion of the right of Access to Public Information within the countries of the Americas. In addition, the OAS/GS developed the Guide of Mechanisms in the Fight against Corruption within the countries of the Americas with the purpose of providing a tool that will serve as a reference on various aspects related to this problem.

The OAS/GS worked to strengthen democratic governance through the use of information and communication technologies as a means to promote transparency, efficiency and citizen participation in the public sector. In this area, the OAS/GS provides technical secretariat services to the e-Government Network from Latin America and the Caribbean (RED GEALC; [www.redgealc.net](http://www.redgealc.net)) as well as the Inter-American Network on Government Procurement ([www.ricg.org](http://www.ricg.org)). In both cases, initiatives have been put in place to facilitate cooperation, coordination and the exchange of solutions and expertise among member countries. The OAS/GS has also undertaken an important effort to build institutional capacity by providing training on e-Government to more than 4.000 government officials from Latin American and the Caribbean. Lastly, the Municipal Efficiency and Transparency (MuNet) program supports municipalities, through training, consulting and technology, in their plans to take advantage of opportunities offered by the knowledge-based society to provide quality municipal services and to make municipalities more transparent. All these initiatives are supported by the IDRC/ICA and CIDA.

### **I. c: Decentralization and Citizen Participation**

The OAS/GS, as the technical secretariat for the High-Level Inter-American Network on Decentralization, Local Government and Citizen Participation (RIAD), carried out a study on "Decentralization and the Challenges of Democratic Governance". The papers that resulted from the study offer practical recommendations and identify areas for cooperation to be considered by the Member States of the OAS, local government authorities, and civil society, among others. Linkages and networking of the RIAD with other organizations were also promoted.



To encourage citizen participation, the Universal Civil Identity Program in the Americas (PUICA) is supporting several civil registry institutions in the region through projects which aim to consolidate modern, accessible and permanent institutions which can provide a secure identity to their populations, and protect people's right to identity. This work includes efforts in indigenous communities to provide people who have traditionally been excluded because of economical, social and geographical reasons with a civil identity; the universal registration of newborns, and registration campaigns in marginal urban areas. They also contribute to national development by ensuring states have accurate information regarding their population to design sound development plans.

The OAS/GS also continued its work to facilitate, increase and strengthen civil society participation in OAS activities. To this end, the OAS/GS has held Hemispheric Forums with Civil Society prior to each General Assembly since Mar del Plata in order to encourage increased discussions and exchange of ideas among civil society organizations involved in the Inter-American agenda. Recommendations from these meetings serve as the basis for dialogue with Heads of Delegation of the Member States and the OAS Secretary General at the OAS General Assemblies. Additionally, the OAS/GS collaborated with the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, with support from USAID and CIDA, to involve civil society in hemispheric and sub-regional forums on the themes of the Fifth Summit of the Americas, in order to develop and deliver recommendations for consideration in the drafting of the Declaration of Commitment of Port of Spain.

#### **I. d: Haiti**

The OAS/GS engaged in joint activities with the Provisional Electoral Council of Haiti on the development of electoral systems that enabled the distribution of identity documents to citizens, as well as the management of vote counting and the attendant transmission of results. To date, 4.2 million persons have been registered, representing 92% of the adult population. The registration process, also served for the automatic compilation of the voters' lists used in electoral processes. The OAS/GS is providing support in preparation for the Senatorial elections in April 2009, when an additional 700,000 identity cards will be distributed.

The civil registry in Haiti now has 141 permanent offices, with equipment and trained personnel which help ensure universal registration in the country. This modernization of civil registry strengthens the permanence and security of this information, which will enable Haiti to hold other electoral processes without the need for citizens to re-register, and it also allows registered citizens to realize various identity-based transactions. The OAS/GS has also collaborated with USAID in Haiti to launch the Resource Center for Persons with Disability.

#### **II. Human Rights**

In the area of Human Rights, Leaders at the Fourth Summit in Mar del Plata called on countries and institutions to, inter alia, strengthen the Inter-American System of Human Rights, protect the rights of workers, migrants, children, women, and indigenous peoples, as well as to confront racism and combat trafficking in persons. Since the Fourth Summit, the OAS/GS has worked continually in these areas with Member States to address these challenges.



## **II. a: Strengthening Human Rights**

The OAS, through, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), has increased collaboration with Member States and expanded the effective protection of fundamental rights of the citizens of the Americas. These efforts have included the presentation of thematic studies on the enjoyment of economic, civil, and cultural rights, as well as the convocation of hearings that emphasize citizen rights, including the right to education and housing in the Americas. The IACHR also meets frequently with the Permanent and Alternate Representatives to the OAS in order to strengthen dialogue on human rights and related issues of mutual concern. Furthermore, the Commission adopted and published its Resolution 1/05 in which it reaffirmed the international obligation of OAS Member States to comply with its precautionary measures. In addition, the Commission co-sponsored training courses for human rights defenders from Member States on: the ratification and implementation of international and regional human rights instruments, the importance of full participation in the United Nations and Inter-American human rights systems, as well as the procedures involved in ratifying and implementing international and regional human rights instruments. The OAS annually holds a dialogue among the Member States, the members of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, and the IACHR on the functioning of the inter-American human rights system. Finally, and in accordance with the mandates of the Fourth Summit of the Americas, the Second Specialized Course for Foreign Ministry and Government Officials on the Use of the Inter-American System for the Protection of Human Rights, was held in San Jose, Costa Rica.

## **II. b: Racial Discrimination and Rights of Afro-Descendants**

The OAS/GS engages in activities to stimulate, systematize, strengthen and consolidate measures adopted by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights in the area of the Rights of Afro-Descendants and Racial Discrimination. This includes work with OAS Member States to: generate awareness of States' duties to respect the human rights of Afro-descendants and eliminate all forms of racial discrimination; analyze the current challenges that confront the countries of the region in this area, formulate recommendations designed to overcome obstacles, and identify and share best practices in the region in this connection; and monitor and provide any technical assistance that Member States might request to implement recommendations in their domestic laws and practices. The OAS/GS also provides training to Afro-descendant lawyers, focuses on increasing awareness in the region of the guarantees and mechanisms that the inter-American human rights system offers Afro-descendants; and maintains a database related to the rights of people of African descent and racial discrimination in Member States. Over the course of the past year the OAS/GS has engaged with various Afro-descendant representatives in several sub-regional forums aimed at enhancing their understanding of and engagement in the Summit of the Americas process and OAS programs and activities.

## **II. c: Rights of Migrants and Workers**

The OAS/GS has worked to comply with Fourth Summit mandates regarding the protection of migrant rights through the activities of the Office of the Special Rapporteur on Migrant Work-

ers and their Families. At its 122nd and 124th regular sessions, the IACHR convened hearings on the rights of refugees and immigrants, the situation of migrant farm workers, and the situation of migrant workers and their families on human rights and natural disasters in the hemisphere. At the same time, the Office of the Special Rapporteur has continued to collaborate in and study petitions and requests for precautionary measures received by the Commission in connection with migrant workers.

The Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) of the OAS has carried out case studies in Nicaragua and El Salvador, examining different aspects of women's migration, and developed a database on migration and gender. It is also compiling best practices on the issue of gender and migration, and exploring the links between migration and HIV.

The OAS has included the promotion of the fundamental principles and rights at work in all the activities of the Inter-American Conference on Ministers of Labor (IACML). These efforts include workshops on the protection of migrant workers' labor rights, occupational health and safety (OHS) and the adoption of regional strategic lines of action on OHS management systems, information systems, and HIV in the workplace. The OAS/GS has also been working with Member States on a regional approach for the sound management of trade related agrochemicals in order to address state priorities that will benefit the overall health and safety of workers in the hemisphere.

#### **II. d: Women's Rights**

As part of its mandated efforts to integrate a gender perspective into its resolutions, activi-

ties, and initiatives, the OAS, through the CIM, has instituted a process to promote and follow up on recommendations made on the integration of a gender perspective in the agendas of Ministerial level meetings, especially Labor, Justice, Education and Science and Technology, and has carried out research on efforts to integrate gender into said ministries. The resulting proposal "Strategic Guidelines for Advancing Gender Equality and Nondiscrimination within the Framework of Decent Work" was presented to Labor Ministers for their consideration and adopted as part of their Work Plan.

At the III Meeting of Ministers or the Highest-Ranking Authorities Responsible for the Advancement of Women in the Member States (REMIM-III) in November 2008, authorities presented specific recommendations to the Summit process, including specific text to carry out a review of the language of the Fifth Summit document and to integrate the gender perspective as a cross-cutting theme in Summit language. In follow-up to these recommendations, CIM and the Summits of the Americas Secretariat carried out a Virtual Gender Forum through the Summits Virtual Platform (SVP) in order to address, discuss and make recommendations on how to incorporate a gender perspective throughout the text of the Draft Declaration of Commitment of Port of Spain.

#### **II. e: Indigenous Rights**

Various initiatives aimed at supporting Member States to protect the cultural, political and economic rights of indigenous peoples have been carried out by the OAS/GS in response to the commitments made in Mar del Plata. The IACHR through its Rapporteurship on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples promotes stronger po-

## Various initiatives aimed at supporting Member States to protect the cultural, political and economic rights of indigenous peoples have been carried out by the OAS/GS in response to the commitments made in Mar del Plata.

litical participation and representation of indigenous peoples as well as a higher respect for their own traditional forms of social and political organization. Likewise, through its system of cases and petitions, the Commission has affirmed the right of prior consultation to indigenous peoples in matters that affect them or their territory.

The Working Group to Prepare the Draft American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples of the OAS Permanent Council Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs convened meetings that helped consolidate sections of the Draft Declaration related to the cultural identity, including systems of knowledge, language, communication, spirituality and health; organizational and political rights; as well as social, economic and property rights of indigenous peoples. These meetings also allowed representatives of Member States and indigenous peoples to devise new strategies for strengthening the negotiation process.

### II. f: Trafficking in Persons

The OAS/GS helped organize the Meeting of National Authorities on Trafficking in Persons in Venezuela, which was the first hemispheric forum where Member States met to deal with issues related to trafficking in persons. It specifically focused on the prevention and punishment of traffickers, the protection of and assistance to victims, the sharing of information and experiences and on international cooperation.

### III. Security

The OAS/GS endeavors to support Member States in their commitments made in Mar del

Plata to assure security for the peoples of the Americas by promoting hemispheric responses to public security, struggling against drug trafficking, facilitating disaster management, as well as contributing to the fight against terrorism.

### III. a: Hemispheric Responses to Public Security

To confront the public security threats that continue to wreak havoc on the societies of the Americas, the OAS/GS coordinated the first inter-American regional meeting of ministers responsible for public security in October 2008 in Mexico City. This initiative brought together security ministers for a comprehensive multilateral policy dialogue which enabled them to share experiences and to develop an integral approach to transnational crime.

The OAS/GS continues to provide legal advice and technical services to the Meeting of Ministers of Justice or other Ministers or Attorneys General of the Americas (REMJA) process. Since Mar del Plata, the sixth and seventh meetings of REMJA have been held, which resulted in the “Document of Washington”, which now governs the REMJA process and further strengthens the efforts to promote mutual legal and juridical cooperation in criminal matters at the hemispheric level. The REMJA process has resulted in several successful processes in this regard, in particular: the establishment of the Justice Studies Center of the Americas (JSCA); the development of mechanisms for hands-on cooperation; the initiative to draw up and adopt a hemispheric plan of action against transnational organized crime; and the forging of other agreements expressed in the recommendations of the framework of REMJA.



### **III. b: Struggle Against Illicit Drugs**

As requested at the Fourth Summit, the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) of the OAS/GS has fostered substance-abuse prevention through the implementation of the School-based Substance Abuse Prevention program and the Culture of Lawfulness program. These programs encourage governments to include prevention programs as an integral part of school curriculums. In addition, the Inter-American Observatory on Drugs (OID), CICAD's scientific research and statistical branch, continues to implement cost studies to assist countries to assess the magnitude of the problem within their borders. The OAS/GS financed the training of field technicians in this area and published a manual of best practices that present recommendations on organizing community-based work to tackle drug related problems. The OAS/GS also concentrated on broadening the use of a remote, imaging-based information system that permits governments to identify the actual use of land for both licit and illicit crops and determine those crops that can best substitute coca and poppy.

### **III. c: Disaster Management**

The OAS Natural Hazard Risk Reduction Program (NHRRP) continues to provide technical advice on matters related to natural disaster reduction and risk management. Since Mar del Plata, the OAS has convened the First Meeting of the Inter-American Committee for Natural Disasters Reduction (IACNDR) and has provided technical support to the Committee on Hemispheric Security (CHS). The OAS/GS continued implementing the Inter-American Network for Disaster Mitigation (INDM) by developing a Web portal and an on-line Dynamic Institu-

tional Mapping Tool, complemented by several forums on natural disaster-mitigation topics. The Network membership has increased with the participation of experts from IDB, PAHO, PADF and other relevant organizations of the Inter-American and UN Systems. The OAS/GS has also prepared needs assessments in the Andean Community, and has collaborated with the International Federation of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in the execution of the International Disaster Response, Laws, Rules and Principles Programme (IDRL) in the Americas. In addition, the OAS/GS collaborated with the World Bank in efforts to establish the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility (CCRIF).

### **III. d: Fight Against Terrorism**

The OAS' Secretariat of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE) coordinates efforts to protect citizens of Member States from the effects of terrorism. CICTE has the responsibility to support Member States in their regular and preparatory meetings, offer technical assistance and capacity-building programs, and promote coordination and cooperation among Member States as well as with multilateral and international organizations to prevent, combat and eliminate terrorism. In coordination with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), CICTE has supported ministerial meetings for the Caribbean on Counter Terrorism and Transnational Organized Crime Legislation. As a result, Member State have received technical assistance both to advance the process of ratification and implementation of universal legal instruments against terrorism, as well as to review their counter terrorism legislation in order to adjust it to their commitments under the Inter-American convention



To confront the public security threats that continue to wreak havoc on the societies of the Americas, the OAS/GS coordinated the first inter-American regional meeting of ministers responsible for public security.

against Terrorism, the international counter terrorism conventions of the United Nations, and the resolutions of the United Nations Security Council. CICTE has also provided training in many key areas of the fight against terrorism, including: legislative courses for prosecutors, judges, and law enforcement officials; extradition of terrorists and mutual legal assistance; terrorism financing; cyber-security crime; detection of fraudulent travel documents; airport security, tourism security; and weapons of mass destruction.

#### **IV. Development**

The Fourth Summit addressed the development needs of the Americas in a number of key areas, including growth with employment, sustainable development, education labor, culture, science and technology and social development. The OAS/GS, through its technical units and specialized agencies, was able to support governments in meeting these commitments.

##### **IV. a: Growth with Employment**

The OAS/GS carried out more than 75 initiatives designed to strengthen the capacities of countries to take advantage of the opportunities and manage the challenges arising from trade agreements and integration processes. OAS/GS-sponsored programs, conducted in partnership with over 60 international organizations, governmental and non-governmental entities, directly benefited more than 2500 government officials, small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and representatives from civil society. The OAS/GS promotes flexible networks and programs on specific trade issues to facilitate the exchange of best practices, institutionalize

dialogue, and promote mutual learning and cooperation. The OAS/GS supports countries' efforts to enhance their competitiveness and projects to promote the inclusion of SMEs, poor and disadvantaged groups in the benefits of trade. The OAS/GS conducted a number of training initiatives in Central America and the Andean region to promote small producers' participation in export supply chains. The OAS/GS also supported the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) efforts to facilitate and promote investment.

Recognizing the role that the private sector plays as a source of growth and employment, the OAS/GS has institutionalized a relationship with this sector by organizing the OAS Private Sector Forum that meets before the General Assembly and the Summit of the Americas, with the objective of promoting dialogue between the public and private sectors, as well as concrete initiatives linked with the integral development agenda of the Hemisphere. As part of the initiatives associated with the OAS Private Sector Forum, the OAS/GS initiated a program on public-private partnerships (PPP) for work force development, including ten studies of successful PPP experiences in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The OAS Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI), has developed a joint plan with several organizations to promote a multi-phased, multi-year and multi-million dollar awareness, education, outreach, training, technical assistance and infrastructure-building project on Corporate Social Responsibility in Latin America and the Caribbean. These efforts have resulted in the initiation of a regional CSR project with Forum EMPRESA, a network to promote and spread CSR practices in the Americas.

Lastly, the OAS, through the Young Americas Business Trust (YABT), implemented the Young Entrepreneur Leadership Network to connect young leaders and entrepreneurs in a regional communications and collaboration network, engage them in the policy processes of the OAS and the Inter-American System, and to prepare the next generation of business leaders to be socially conscious citizens of the community. YABT also developed a web portal for entrepreneurial networking and information (ybiz.net), which provides information about entrepreneurial initiatives, and customized national information about aspects of starting a business in OAS Member States, including legal and regulatory information and information resources. Finally, through its Business Labs model, YABT provides cross-cutting entrepreneurial skills training throughout the Americas.

#### **IV. b: Sustainable Development**

The OAS/GS responded to the call at Mar del Plata to provide support to the Ministerial process as well as cooperation on renewable and efficient energy sources by providing key technical support to the First Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities on Sustainable Development in December 2006, in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, and through the implementation of multiple programs to assist Member States in the development and use of sustainable energy technologies and services. These programs, under the programmatic title of Renewable Energy in the Americas (REIA), include services to support policy and regulatory reform, capacity building, energy resource assessments, and project planning/feasibility studies. In addition, the Organization is working to provide sustainable energy policy assistance through its leadership role as regional

technical secretariat of the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership (REEEP). This activity resulted in energy policy reviews and assistance to countries in the development of policy measures.

The OAS/GS, through the Department of Sustainable Development also supports Member States in their efforts to improve the management, conservation, and sustainable use of water resources, including the promotion of water governance, assistance in the development of policies, laws and regulations for integrated water resource management, capacity building in regional, national and local institutions, and promotion of the exchange of information through the Inter-American Water Resources Network. In addition, the OAS/GS collaborates with various global agencies, including the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the World Bank, and the Global Environment Facility (GEF), to act as a regional executing agency for water resource management projects in trans-boundary, multi-country river basins of Central and South America. Lastly, to support Leaders' commitment to coordinate international efforts in support of sustainable development policies, the OAS/GS works with Member States to implement the Inter-American Program for Sustainable Development.

#### **IV. c: Education**

To promote lifelong technical and professional learning to Member State citizens and permanent residents, the OAS/GS has awarded 700-1000 professional development scholarships per year and has continued to partner with institutions to continue providing professional development scholarships. The OAS/GS has also provided interest-free loans to Latin

## The OAS/GS carried out more than 75 initiatives designed to strengthen the capacities of countries to take advantage of the opportunities and manage the challenges arising from trade agreements and integration processes.

America and Caribbean individuals for higher studies in the United States, which has allowed individuals, researchers, and scholars to pursue advanced training, research, or technical certificates in institutions in the United States. The OAS/GS further promoted professional development and capacity building opportunities through distance education, information and training courses via the Educational Portal of the Americas and its online Virtual Classroom. By means of the Portal, an average of 2,600 people in the Americas is trained every year.

The OAS, through the Inter-American Committee on Education (CIE) along with partners in the Mexican Secretariat of Public Education (SEP), the UNESCO and the Regional Bureau for Education in Latin American and the Caribbean (OREALC), supports the Regional Education Indicators Project (PRIE). The PRIE was created to monitor the progress made by OAS Member States toward achieving the education goals of the Summits of the Americas by promoting analysis, dissemination, and use in decision-making of the information produced by PRIE. The project also has contributed to strengthening the capacity of national governments to collect, analyze, and report accurate and timely education statistics by provided technical assistance through diagnostic missions to member states and technical workshops at the sub-regional level. To further promote access to quality education, the CIE/OAS launched the Inter American Teacher Educators Network (ITEN) in 2006 to create a virtual space for horizontal cooperation and the sharing of knowledge and experience among Member States, augmented in 2009 by the piloting of online courses for teacher educators on how to successfully integrate information and communications technologies into instruction.

The OAS/GS also has supported the commitments made by Ministers at their Fourth Meeting in Scarborough and reiterated at Mar del Plata by launching and implementing the Inter-American Program on Education for Democratic Values and Practices. This Program includes activities in the areas of research, professional development, and exchange of experiences and information. Results include the design and delivery of online courses, a report on Member State policies in the area of citizenship education; a web portal and online bulletins, an online, trilingual academic journal (The Inter-American Journal of Education for Democracy); a series of knowledge-sharing seminars on good practices in citizenship education; and a Young Scholars program.

To support Summit mandates on overall strengthening of the quality and equity of education in the region, and to help achieve the Ministers' commitment at their Fifth Meeting in Cartagena, the OAS/GS has supported research, policy development, technical assistance, and project execution in the critical field of early childhood education, and currently is developing a hemispheric communications strategy to help mobilize awareness and political will.

In response to the mandate to advance studies on promoting literacy, the CIE strategized to strengthen the actions that Member States have already developed with other international organizations. As such, the OAS/GS supported and participated in a major regional conference organized by UNESCO, in cooperation with the National Institute of Adult Education (INEA) of Mexico, on literacy and adult education in September 2008. In addition, the OAS/GS commissioned a study on the state of the art in literacy and adult education in the Caribbean, which was presented at this regional meeting and made available to Caribbean delegations.



In promoting the use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) for enhancing educational opportunities called for at the Fourth Summit, the OAS/GS is strengthening links with networks and mechanisms to promote the use of ICT to not only build teacher capacity, but also to promote the use of ICT in the classroom. In addition, the OAS/GS has developed and delivered distance courses for educators focusing on the Inter-American Democratic Charter, the teaching of democratic values and practices, and the evaluation of citizenship education programs.

Lastly, the OAS affiliated Trust of the Americas has implemented the Partnership in Opportunities for Employment through Technology in the Americas (POETA) program to promote the rights of people with disabilities through the creation of technology training centers that foster social and economic inclusion for the disabled in the Western Hemisphere. The program has resulted in a network of more than 40 technology training centers for people with disabilities in the Western Hemisphere and more than 10,000 people with disabilities trained a year.

#### **IV. d: Social Development**

From the outset of negotiations in 2005, the OAS/GS has provided technical support to the policymaking bodies of the Working Group negotiating the Social Charter of the Americas and its Plan of Action. In addition, the OAS' Department of Social Development and Employment (DDSE/SEDI) serves as Technical Secretariat to the Social Network for Latin America and the Caribbean, which brings together social investment funds and ministries of social development in the region to promote and share

experience in poverty reduction and social development.

In response to the Summit mandate to promote a partnership for development through horizontal cooperation, the OAS/GS launched and implemented its program for "Network-based capacity building for social protection in the Caribbean". The objective of the project is to reinforce social protection strategies in the Caribbean through analysis and understanding the principles, lessons and operations of the "Puente de Chile" program. The sharing of best practices is facilitated through capacity building workshops, internships and online discussions, and the relevant and useful strategies are applied to the social protection systems.

As mandated at the Fourth Summit, the OAS/GS served as the technical secretariat in the realization of the First Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities on Social Development in Chile in July 2008. This meeting resulted in the Communiqué "Social Protection and Democratic Governance in the Americas", which instructed the Inter-American Committee on Social Development (CIDES) in the actions necessary to continue addressing the social development challenges of the Hemisphere for 2008-2010.

#### **IV. e: Labor**

The OAS/GS effectively promotes tripartite (i.e.: Government, labour and employers) dialogue at the hemispheric level through all the activities of the Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor (IACML). The meetings of the Working Groups, hemispheric workshops, and activities of the Inter-American Labor Administration Network (RIAL) - which was launched in May 2006 as the cooperation mechanism of



## The OAS/GS effectively promotes tripartite dialogue at the hemispheric level through all the activities of the Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor (IACML).

the IACML - attract attendance by governments, workers, and employers who have the opportunity to discuss the various issues, and reach consensus on issues of mutual interest. A noteworthy result of this cooperation was the establishment of the RIAL Cooperation Fund which facilitates bilateral cooperation and technical assistance among the Ministries of Labor of the region. The Activities financed by the RIAL fund have yielded very specific actions and results. To date 10 Hemispheric Workshops and more than 20 bilateral cooperation activities have taken place, including knowledge transfer on Occupational Safety and Health and Decent Work, Youth Employment, Public Employment Services and Labor Migration, among other priority issues of labor administration. At the end of 2008, the RIAL had trained more than 400 officials of labor ministries, and 50 representatives of employers' organizations and unions, involving 15 international agencies and more than 20 research centers and NGOs.

In the Plan of Action of the Fourth Summit of the Americas, Leaders specifically pledged to strengthen representation and encourage the participation of labor unions and employer organizations in the formulation and implementation of national policies for the promotion of decent work. As such, the OAS, through the Trust of the Americas, has implemented *the Promotion of Labor Rights in the CAFTA-DR Countries*, which fosters the promotion of a culture of compliance with labor rights for employers, workers and civil society. This is achieved through a series of training seminars to build the capacity of local civil society, union and employer leaders.

### IV. f: Culture

The OAS/GS has carried out activities in the thematic priorities called for at the Fourth Summit and approved by the Ministers and Highest Appropriate Authorities in Culture at their Third Meeting in 2006. These efforts included the exchange of programs and experiences through sub-regional workshops on preservation of cultural heritage, cultural information systems, and cultural diversity; a special meeting of Ministers and high officials of culture and justice of Central America to examine programs based in the arts and culture to prevent violence; as well as a seminar, co-hosted by the OAS, IDB, and GFDD on "Culture as an Engine of Economic Growth and Social Inclusion in the Americas." The OAS/GS also supported the Inter-American Committee on Culture (CIC) in drafting a "Plan of Action for Enhanced Cultural Cooperation in the Americas (2007-2009)", and the related CIC Work Plan, to give a more strategic focus to CIC activities and to expand regional cooperation on the topic of culture. Finally, the OAS/GS has carried out innovative initiatives such as the 2008 Ignite the Americas youth arts policy forum to promote social inclusion and economic opportunity through culture and the arts.

### IV. g: Support to the Summits of the Americas Process

The OAS/GS, through the Summits of the Americas Secretariat (SAS), has provided technical support to all meetings of the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG) held in follow-up to the mandates emanating from the Fourth SOA, and in preparation for the Fifth Summit. In support of the Member States in the implementation of the Fourth Summit commitments, and in its capacity as the institutional memory



of the Summits Process, the SAS has coordinated the collection of reports and production of publications on the progress made towards the commitments made in the framework of the Summit process. The SAS also continued to serve as the coordinator of the Joint Summit Working Group (JSWG), and as such, facilitated the Group's technical contributions to the Summit follow-up, implementation and preparation. The SAS, with support from IDRC/ICA, developed the Summit of the Americas Virtual Platform in order to use ICTs to complement and enhance the face-to-face consensus-building activities of the SOA process. The implementation of this virtual platform has allowed for increased participation by social actors in the dialogue and consideration of the Fifth Summit themes and key document.

### **The Fifth Summit of the Americas**

The OAS derives its direction in promoting and strengthening Inter-American cooperation in the areas of Democracy, Human Rights, Security and Development from the Summits' process. As such, the Organization affirms its dedication to the implementation and follow-up of the mandates being outlined in the Declaration of Commitment of Port of Spain "Securing Our Citizens Future through Human Prosperity, Energy Security, and Environmental Sustainability".

The OAS/GS joins the Heads of State and Government in reaffirming commitment to the principles and values of the OAS and Inter-American Democratic Charters, and will support them in efforts to build stronger democratic institutions and strengthen governance, preserve the rule of law and ensure access to justice for all citizens, as well as to strengthen electoral processes in the Hemisphere. As outlined in the

Summit Declarations, the OAS/GS will work to achieve broader civic participation via the RIAD, engage civil society in OAS activities, and continue implementation of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption. In addition, the OAS/GS will continue to provide technical support whenever requested by Member States and/or the Secretary General.

The OAS/GS will persist in efforts to protect and promote human rights and fundamental freedoms by working with Member States to strengthen the Inter-American System of Human Rights. In particular, the OAS/GS will work to further the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities, support the negotiations on the draft Inter-American Convention Against Racism and All Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance, as well as the negotiations on the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. In terms of gender, the OAS/GS will work to assist in the production of regional studies on gender equality and equity, and will contribute to the Mechanism to Follow Up on the Implementation of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence Against Women.

The OAS/GS will work with Member States in their efforts to prevent and combat violence, crime, and terrorism, assist in the fight against the global drug problem, as well as strengthen cooperation in the areas of disaster risk reduction and management. Through the Fifth Summit, the Organization joins countries in their renewed commitment to the Declaration on Security in the Americas, as well as the October 2008 Commitment to Public Security in the Americas. In addition, the OAS/GS underscores its will to assist in the implementation of and reporting on the commitments emanating from REMJA, the Meetings of Ministers Responsible

for Public Security in the Americas (MISPA), as well as the 2006 Hemispheric Plan of Action Against Transnational Organized Crime. The OAS/GS will also collaborate with Member States to promote inter-American cooperation in dealing with criminal gangs. CICAD will further its work to help decrease drug abuse and illicit drug use and will support the implementation of the recommendations of the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM). Lastly, the OAS/GS joins countries in their commitment to improve cooperation and capacities for disaster reduction, prevention, preparedness and response.

The OAS/GS joins the leaders of the Member States in their call to promote sustainable development and social inclusion through the Inter-American System. As such, the OAS/GS will provide support to the organization of the Second Meeting of Ministers and High Level Authorities of Social Development (Colombia, 2010) and the Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labour (Argentina, 2009). The OAS/GS will support countries in providing access to quality education and to measure student-learning outcomes through the Regional Educational Indicators Project (PRIE). Work will also proceed to support the commitments of the Declaration of Medellin on Youth and Democratic Values and to promote inter-cultural dialogue and respect for cultural diversity. The OAS/GS supports Member States in their commitment to sustainable development, particularly the Inter-

American Program for Sustainable Development (IAPSD). In addition, the Organization will support cooperation, and the exchange of information and best practices in the implementation of regional energy and biodiversity efforts, as well as strengthening institutional capacity in the conservation and management of natural resources and the promotion of environmental sustainability.

The OAS/GS plays a key role in supporting Member States and institutional partners of the JSWG to implement and report on the commitments made in the framework of the SOA process. As such, the OAS/GS will heed the call for support issued by Leaders to strengthen the Summit process. In particular, as the technical secretariat for 80% of the Inter-American Ministerial meetings, the OAS/GS will strive to inform Ministers and High Level Authorities of the commitments made at the Fifth Summit that require action via the Inter-American Ministerial process. In addition, the OAS/GS will work, along with the relevant institutions, to report annually on the progress made at inter-American Ministerial Meetings towards implementing Summit objectives. Lastly, the OAS/GS will work with the institutions of the JSWG to plan projects and programs to implement the commitments of the Fifth Summit, and continue to involve social actors in the Summit process through both traditional face-to-face encounters, as well as through the use of ICT applications.





# Inter American Development Bank

## IDB

The IDB renews its commitment and is ready to support the region in addressing the short- and long-term effects of the financial crisis.

The IDB has just redefined its institutional priorities, which are well aligned with the mandates issued in the recent history of the hemispheric Summits.



# The IDB and the Summit of the Americas Mandates From Mar de Plata to Port of Spain

## Introduction

The global financial crisis has major implications for Latin America and the Caribbean. Its effects are being transmitted to the region via three main channels: (I) deceleration in world growth rates; (II) declines in raw material prices; and (III) reduced access to credit and international financing.

In response to the crisis, in October 2008, the Board of Executive Directors approved the Liquidity Program for Growth Sustainability. Its objective is to provide the liquidity required by the region to address the current credit crunch, thereby mitigating the impact of the crisis on the growth of the region's economies.

In the short term, the financial crisis will unquestionably affect the quality of life in the countries owing to its impact on economic activity and, hence, on employment and poverty. In turn, the current instability underscores the need for sustainable social and economic growth to be consolidated by means of public policies that promote large-scale quality investments in the region's social and physical infrastructure.

The mandates of the Fourth and Fifth Summits reflect the need to continue implementing reforms and adjustments required to ensure sus-

tainable growth with social inclusion and social equity. At the same time, the IDB has just redefined its institutional priorities, which are well aligned with the mandates issued in the recent history of the hemispheric Summits. Accordingly, the Bank renews its commitment and is ready to support the region in addressing the short- and long-term effects of the financial crisis.

## The IDB and the mandates of the Summits of Mar de Plata and Port of Spain

### 1. Social policy promoting equity and productivity

Both Summits have emphasized the interrelationship between sustainable development and poverty reduction. In recent years, the region's social indicators have continued to improve, closing the gap with the developed countries. Economic growth has been accompanied by poverty reduction. According to ECLAC estimates, in the 2005 to 2007 period, poverty rates declined from 40% to 15%, and extreme poverty from 35% to 13% of the population. However, most of poverty reduction in the past five years resulted from lower rates of extreme poverty, whereas the number of "structurally poor" individuals remained high.

The Bank supports conditional cash transfer programs, whose primary objective is to invest in human capital to break the intergenerational cycle of poverty. The feature shared by CCT programs is the transfer of funds for heads of household, targeted at specific child health care and/or education

programs, focusing especially on children under age 5 and on pregnant women. Such programs can serve as safety nets for the structurally poor (the hard to reduce core group). The IDB has provided substantial support for CCT programs: a total of US\$4.5 billion in the 2000 to 2005 pe-

## Investment in human capital in Latin America and the Caribbean is not only a social imperative, but also a strategic decision for the region's development. One pillar of this strategy is the education to job market transition.

One of the IDB's priority action lines is to provide support to countries in the monitoring and evaluation of social policies and programs to improve their effectiveness.

Progress was made in reducing extreme poverty not only as a result of economic growth, but also of the implementation of innovative social programs, such as conditional cash transfers.

### **2. Quality of education and employment: determinants of the region's economic competitiveness**

Marks earned on international examinations indicate that Latin American students are behind not only those of OECD member countries, but also those of most of the developing world. Such low educational performance has had a marked impact on the region's economic competitiveness. In other words, investment in human capital in Latin America and the Caribbean is not only a social imperative, but also a strategic decision for the region's development. One pillar of this strategy is the education to job market transition.

Job creation will remain one of the region's main economic and social challenges in the next decade. Another challenge will be to identify priorities and focus national attention on how best to achieve growth, given that job creation cannot be achieved with a single public policy or program. Restoration of productivity also plays a crucial part in promoting investments that create new jobs.

In recent years, the Inter-American Development Bank has invested nearly US\$6 billion to support job market programs and on business and private sector development with the aim

of improving job prospects in the region. This implies not only large-scale lending, but also the financing of demonstration projects to be used to test innovative methods, introduce new development approaches, and create broad-based support for the changes needed. The IDB's emerging areas of support include initiatives related to the job market and education, business development and competitiveness, and institutional development.

Support and job training program in Mexico. Through the Department of Labor and Social Security, the Government of Mexico has pioneered the implementation of proactive job market policies in Latin American and the Caribbean. Since 1997, the IDB has supported Mexico in these efforts, first through the labor market modernization program, and then with multi-stage training and the employment promotion program. Phase I was implemented from 2002 to 2006 and in late 2007, the Bank approved US\$100 million for Phase II (employment promotion program).

The financial crisis is posing new challenges in better job creation and improving labour conditions in the region. Heavy impact is expected on unemployment in formal sector jobs associated with the export and trade sectors, such as tourism. The IDB proposes expanding its support to the labor and social sectors to address the crisis and implement instruments through additional focus on the region's medium-term competitiveness. This includes the use of on-the-job training to help retain jobs in the short-term, initiating improvements in labor brokerage systems, providing training in companies and pension systems, and the use of temporary



employment programs only cases of stark deterioration in social conditions. The IDB Group has many comparative advantages that make it a partner committed to development, capable of providing its support for policies and programs to create new jobs in the region.

### **3. Organizations promoting growth and well-being**

Sustainable development with equity requires more than investment in human capital and material, since the existence of sound and effective institutions is also a determining factor. The relationship between organizations and development is expressed through different interconnections, among them the provision of a legislative framework that supports market operation, the creation of a stable macroeconomic environment, and the predictability and certainty of the legal sphere. There is much evidence that countries that have benefited most from economic reforms are the ones that have made most progress in implementing successful institutional reforms. Although progress has been made, it remains uneven, and many of the region's countries still have deficient institutions, both national and subnational.

In Accra, the international community renewed its commitment to strengthen and use country-based systems, especially those related to the areas constituting the very essence of the results-based management agenda, i.e., the financial, budgetary, and procurement areas. The Bank has a sound history of capacity-building in these areas. One example is the budgetary process, wherein effective interaction among the executive and legislative branches of government requires broad access to information and institutions that oversee the fulfillment of

responsibilities, since socially destructive conduct has been noted.

Since 1990, subnational governments, as IDB project executing agencies, co-executing agencies, or direct borrowers have received some 30% of the Bank's portfolio, equivalent to some US\$30 billion. In the last five years, this percentage has risen and is now ranges from 35 to 40%.

The Bank offers different financial and technical assistance instruments to support subnational governments and local economic development. Among the most recent are non-sovereign guaranteed loans, local currency loans, and different types of guarantees and certification to support access by subnational governments to capital markets. The IDB coordinates with finance ministries and subnational governments to maintain the fiscal discipline and macroeconomic stability achieved in the region, as well as supporting national and local programs to improve fiscal policy, public investment, financial

In Brazil, the IDB has approved the ProCities program, which is a lending mechanism to provide financing for integral development programs in Brazilian municipalities, with a local currency credit line equal to US\$860 million. Additionally, a US\$72 million loan to Argentina to build the management capacity of municipal governments is an innovative program for coordinated action among the three levels of government (federal, provincial, and municipal), emphasizing municipal management problems, especially those related to the development of information technologies to improve services to the public. .



The Bank has acquired a decisive presence in the area of environmental protection, sustainable energy, and climate change, supporting the countries in facing challenges, linking policies and building the institutional capacity to implement them.

management, results-based management, and urban planning and development. These Bank programs to support subnational governments seek to support them in achieving institutional maturity so that they can serve their constituencies effectively and efficiently, access financial markets, and create private sector investment opportunities.

#### **4. Environmental protection and adaptation to climate change**

The countries of Latin America and the Caribbean are faced with rising demand for energy at times of price instability and concerns regarding the reliability of supplies. Demand in the region is expected to rise by some 75% between 2009 and 2030, which will create room for heavy investment so that more important sources of renewable energy become available. Ensuring access to reliable and affordable energy sources is the focus of the region's development agenda. Additionally, the uncontrolled impacts of climate change threaten to undermine the region's economic and social well-being and to exacerbate its vulnerability to the adverse effects of climate change from which natural disasters, damage to agriculture, and loss of biodiversity ensue.

The Bank has acquired a decisive presence in the area of environmental protection, sustainable energy, and climate change, supporting the countries in facing challenges, linking policies and building the institutional capacity to implement them. The IDB created the Sustainable Energy and Climate Change Initiative (SECCI) to identify economically and environmentally viable alternative energy sources. The SECCI's objective is to mobilize resources with the aim of achieving the following outcomes: (I)

increased investment in the region in renewable energy, energy efficiency, and bio-fuels; (II) a larger portfolio of sustainable energy projects in the IDB; and (III) greater attention to adaptation to climate change and protection of investments from the impact of climate change.

From the outset, the Initiative received major support from the member countries of the region, which may be seen from the large number of applications and requests for resources it received. Thus far, the Initiative has two funds to provide its financing, the IDB SECCI Fund and the Multidonor SECCI Fund. The activities financed by these Funds complement the Bank's conventional investments in energy operations in the region for the formulation of renewable energy and energy efficient projects and programs that are sensitive to economic and social needs and contribute to the region's energy and environmental sustainability. SECCI has emphasized the transversalization of its activities, thus achieving major synergies with the Energy Division, Water and Sanitation Division, Transport Division, Rural Development and Disaster Risk Management Division, and Private Sector Division. By 2009, SECCI will provide more in-depth support in other areas of high importance to LAC, including health and poverty reduction.

**Program loans** As a result of the interest on the part of many countries of the region in carrying out SECCI activities in an integral and multisectoral manner, since 2008, the possibility has been explored of making program loans that provide a package of activities emanating from SECCI. Countries such as Mexico, Peru, and Colombia have indicated their interest and, in the case of Mexico, a schedule of activities is now available.





The Millennium Development Goals (MDG) propose a 50% reduction between 2000 and 2015 in the number of persons without access to water and sanitation. In Latin America, achieving this goal means extending access to water to 40 million people, and sanitation services to 60 million. The region must make a special effort to achieve this objective by 2015, with additional investments of some US\$30 billion in the water and sanitation sector.

In 2007, the Bank created the Water and Sanitation Initiative, which put this sector on the Bank's strategic agenda. It offers a series of new tools and flexible financing for the achievement of this objective. It defines strategic lines, a series of special financial targets and products to support solutions adapted to each country's needs. In the 2007-2011 period, the Initiative will emphasize four programs: (a) the 100 Cities Program is designed to facilitate the financing of investments and technical assistance in cities of Latin America and the Caribbean with populations of over 50,000, assigning priority to the poorest communities; (b) the rural community program, which will provide support to communities willing to take their own organizational, technical, and financial decisions and operate their own water and sanitation systems; (c) the Water Defenders program which, bearing in mind the vital importance of protecting water sources and treating water and wastewater treatment, will provide technical assistance and

financing for the protection of 20 priority micro-watersheds; and (d) the efficient and transparent firms program, whose objective is to improve the performance of water and sanitation companies and promote transparency in their management, creating confidence between their users and financial agents. The IDB will provide financing for programs to strengthen company management and will develop a system to measure and certify their performance.

### **Conclusion**

To meet the needs of the region, the realigned IDB has been seeking a close relationship with the countries. This has made possible more effective implementation of the Summit mandates as a result of its close association with the countries and the decentralization to the Bank's Country Offices, combining the action of public sector and private sector stakeholders while promoting and expanding the part played by philanthropy in the region.

Through technical assistance and financing in the priority areas and lines of action, the IDB will continue supporting the Summits of the Americas mandates at the national and regional levels and will also continue to contribute as a partner to the work of the Joint Summits Working Group, together with the other member organizations.





UNITED NATIONS

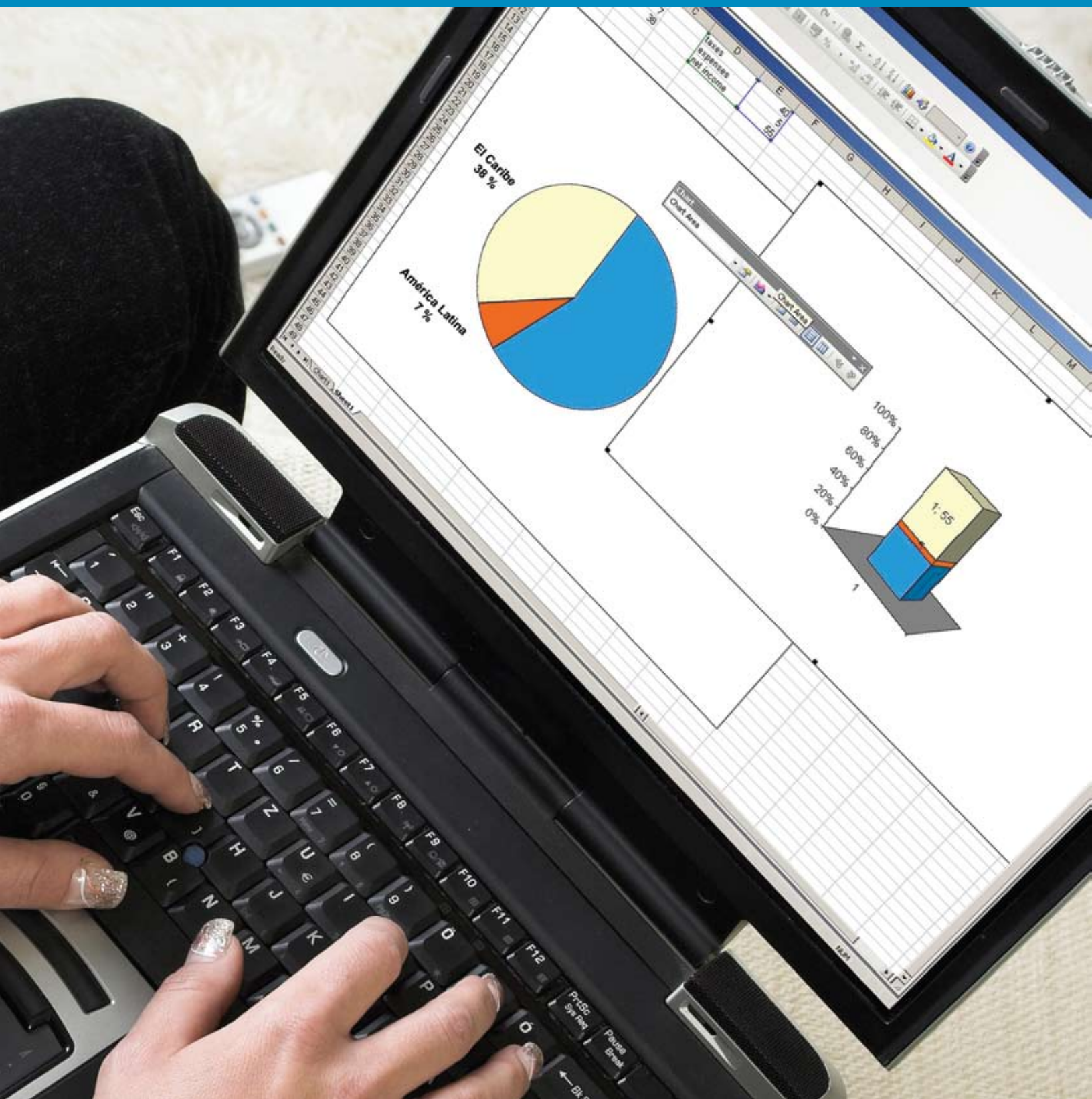


# **Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean**

## **ECLAC**

ECLAC has continued monitoring economic developments and providing reliable and comparable data and specialized information on the national economies and the region as a whole.

ECLAC contributed to regional integration and macroeconomic policy coordination by fostering networking activities and sharing best practices.



# ECLAC Contribution

## From Mar del Plata to Port of Spain

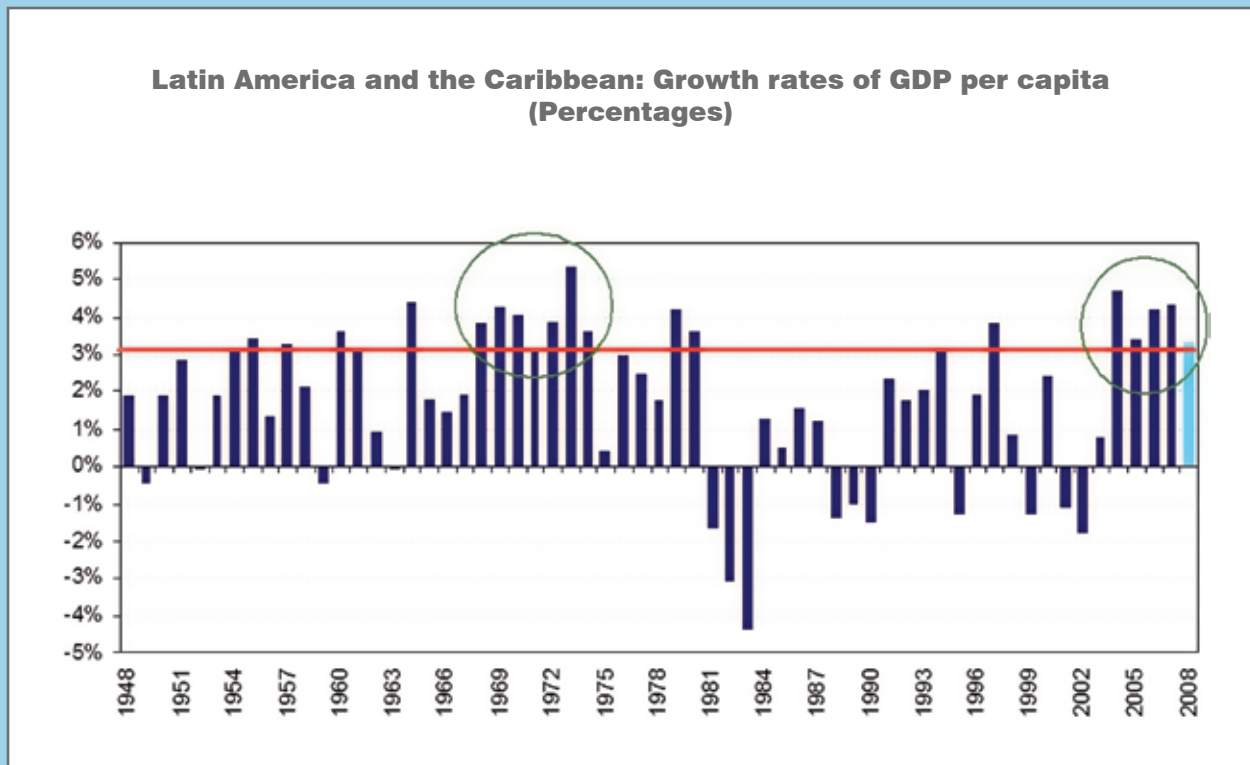
### The Regional Context

With annual economic growth for Latin America and the Caribbean being projected at 4.6%, 2008 will mark both the sixth consecutive year of growth and the end of a period which has very few precedents in the economic history of the region. Between 2003 and 2008, regional GDP growth averaged nearly 5% per year, with per capita GDP increasing by over 3% per annum. This growth was coupled with improvements in

labor-market indicators and a reduction in poverty in the region. One of the most outstanding features of this period has been the fact that, in most of the countries, policymakers have placed priority on maintaining macroeconomic balances, which has helped generate surpluses in both their external and their fiscal accounts. The highly favorable external economic environment of the last few years has been another contributing factor.

**In the period 2003-2008, the average growth rate of GDP per capita in Latin America and the Caribbean will be over 3% per year**

**There has not been a similar period in terms of economic growth in 40 years**



...public policymakers will face the double challenge of implementing countercyclical measures to stabilize economic growth and of developing instruments to shield the most vulnerable sectors of the population from the effects of the crisis.

These results will not be repeated in 2009, however. Growth projections for 2009 are much lower than for the period that is now coming to a close. The growth rate for Latin America and the Caribbean is projected to be 1.9% in 2009 based on a relatively optimistic scenario with regard to the path that the present crisis will take in the future.

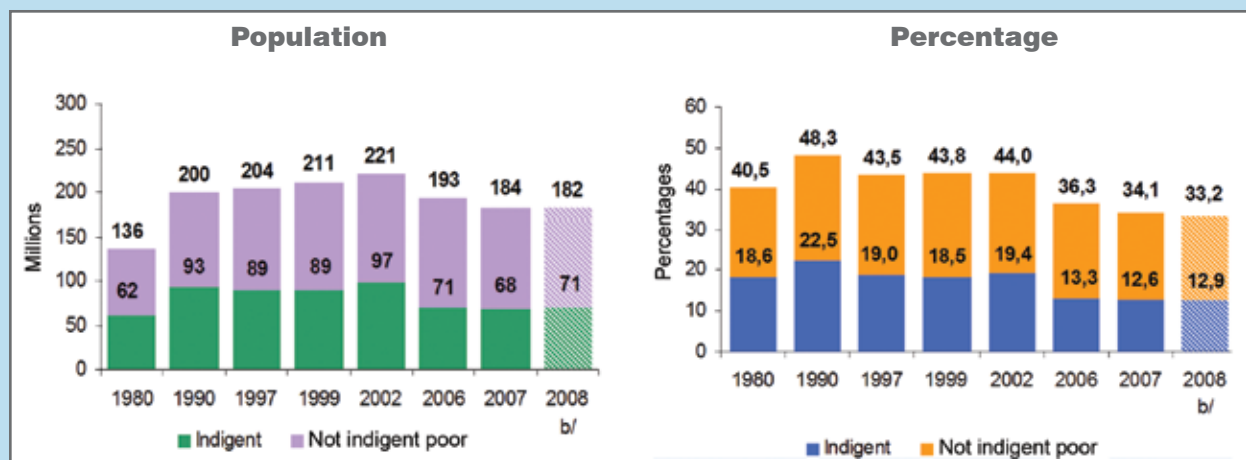
In just slightly more than a year's time, what had started out as a problem in the sub-prime mortgage market in mid-2007 turned into a systemic crisis that crippled the credit markets of the developed countries. This will undoubtedly have an extremely negative impact on the real economy; although, it is still too soon to accurately gauge the full impact of the crisis.

Although the region is better prepared than before to handle a crisis, there are a number of channels through which its effects are likely to be transmitted to the economies of Latin

America and the Caribbean. First, the global slowdown will drive down export volumes and prices, remittances, foreign direct investment and the demand for tourism services. In addition, external financing will be more expensive and will be more difficult to obtain for the countries of the region.

The deterioration of labor-market indicators and the decline in remittances will have a negative impact on income distribution in the region. Under current circumstances, this means that public policymakers will face the double challenge of implementing countercyclical measures to stabilize economic growth and of developing instruments to shield the most vulnerable sectors of the population from the effects of the crisis. The fiscal resources available to each country for use in financing these types of policy actions differ considerably, although public finances in general will come under greater pressure, given the expected decrease in fiscal revenues.

### América Latina: Evolución de la pobreza y de la indigencia, 1980 - 2008 a/



Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the basis of special tabulations of data from household surveys conducted in the relevant countries.

a/ Estimate for 19 countries of the region, including Haiti. The figures above the bars are the percentage and total number of poor persons (indigent plus non-indigent poor).

b/ Projections.



At the Mar del Plata Summit, the Heads of State and Government of the Americas requested the collaboration of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in a number of areas. The Secretariat of the Commission is pleased to report on some of the activities carried out in support of the implementation of the Mar del Plata Declaration and Plan of Action.

### **The economic dimension**

ECLAC has continued monitoring economic developments and providing reliable and comparable data and specialized information on the national economies and the region as a whole. In this connection, ECLAC published four flagship economic reports i.e. “Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean”, “Preliminary Overview of the Economies of Latin America and the Caribbean”, “Foreign Investment in Latin America and the Caribbean” and “Latin America and the Caribbean in the World Economy.”

ECLAC contributed to regional integration and macroeconomic policy coordination by fostering networking activities and sharing best practices. Sub regional meetings (Andean Community, Central America and MERCOSUR) were attended by growing numbers of high-ranking participants who discussed key issues such as coordination of public expenditure on transport infrastructure, deepening capital markets in the region and macroeconomic convergence in the subregions.

As for productive development, technical cooperation was given to 28 stakeholders, including five countries, in the formulation of their “Innovation Development Plans” and in the development of their national systems of innova-

tion; and to four countries for the development of a methodology to establish working groups at the local level for the development of clusters and local networks of SMEs and to support institutions, and coordinate these efforts with the relevant Ministries and other institutions at the national level. ECLAC also followed up and managed the *Regional Plan of Action for the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean* (ELAC 2007).

ECLAC has actively contributed to the design and implementation of consistent macroeconomic policies by providing technical cooperation services, focusing on issues such as productivity, competitiveness and exports; fiscal decentralization; financing for local development; design of macroeconomic policies and fiscal administration. Also, ECLAC has continued providing technical cooperation in the area of negotiation and administration of trade agreements.

### **The social dimension**

ECLAC has continued collecting, harmonizing and disseminating social statistics for use by Governments in the region. In the past two years, new data from 45 countries and territories of Latin America and the Caribbean on 38 indicators for the follow-up of the Millennium Development Goals have been included in the flagship publication “Social Panorama of Latin America”, and online consultations of that document have doubled.

ECLAC has been actively working with countries in the Caribbean in the continuation of the project entitled *Improving Caribbean Household Surveys*. With the aim to improve the comparison of social statistics produced in the region





through household surveys, to date numerous seminars and training sessions have been undertaken with National Statistical Offices and Agencies from 15 Caribbean countries.

ECLAC also continued its advocacy role with respect to women's rights in the region, through its participation in high-level regional forums. One significant result is the *Quito Consensus*, adopted at the tenth session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean (August 2007). The *Consensus* expresses the region's political will to progress towards gender parity in the formulation of public policies. Technical cooperation on gender mainstreaming resulted in thirty countries updating national legislation and programs and statistical information related to gender equality, the participation of women in decision-making and their contribution to the economy and the reconciliation of productive and reproductive rights and activities. Nine countries developed a total of 14 programs to mainstream the gender perspective in priority areas of Government policy, while 11 countries established agreements and interagency networks to ensure the mainstreaming of the gender perspective into priority areas of their agendas. Lastly, 26 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean mainstreamed a gender perspective in their statistical analyses and the collection and dissemination of data.

In 2008 ECLAC and the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (UN-INSTRAW) agreed to support the establishment of an "Observatory on Gender Equity in Latin America and the Caribbean." The Observatory on equality will help strengthen national gender machineries in the region, by recognizing that "equality is one of the driving forces of democracy and that

its aim is to achieve equality in the exercise of power, in decision-making, in mechanisms of social and political participation and representation a goal for the eradication of women's structural exclusion."

The Observatory will coordinate an annual evaluation of gender inequality, covering such themes as remunerated and non-remunerated work, the use of time, poverty, access to decision-making and political representation and gender-based violence. The Observatory will offer variety of strategic tools and methodologies to track and monitor the goals established in the *Quito Consensus*.

ECLAC also raised awareness on several issues relevant to the region. First, in response to the petitions of member States involved in the *World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance*, ECLAC addressed forms of discrimination and inequalities faced by indigenous and Afro-descendent groups, and the situations of specific vulnerable populations in Latin America, through case studies and high-level discussions at regional forums. Second, ECLAC has prepared analytical publications dealing with the challenges and opportunities for development posed by migration, particularly with regard to the human rights of migrants and their families and has provided short-term advisory services and serviced several meetings. Lastly, ECLAC established the topic of ageing as an important issue in public policy and accumulating the knowledge needed for decision-making on the matter. It developed various interrelated products which are widely used by member States, international organizations and civil society.

## ECLAC continued to provide leadership in disaster assessment by disseminating its methodology and indicators for assessing the socio-economic and environmental effects of natural disasters.

### The sustainability dimension

In terms of sustainable development, ECLAC initiated various activities related to climate-change adaptation and mitigation, developing new instruments and a regulatory framework to improve institutional efficiency at national, regional and local levels. In the Caribbean, ECLAC put into operation the *Regional Coordination Mechanism for implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programmed of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States*. ECLAC continued to provide leadership in disaster assessment by disseminating its methodology and indicators for assessing the socio-economic and environmental effects of natural disasters. It organized 12 technical assistance missions in 10 countries and disseminated its methodology through 15 workshops, training 414 professionals. ECLAC also continued its work on urban analysis for sustainability in Latin America and the Caribbean, developing a methodological framework and a set of indicators useful for policy design and implementation.

Regarding natural resources and infrastructure, in coordination with the IDB, ECLAC has also facilitated the integration of energy sectors in Central America, resulting in an “Action Matrix for Central American Energy Integration and Development”, involving 64 projects in the sub region. Furthermore, ECLAC has undertaken work on the topic of bio fuels, leading to a multidivisional and inter-agency effort to respond to the expressed needs of the Member-States.

Lastly, in response to the perceived need to develop a regional strategic vision to encourage public-private partnerships for development, ECLAC prepared case studies to analyze the

experiences of countries which have successful track records in facing the challenges of globalization with relative efficiency.

### Mainstreaming the Millennium Development Goals in the work of the organization and forging strategic inter-agency alliances

Millennium Development Goals constitute the backbone of all activities of the organization. ECLAC has promoted the adoption by the countries of the region of an extended set of MDGs indicators on education, gender and environment that are more suitable to their situation, in order to monitor the accomplishment of the Millennium Development Goals in the region through the execution of a project under the United Nations Development Account entitled *Interregional cooperation to strengthen social inclusion, gender equality and health promotion in the Millennium Development Goals*.

ECLAC also forged important partnerships with 14 other United Nations agencies (UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, WFP, UNEP, PAHO, ILO, FAO, UNESCO, OHCHR, UNIFEM, OCHA, UNAIDS, and UN-Habitat) around the Millennium Development Goals, acting as a catalyst for the analytical and normative work in support of the operational activities of the United Nations System at the regional level. It coordinated the 2006 inter-agency report entitled “Women’s Contribution to Equality in Latin America and the Caribbean,” focusing on goal 3 of the MDGs (Promote gender equality and empower women). The 2007 report focuses on health-related MDGs, specifically reductions in child mortality and malnutrition, and improved maternal health.



ECLAC has supported the countries of the region in building, fortifying, and harmonizing systems of statistical information and data processing for the design, monitoring and evaluation of social and economic development policies in the region.

Finally, ECLAC coordinated the preparation of an interagency document entitled “The Millennium Development Goals and the challenges facing Latin America and the Caribbean in making progress towards higher levels of well-being, better human capital, and more equal opportunities.” The document discusses the type of problems and challenges facing the region in five areas that are either included in the Millennium Development Goals or closely related to them (poverty, child malnutrition, education, health, children and adolescents); and it makes recommendations for the region’s governments and countries in those areas.

### Statistics

The economic, social and institutional transformations in the region and beyond, the gradual shaping of new modalities of development and the growing openness of the economies of the region have generated renewed demands for statistics, in terms of their availability, coverage, quality, and comparability. In this context, ECLAC has supported the countries of the region in building, fortifying, and harmonizing systems of statistical information and data processing for the design, monitoring and evaluation of social and economic development policies in the region.

The substantive work of the Commission in this area is organized around four strategic objectives: institutional strengthening, human resources, statistical capacity-building and strengthening of international cooperation. The substantive work for each objective was conducted with member countries through working groups. This reflects the success of the secretariat in fostering technical dialogue among member States and its role as facilitator of the respective discussions. Of particular

note is the substantive support given to the Statistical Conference of the Americas, for which ECLAC acts as secretariat. At its July 2007 meeting, the Conference revised and approved the Strategic Plan 2005- 2015, which will give rise to synergies in terms of regional and international cooperation. The year 2015 was chosen as the reference for the strategic vision on the basis of the time frame associated with the Millennium Development Goals, which constitute a significant challenge for the region’s national statistical systems. National statistical offices will also need to focus on preparations for the 2010 round of censuses, the implementation of the System of National Accounts (1993 SNA) in all the countries of the region and the review scheduled for 2008. Lastly, the Conference examined issues related to the need for further institution-building in national statistical offices in terms of credibility and autonomy.

ECLAC also produced additional and complementary indicators in the light of the region’s special characteristics, and provided technical assistance in the systematization, production and analysis of information. This resulted in the strengthening of the capacity of National Statistical Offices and country teams to monitor the progress made towards the fulfillment of the Goals, and in increasing the participation of National Statistical Offices in the production of national reports.

### Looking forward

ECLAC is eager to continue working with countries of the region and the other members of the Joint Summit Working Group, advancing on the mandates set forth within the Summit of the Americas process. We look forward to continue contributing to the economic and social development of Latin American and the Caribbean.



# Pan American Health Organization

## PAHO

The Fourth Summit held in Mar del Plata, whose central theme was “Creating Jobs to Fight Poverty and Strengthen Democratic Governance,” emphasized the importance of occupational health and safety as an aspect of comprehensive public policy to ensure decent work.

In fulfillment of the mandates and commitments made, the Pan American Sanitary Office has implemented the Local Intersectoral Strategic Partnership on Occupational Health and Safety (AEIL-SSO), with collaboration from the Regional Center for Occupational Safety and Health (FUNDACERSSO) and in close cooperation with the OAS.



## From Mar del Plata to Port of Spain

Health has occupied a central place on the political agendas of the Summits of the Americas – from Miami to Mar del Plata – which addressed the region’s main problems and challenges in connection with trends in both their epidemiological profiles – by country, sub region, and population group – and in the response of health systems and health service to ensure equitable and timely access to health care of quality.

This report summarizes the main health-related mandates emerging from the Fourth Summit of the Americas, Mar del Plata (2005), and the main cooperation activities carried out by the Pan American Sanitary Office (PSO) to collaborate with member states in implementing those mandates. Based on the outcomes of the period, it sets out the main achievements, as well as the main challenges in the health area on the political agenda for the Fifth Summit of the Americas, to be held in Port of Spain (2009).

The Fourth Summit, Mar del Plata, whose central theme was **“Creating Jobs to Fight Poverty and Strengthen Democratic Governance,”** emphasized the importance of occupational health and safety as an aspect of comprehensive public policy to ensure decent work. It also established commitments to move forward in preventing and reducing workplace risk and creating and maintaining safe and healthy environmental conditions for workers; combating discrimination against and stigmatization of persons living with HIV in the workplace; and promoting partnership between the health and labor sectors through permanent dialogue with workers. In fulfillment of the mandates and commitments made, the PSO has implemented the Local Intersectoral Strategic Partnership on Occupational Health and Safety (AEIL-SSO), with collaboration from the Regional Center for Oc-

cupational Safety and Health (FUNDACERSSO) and in close cooperation with the OAS. Support is being provided for the development and implementation of the AEIL-SSO in El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Dominican Republic, as well as for the joint PAHO/WHO and ILO initiative to eradicate silicosis in the Americas by 2030. With PAHO, ILO, and FUNDACERSSO sponsorship and support from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA-Canada), three hemispheric workshops on occupational health and safety have been held – in Chile, El Salvador, and Peru; different sub regional initiatives have been analyzed on information systems and occupational health and safety indicators; and progress is being made in establishing an indicator system at the regional level. Different workshops and training courses have also been conducted on occupational health and risk control, as have educational campaigns for health promotion and protection and management of HIV/AIDS in the workplace. Notable achievements include the establishment of the Intersectoral Partnership, and more and better coordination among the health and labor sectors through better linkage of international cooperation efforts of agencies involved.

Two years prior to the Fourth Summit, the world witnessed the impact of a health problem in the context of ever-increasing globalization and interdependence, when the World Health Organization issued a global alert regarding the severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) epidemic. This reinforced the need to revise and adopt new international health regulations. At the Fourth Summit, the Heads of State and Government urged all countries to step up the process of ratifying the new International Health Regulations (IHR), which were adopted in 2005 at the World Health Assembly and entered into



## The Heads of State and Government consider health in the Hemisphere a fundamental factor in achieving ever higher levels of human prosperity and contributing to the goal of securing the future of all citizens.

force in 2007. All countries ratified them and, by late December 2007, had designated national points of contact for the IHR and their liaison at the Regional Center located at PAHO headquarters. At the regional level, a professional team and information and communication systems are in place, operating 24 hours per day, seven days a week, to receive and send information on public health events of international importance. In addition to maintaining Center operations, the PSO has a technical cooperation program to provide support to countries in evaluating and building basic capacities for surveillance and response tasks in connection with the above-mentioned events. Another event that threatened public health worldwide in this period was the avian flu epidemic and the risk of a flu pandemic. Accordingly, at the Fourth Summit, the Heads of State and Government also called on the member states to begin immediately—with PAHO support—to formulate and implement national plans to prepare for these events and to have them in place by 2006. All countries have implemented this mandate satisfactorily, thus ensuring that not a single case of avian influenza has thus far been recorded in the region.

Taking as a framework Mandate 34 of the Declaration of Mar del Plata, the Fourth Summit Plan of Action took account of different health aspects, including the prevention and control of infectious diseases highly prevalent in the region, such as tuberculosis, malaria, and dengue. To that end, the PSO's technical cooperation has focused on the implementation of regional plans to control tuberculosis and malaria, and on their monitoring within the scope of the Millennium Development Goals. Other advances and achievements to be mentioned include: expansion of the strategy's DOTS component, with higher case detection rates, the 70% tar-

get having been achieved; a higher number of countries carrying out tuberculosis-HIV collaboration activities; seven countries with universal access to multidrug-resistant TB (TB-MDR) management, and 20 countries with plans to control TB and TB/HIV among inmates. Epidemiological surveillance systems for dengue prevention and control were strengthened, and cooperation efforts continued among countries in connection with the Integrated Strategy for Dengue Prevention and Control (EGI-Dengue) management. Thus far, 16 countries of the region have EGI-Dengue. Additionally, three sub regional EGI-Dengue have been prepared, one for Central America, one for the Andean sub region, and one for the MERCOSUR members and associate members. The latter EGI-Dengue includes a Contingency Plan to Respond to Dengue Outbreaks and Epidemics. In 2008, national EGI-Dengue were prepared in Uruguay, Chile, and Bolivia and, in turn, the diagnostic laboratory network was strengthened through a broad training plan. An evaluation was also made of the implementation of the EGI-Dengue in Brazil, Mexico, Costa Rica, Honduras, and Colombia, and the national program in Puerto Rico. In the area of HIV/AIDS, the Heads of State and Government committed to combat stigmatization, misinformation, and discrimination against persons living with HIV and to implement the Three Ones Initiative, an HIV/AIDS action framework to halt the advance of the epidemic and reverse it by 2015. To that end, the PSO has participated actively and on an ongoing basis in the Interagency Coordination Committee on HIV/AIDS, which has made possible harmonization of and synergies among technical and financial cooperation efforts to provide additional support to countries in combating the epidemic, and made it possible to invite other partners and interested parties to become members of it. In that context, it prepared a joint work



plan for 2007-2008, in which each agency established its commitments to and responsibilities for the region. A notable aspect was the modification, at its November 2007 meeting, of the Global Fund's eligibility criteria, enabling medium and medium-high income countries of the Hemisphere to apply and submit proposals, thus achieving implementation of the mandate issued at the Fourth Summit. Priority was given to capacity development for the utilization of a Human Rights approach for HIV. Four countries (Jamaica, Suriname, Belize and Guatemala) were supported by PAHO to conduct national training workshops on human rights and HIV with the participation of civil society and MOH as well as other actors and institutions. As a result, the Government of Belize asked PAHO to review the emphasis on Rights in draft legislation on HIV comprehensive care. Studies on Human Rights and HIV were completed in five Central American Countries in collaboration with persons living with HIV and one country (Mexico) developed their first anti-homophobia campaign with PAHO's support. The Andean Region conducted with PAHO's support a situation analysis of stigma and discrimination and based on the results, developed a sub-regional plan for the reduction of stigma and discrimination 2007-2010.

### **Towards the Fifth Summit of the Americas in Trinidad and Tobago in 2009: Health in the Declaration of Commitment of Port of Spain**

The Heads of State and Government consider health in the Hemisphere a fundamental factor in achieving ever higher levels of human prosperity and contributing to the goal of securing the future of all citizens. Accordingly, they established the commitment to improve

the standard of health of the population as a whole by promoting health systems based on primary health care and through policies to improve access to health care services of quality and to comprehensive health care. To that end, they acknowledge persistent problems of lack of equity in and exclusion of vulnerable groups from essential health services needed to resolve their problems. Therefore, the Declaration establishes commitments to promote health care social protection systems.

The Declaration expresses reiterated and renewed commitment to the Millennium Development Goals, which recognize the problems and challenges of implementing health targets for maternal and child health, malnutrition, and HIV/AIDS. To that end, the Heads of State and Government commit to promote strategies and plans of action to reduce neonatal mortality through ongoing care for the mother and the newborn, to gradually eliminate chronic child malnutrition, and to reduce, by 2015, mother-to-child HIV transmission to a figure not exceeding 5%. To fulfill these targets, it reiterates the need for support from both PAHO/WHO and other international agencies.

Special mention is made of the growing epidemic of chronic diseases in the region and their associated risk factors, such as hypertension, obesity, tobacco use, sedentary lifestyles, and other behavior and habits harmful to health. It establishes commitments to promote the Regional Strategy and action plan for the prevention and control of chronic diseases, and the Regional Strategy on Nutrition, adopted by the PAHO member states, which include, inter alia, important actions to improve diet and promote physical activity and other healthy practices. One aspect warranting special attention is to recognize interpersonal violence and vio-



## The Heads of State and Government recognize that health security is required to ensure security, trade, and the free movement of persons throughout the Hemisphere and worldwide.

lent death as serious public health problems in the Hemisphere. By acknowledging that this type of violence is preventable, the Heads of State and Government commit to promote policies and activities to promote a culture of non-violence in the public health context, taking a comprehensive intersectoral approach.

Lastly, the Heads of State and Government recognize that health security is required to ensure security, trade, and the free movement of persons throughout the Hemisphere and worldwide. Accordingly, they reiterate their commitment to implement the International Health Regulations (IHR) by stipulating the basic skills necessary for surveillance of and response to events that may constitute public health emergencies of international importance.

In the context described above, the Health Agenda for the Americas 2008-2017 constitutes the framework for action and cooperation to be provided by the Pan American Sanitary Office in that period. As the Office is the specialized organization for health of the inter-American System, the Regional Office of the WHO for the Americas, and member of the Joint Summit Working Group, it reiterates its commitment to the Summits of the Americas process, and will continue to collaborate with the member states and the Summits Secretariat in following-up on and implementing the mandates related to health in the Hemisphere set forth in the 2009 Declaration of Commitment of Port of Spain.



# World Bank Group

## World Bank

The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (the Bank) and the International Development Association (the Association), in support of its Latin American and Caribbean country clients, have assisted the countries of the region in seeking to achieve the commitments and goals of the Fourth Summit of the Americas.

The new Human Opportunity Index opens up a whole new field of study dedicated to designing public policy focused on equity.



## Follow-up Activities to the Fourth Summit of the Americas, Mar del Plata, Argentina, 2005

The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (the Bank) and the International Development Association (the Association), in support of its Latin American and Caribbean country clients, have assisted the countries of the region in seeking to achieve the commitments and goals of the Fourth Summit of the Americas (Mar del Plata, Argentina, 2005). Below are some examples of what the Bank has done over the past few years in the thematic areas focused on in the Mar del Plata Declaration under the theme of “Creating Jobs to Fight Poverty and Strengthen Democratic Governance”. This includes both analytical work as well as financing of projects:

### **Growth with Employment and Framework for Creating Decent Work**

The objective of the Unleashing Productive Innovation Project is to expand Argentina’s capacity to generate productive innovation in knowledge-based areas. The project would support the government’s high level objective of sustaining growth by promoting export-diversification and an increase in value added in production. Specifically, the project would generate innovation by (I) facilitating the creation of new knowledge-based companies; (II) developing specialized human capital; (III) supporting productive research innovation projects and their commercialization in three priority technology areas (biotechnology, nanotechnology, and information and telecommunications); (IV) upgrading research infrastructure in the areas of science, technology and productive innovation; and (V) strengthening the policy framework governing science, technology, and productive innovation.

*The Rural Poverty Reduction Project* aims to assist the State of Minas Gerais, Brazil to reduce high levels of rural poverty by: (a) improving well-being and incomes of the rural poor through better access to basic socio-economic infrastructure and services and support for productive activities, using proven community-driven development techniques; (b) increasing the social capital of rural communities to organize collectively to meet own needs; (c) enhancing local governance by greater citizen participation and transparency in decision-making, through creation and strengthening of community associations and Municipal Councils; and (d) fostering closer integration of development policies, programs and projects at the local level, by assisting Municipal Councils to extend their role in seeking funding, priority-setting and decision-making over resource allocation, and by assisting the government to measure the efficiency and impact of its own programs to reduce rural poverty in rural space.

The objectives of the *Support for the Second Phase of the Expansion of the Program of Conditional Cash Transfers-Familias en Accion* Project for Colombia are: 1) complement the income of poor families with children; 2) promote human capital formation of poor children by increasing regular check-ups, for growth monitoring and other services, and by increasing enrollment and school attendance; and 3) strengthen program quality. The project has one component: consolidation and expansion of the Familias Program. The program is directed to poor families with children below 18 years of age. Familias is a conditional cash transfer program which disburses cash transfers (grants) to families conditional on compliance with certain requirements. Currently, these include: a) assuring that children 0-6, regularly visit health centers for growth monitoring and other ser-



## The study recommends that countries first improve the equity of their public expenditure programs, by targeting them to those who really need them.

vices, according to Ministry of Social Protection (MSP) protocols; and b) assuring that children 7-17 years of age enroll in school and attend classes no less than 80 percent of the time.

Over the past couple of years, the Office of the Chief Economist of the Latin America and the Caribbean Region has published several regional flagship studies; and two in particular that deal with the issues of growth, employment, and creating a framework within which people and their state can work together to make their quality of life better. The first, *Informality: Exit and Exclusion* analyzes how informality in employment can lead to a social balance that is less than optimal and in which many workers are unprotected against health- and employment-related shocks and poverty in old age. According to the report, informality has gained increasing attention as a possible drag on growth and social well-being and as a force corrosive to the integrity of the region's societies. To reduce informality in the region, the report stresses the need to adopt an integrated approach that promotes aggregate productivity and improves the incentives for formality embedded in business, tax and labor regulations and in social security and protection schemes. Furthermore, the report calls for making progress in the process of building more accountable, efficient and inclusive states which are able to create the conditions for a social contract based on a generalized social norm of compliance with the law.

The other report that directly deals with these issues, *Poverty Reduction and Growth: Virtuous and Vicious Circles*, focuses on how economic growth and poverty are interlinked through vicious cycles, where low growth results in high poverty and high poverty in turn results in low economic growth, and how these can be turned

into virtuous circles of growth and poverty reduction. In other words, economic growth and poverty reduction go hand in hand, and need to compliment each other. The study notes that a pro-growth-poverty reduction strategy should aim to improve the quality of education, expand coverage at secondary and tertiary levels, and boost investment in infrastructure to benefit laggard regions and increase the access of the poor to public services. In order to pursue a pro-growth poverty reduction strategy, the study recommends that countries first improve the equity of their public expenditure programs, by targeting them to those who really need them rather than spending resources on subsidies for programs for the well-to-do, such as the consumption of energy, pensions, and public universities. In addition, countries need to improve the efficiency of their social policies and, in most cases, to increase tax collections through tax systems that minimize adverse effects on investment.

Another important contribution to a framework for creating decent work is a new report entitled *Measuring Inequality of Opportunities in Latin America and the Caribbean*. Previously, it was not possible to systemically measure inequality of opportunity in Latin America, or anywhere else in the world. Inequality is the twin challenge, with poverty, that Latin Americans need to overcome to attain a decent quality of life. The new *Human Opportunity Index* was developed by a group of economists from the World Bank, Argentina and Brazil as the basis for this report, and shows how personal circumstances play in gaining or preventing access to those services needed for a productive life, such as running water, sanitation, electricity or basic education among children in the region. This opens up a whole new field of study dedicated to designing public policy focused on equity.



## Jobs to Fight Poverty

The objective of the Rural *Competitiveness Project (COMRURAL)* for Honduras is to contribute to increased productivity and competitiveness among organized rural small-scale producers through their participation in productive alliances. There are three components to the project. The first component is the support to productive alliances. It will support pre-investment activities to: (I) promote the project concept and outreach to the rural producer organizations, commercial partners and private financing entities; (II) create and consolidate productive alliances among rural producer organizations and commercial partners; (III) identify potential business opportunities, including, inter alia, opportunities with respect to basic grains, on the part of the productive alliance; (IV) fully prepare the business opportunity into a business plan; and (V) build capacity among technical service providers to enhance the quality of their services provided to the productive alliances. The second component is the productive investments. It will provide subproject grants to co-finance the implementation of approximately 150 feasible business plans formulated under first component. Finally, the third component is the project coordination, monitoring, and evaluation. It will support the incremental costs associated with the project administration, monitoring, including the setting up and implementation of a participatory monitoring and evaluation system.

The main goal of the *First Phase of Rio Grande do Sul Integrated Municipal Infrastructure Project of Brazil* is to strengthen the capacity of the municipalities of Bage, Pelotas, Rio Grande, Santa Maria and Uruguaiiana to provide selected infrastructure services and employment opportunities for their population. The

Program has been organized into three components: Component 1 - Municipal Strengthening. The purpose of this component is to finance activities related to improving municipal capacity to plan, appraise, finance, implement, monitor and evaluate infrastructure and local economic development investments. Component 2 - Income and Employment Generation. This component will support municipal initiatives to generate income and employment opportunities, in addition to improving the quality of jobs in both in urban and rural areas. Component 3 - Infrastructure Service Improvements. This component's objective will be to assist the municipalities improve their ability to provide infrastructure services in an efficient, environmentally sound and sustainable manner. The specific investments were also prioritized for their effects on: improving access to services by the poor, contributing to the municipal growth agenda and/or for environmental benefits. The following infrastructure investments are included in this component: (I) Rehabilitation or pavement of existing urban streets and rural roads; (II) Water supply, sanitation and drainage systems in urban and rural areas; (III) Treatment and final disposal of solid waste, waste recycling centers and support to waste packers; and (IV) Urban upgrading, housing and social improvements in poor neighborhoods, and areas of environmental risk.

The report *Income and Employment Generation for the Poor in Mexico* is part of an ongoing dialogue between the World Bank and the *Secretaría de Desarrollo Social (SEDESOL)* on poverty reduction. It builds on the findings and messages of the World Bank Poverty Programmatic reports, which included a poverty assessment, detailed follow-up analysis of urban and rural poverty, social protection, and poverty and decentralization. The report responds to a



## Improving countries' investment climate, broadly defined as key factors that shape the opportunities and incentives for firms to invest productively, create jobs and grow.

request from the Government for support in refining its programmatic approach to poverty reduction via further analysis and more detailed recommendations and guidance regarding the next generation of poverty reduction/social development programs (within the broader social policy context). This report is the first of three technical pieces agreed with the Government part of the work program on increasing the productivity of the poor. The two remaining pieces are: a) reviewing international evidence and experience on selected policies and programs; b) developing the implication for social development/poverty reduction policies and programs in Mexico.

In 2007, the World Bank started a *Technical Assistance* (TA) to the Government of Colombia (GoC) to support the *Dirección Nacional de Planeación* (DNP)'s strategy on income and employment generation. DNP requested the Bank specific contributions to the policy papers that the Government is preparing for their strategy for income and employment generation, especially for the most vulnerable population. The Technical Assistance also included support on poverty measurement methodologies and poverty data collection.

The *Technical Assistance Colombia Poverty and Jobs* report has as its objective to document the process and content of the Technical Assistance provided to the Government of Colombia in the areas of Income and Employment Generation for the Poor, Employment, and Poverty Measurement. The first part of the note discusses the process of the TA. The second part of the note discusses the main findings and recommendations from selected background papers prepared by the World Bank and consultants in agreement with the Government of Colombia for the TA on Income and Employment Genera-

tion. This TA has been successful in highlighting the important issues for the income and employment generation strategy in Colombia, as reflected in the five policy papers especially produced for the preparation of the CONPES documents. The TA has also helped the Government to design its strategy on income and employment generation.

### **Micro, Small, and Medium-Sized Enterprises as an Engine of Job Growth**

World Bank operational and analytical work in support of private sector participation in the Latin America and Caribbean Region has been geared towards the objective of promoting institutional microeconomic reforms that can help boost the region's rates of economic growth. Four areas have been receiving a great deal of attention: a) Improving countries' investment climate, broadly defined as key factors that shape the opportunities and incentives for firms to invest productively, create jobs and grow; b) Enhancing government support to small and medium enterprises ; c) Supporting private participation in infrastructure; and d) Helping develop efficient mechanisms to deliver microfinance services.

The purpose of the *Guatemala National Competitiveness Program (PRONACOM)*, a public-private partnership under the Comisionado de Inversion y Competitividad and the Ministry of Economy is to advance the nation's international competitive standing and accelerate its economic growth. The Project aims to advance the Programs objective as well as those of the nation's Peace Accords. Especially the two Accords on the Identity and Rights of the Indigenous People (March 31, 1995, Mexico City) and



on Socioeconomic Aspects and the Agrarian Situation (May 6, 1996, Mexico City), by helping primarily small and micro businesses to generate higher income and reduce high rates of poverty in Guatemala.

Bank staff produced a report in 2007 entitled *Evaluating Mexico's Small and Medium Enterprise Programs*. This report contributes to the policy discussions in Mexico and within the global development community in relation to the evaluation of SME support programs. It has three principal objectives, namely: to selectively review the main SME support programs in Mexico; to decide whether methodologies that are standard in evaluations of programs targeting individuals—such as retraining programs for the unemployed or programs such as the Education, Health, and Nutrition Program for poor households—can be used to evaluate programs targeting enterprises, and if so, to test the efficacy of such methodologies; to share with the government of Mexico the main findings and lessons from using alternative methodologies to evaluate SME programs, and, as warranted by the reviews and analytic findings, suggest improvements in the monitoring and evaluation system for SME policy interventions.

The World Bank is in the process of producing a report on *Evaluating Small and Medium Enterprise Support Programs in Latin America* which seeks to rigorously evaluate SME programs in four Latin American countries – Mexico, Chile, Colombia and Peru – to gain insights into which programs perform better than others, and just as important, why. The proposal addresses the dearth of research in Latin America (and, for that matter, in most developing countries) on impact evaluations of SME programs.

There are many firms mostly – micro and small- that are de facto excluded from the export chain by virtue of their location (operating in small villages or cities with minimum or no support for export services), information (knowing what it takes and how one exports), cost of export services (need to use customs and logistics agents), lack of knowledge of proper packaging, etc. The World Bank implemented the Competitiveness and Trade Project through an investment loan in Peru with the objective of facilitating exports by micro and small firms located all over the country. The Bank team, building on Brazilian experience, worked with the National Tax Administration Superintendency (SUNAT) and with the Office of the Prime Minister (PCM), the Trade Ministry, the Export Promotion Agencies (PROMPERU and PROMPEX) and the Post Office to develop and implement the tool. The trade facilitation program is called “Easy Export”. An individual or firm needs to take a package to the nearest post office, which provides free packaging. The customer fills out a form on the internet (also available at the post office), the post office weighs the package, scans the form and ships the package. This approach is currently being implemented in a number of countries as well, with or without World Bank involvement.

### **Strengthening Democratic Governance**

In recent years, the World Bank has increased its efforts in the areas of governance and transparency, which are key elements in strengthening democracy and spurring economic growth.

An important example of the work that has been done on these issues is the long and productive engagement of the Bank with the Government of Honduras, embodied in the current

In recent years, the World Bank has increased its efforts in the areas of governance and transparency, which are key elements in strengthening democracy and spurring economic growth.

*FY2007-2010 Country Assistance Strategy.* Past and on-going Bank assistance includes support aimed at strengthening public financial management, procurement statistics and performance management systems, civil service and judicial reform, competition and the regulatory framework for the private sector, and participation in service delivery and natural resource engagement. Within the Honduran example, there are three approaches the Bank is taking when approaching governance and anti-corruption: the Bank is working with the government to strengthen accountability by providing technical assistance to improve the capacity of the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) by supporting audits with social participation at the local level, work is being done to improve the evidence base on the use of public funds by increasing transparency and efficiency in social expenditures and public financial management through the development and implementation of the integrated financial management system (SIAFI), and both the Bank and government are working together to enhance transparency and efficiency in service provision through three new Bank operations (roads, electricity, education) that include project components to set up performance targets for the sectors and monitor them over time.

In Argentina, a *State Modernization* Loan has helped increase transparency and efficiency in fiscal expenditures and public financial management, combining support to transparency and efficiency measures through a combination of supply (e.g. procurement, civil service, M&E) and demand-driven governance areas (citizens participation, Citizens Charters, access to information). The project focuses on entry-points in increasing transparency and efficiency not only in traditional public sector areas - it also engaged government efforts in transparency and

efficiency issues across sectors (supporting e.g. education costs observatory, judicial sector MIS) through a cross-sectoral perspective, using entry-points for governance issues not covered by sectoral operations. The project managed to deepen the policy-dialogue with government on governance issues and raised government engagement.

The goal of the proposed Additional Financing (AF) remains the same as that of the original *Haiti Community-Driven Development Project (PRODEP)*, i.e. to support the scaling up of the direct transfer of public resources to local community organizations in poor rural and peri-urban communities: (I) to improve their access to basic and economic infrastructure and support income-generating activities by financing small-scale investments proposed, implemented and managed by the community organizations themselves; and (II) to improve governance and build social capital of communities through an increase in citizen participation and transparency in open decision-making processes.

The Bank has also been engaged in coordinated efforts with the Organization of American States (OAS) and their Department of Social Development and Employment in the area of social inclusion. In preparation for the First Meeting of Ministers and High-level Authorities in Social Development of the OAS, held on July 9-10, 2008 in Reñaca, Chile, a policy note titled *Increasing Social Inclusion through Social Guarantees* was jointly produced. Its aim was to serve as an input to the deliberations of the meeting by contributing to the consideration of social guarantees as tools for the design and/or monitoring of social policy and service delivery. It proposes a range of options to improve the delivery of and access to social services that can further social inclusion and democratic

The Bank is continuing investment in nutrition, health, education, and water/sanitation services which enable the poor to increase their productivity and incomes and compete more effectively in the modern economy.

governance. The report was based on country case studies (Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Jamaica, Peru, Paraguay, St. Kitts and Nevis, and Uruguay) that were conducted by the World Bank and the Chilean Foundation for Overcoming Poverty (FUNASUPO). An analysis of the South African case was also used as a comparison, in view of South Africa's prominent experience in applying judicial methods to uphold social and economic rights.

**Strategy for the Implementation of the Fifth Summit of the Americas (Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, April 2009)**

Through its regional strategy in support of its clients in Latin America and the Caribbean, the World Bank is committed to the goals of the Fourth and Fifth Summit of the Americas (Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, April 2009). The regional strategy focuses on four main pillars: Sustaining growth and job creation; leveling the playing field by increasing opportunity; strengthening institutions and governance; and the global agenda, which includes the elements of trade competitiveness, climate change, energy, and disease epidemics.

In the first category, the Bank sees as an immediate priority projects and policy advice that can help support our client countries to deal with the current economic slowdown. The Bank is responding in a quick and flexible manner to requests for additional financing from Middle Income Countries (MICs) in particular, which make up the majority of Latin American and Caribbean countries, by significantly increasing financing of Development Policy Operations (DPOs).

The Bank continues its support of expanding opportunities to vulnerable and excluded groups. The Bank is continuing investment in nutrition, health, education, and water/sanitation services which enable the poor to increase their productivity and incomes and compete more effectively in the modern economy. An important example of what the region is doing in this area is supporting programs to increase demand by the poor of social services. In this respect, the Bank has been a partner in the successful Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) programs in Mexico and Brazil and is helping other countries in the region and beyond to adapt this experience to their own needs.

Effective transparent institutions are required to support growth and inclusion and so constitute the third pillar of the Bank's engagement in the region. Work is being done in the areas of fiscal expenditures and public financial management at national and subnational levels, and also on reducing corruption and inefficiency in the provision of social services. For example, analytical work being done on a regional and sub-regional level is focused both on "grand" corruption in areas such as pharmaceutical and medical supplies and on "petty" corruption such as high absenteeism among education and health workers, which is, in effect, a form of defrauding the state and the public.

Fourth is the link between the global agenda and the agenda of the region. Latin American and Caribbean countries are increasingly emerging leaders on issues of regional and global concern. The Bank has supported these countries' efforts to advocate for their positions, and is also helping to address global issues in individual country contexts and through regional and sub-regional initiatives. Perhaps one of the best examples is the issue of climate change.



*Low Carbon: High Growth: Latin American Responses to Climate Change*, the Latin America and Caribbean region's annual flagship, a joint effort between the Sustainable Development Department and the Chief Economist's office, explains how the region is exposed to climate change's impacts and what it can do to avert its effects, both unilaterally and with help from the international community as part of a global climate agreement. The effects of climate change in the region today range from melting glaciers, coral bleaching, and increasingly intense climate-related natural disasters. In response, the region with the support of the World Bank is piloting new technologies and approaches to reduce emissions:

- Brazil is moving towards energy independence through the expansion of alternative energy sources such as hydroelectricity, ethanol, and biodiesel. Its sugar-based ethanol production is considered financially and environmentally sustainable.
- Public and environmentally friendly public transport policies demonstrated by Curitiba (Brazil) and expanded in Bogota (Colombia) are now underway in dozens of cities in the region.

- Costa Rica has received worldwide recognition for its efforts to place a financial value on preserving ecosystems, through several initiatives on "payments for ecosystems services."

- Argentina is moving forward with renewable energy in rural areas which provides affordable and reliable electricity to communities and has an impact on productivity and jobs.

The World Bank looks forward to continuing their work in support of their Latin American and Caribbean client countries in the Fifth Summit of the Americas process through the Joint Summit Working Group and by continuing to support the commitments of current and previous Summits. Addressing the challenges the region faces through a forum such as the Summit of the Americas is useful and relevant in the current global environment, and allows the member states to establish a framework under which they can work to have a coordinated, serious multilateral response.





# **Inter American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture**

## **IICA**

IICA is the organization that is specialized in agriculture and the rural milieu. Its purpose it is to provide innovative technical cooperation to Member States so that they can achieve sustainable development for the benefit of the peoples of the Americas.

IICA supports the countries' efforts to implement the mandates adopted by the Heads of State and Government at the Summits of the Americas in the areas of agriculture and rural life and international cooperation.



## **I. IICA as it faces the dynamics of the hemisphere and the challenges of the XXI century**

In its capacity as an institutional partner in the Summit of the Americas process and as a member of the Inter-American System, IICA is the organization that is specialized in agriculture and the rural milieu. Its purpose is to provide innovative technical cooperation to Member States so that they can achieve sustainable development for the benefit of the peoples of the Americas. Accordingly, in fulfillment of the mandates of the Summits of the Americas and its institutional mission, IICA supports the countries' efforts to implement the mandates adopted by the Heads of State and Government at the Summits of the Americas in the areas of agriculture and rural life and international cooperation.

In addition, in coordination with the Summits of the Americas, IICA facilitates the continuity of the ministerial process "Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas" and its hemispheric ministerial meetings which endeavor to follow-up on the mandates of the Summits. IICA also works with other public, private and social stakeholders in publicizing and implementing the agreements adopted by the Ministers and Secretaries of Agriculture, in fulfillment of the mandates of the Summits and in response to the new challenges of comprehensive and sustainable development for the countries. IICA is also useful in facilitating an understanding of the Summit process and in publicizing the mandates of the Summits.

IICA is guided by the mandates and the theme of the Fifth Summit: "*Securing our citizens' future by promoting human prosperity, energy security and environmental sustainability*". Ac-

cordingly, it has participated and will continue to participate in the Joint Summit Working Group and in the meetings of the SIRG by providing technical support to the Chairmanship of the Fifth Summit, to the OAS Summit of the Americas Secretariat and to the countries as they prepare for the Fifth Summit.

As Secretariat for the ministerial process "Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas", IICA is assisting Jamaica with preparations for the Fifth Ministerial Meeting, to be held in Montego Bay, Jamaica, in October this year. The theme for that meeting is "*Building Capacity to Improve Food Security and Rural Life in the Americas*".

In furtherance of that ministerial process, IICA will publicize the outcome of the Fifth Summit so that the Ministers of Agriculture and stakeholders in agriculture are duly informed and adopt the agreements they deem necessary in order to contribute to the implementation of the provisions of the Declaration of Commitment of Port of Spain of the Fifth Summit. As it has been doing since 2001, IICA, through its National Technical Cooperation Agendas in the 34 countries in the Americas, will continue to support the countries' efforts to fulfill their commitments to rural prosperity, food security, climate change and energy security and the sustainable development of agriculture and the rural milieu, major challenges for leaders and organizations in the Americas at the dawn of this century.

## **II. The mandates of Mar del Plata, the Ministerial Process "Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas" and IICA's contribution**

IICA's contribution to the implementation and follow-up of the mandates of the Fourth Summit

In response to the mandates and challenges deriving from its role as an institutional partner in the Summits Process, the Institute has embarked upon a process of institutional modernization.

has two points of reference in the Summit of the Americas process. The first is the framework of mandates on agriculture and rural life and international cooperation set out in the Declaration of Quebec and its Plan of Action and, more recently in the Declaration of Nuevo Leon, Declaration of Mar del Plata and its Plan of Action. The second point of reference is rooted in IICA's status as an institutional partner in the Summit of the Americas process and in its role as Secretariat for the ministerial process "Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas" in the context of the Summit of the Americas process.

Essentially, IICA's cooperation in implementing the mandates of the Fourth Summit is aimed at facilitating the continuity of the ministerial process "Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas" and in contributing to its linkage with the Summit process.

#### **Declaration of Mar del Plata The mandate**

*55. We are committed to building a more solid and inclusive institutional framework, based on the coordination of economic, labor, and social public policies to contribute to the generation of decent work, which must comprise:*

*g. A comprehensive framework for rural and agricultural development, to promote investment, job creation, and rural prosperity"*

#### **The Ministerial Process progress**

The Ministers of Agriculture of the hemisphere updated the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan at their two most recent Ministerial Meetings held in Guayaquil in 2005 and in Guatemala in 2007.

This Plan represents an inter-sectoral global framework for the sustainable development of agriculture and the rural milieu. Specifically, the Ministers renewed their commitment to the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan (mandate 35 of the Mar del Plata Action Plan) with the inclusion of themes and strategic actions related to **the creation of employment and decent work** in the Ministerial Hemispheric Agreements of Guayaquil 2005 and Guatemala 2007, such as: Areas for local economic development; Entrepreneurial, innovative and business capacity; Inclusive chains linkages; Strengthening of small- and medium-scale rural enterprise; Social responsibility in rural enterprises, for which purpose the Ministers adopted in Guayaquil 2005, and ratified in Guatemala 2007, the following strategic action:

*"To promote the concept of social responsibility in rural enterprises; fostering the creation of jobs and the principle of decent work as reflected in international conventions."*

In harmony with the spirit of the mandate 55 regarding the promotion of a more solid and inclusive institutional framework, the Ministers, in their Fourth Ministerial Meeting of "Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas", Guatemala 2007, emphasized that the implementation of the strategic actions of the AGRO Plan require the adoption of an approach of "working together" with other stakeholders of the public, private and social sectors. At the same time, they emphasized the need and the commitment to repositioning of rural issues in national strategies:

*"To participate proactively in the repositioning of agriculture and rural issues and priorities in national strategies by promoting in society an increased understanding of the contributions*



*made by the rural sector, a rural-urban balance in the national development agenda and efforts to overcome biases and exclusions that are detrimental to rural communities”.*

The Ministerial Process, linked to the Summit of the Americas Process is based on an approach that favors the creation of a more solid and inclusive institutional framework with the following components:

- a national team, made up by the Ministerial Delegates and their Alternates as well as by their technical team, which provide support for the Minister of Agriculture in the promotion of the national dialogue and in the coordination of the implementation of the Hemispheric Ministerial Agreements;
- a hemispheric forum of ministerial delegates (GRICA) which, based on a summary of the national proposals prepared by the Secretariat, supports the hemispheric dialogue and negotiations, and seeks consensus on proposed new ministerial agreements which will be submitted to the Ministerial Meeting;
- a Secretariat for the ministerial process and its meetings of Delegates and Ministers in which capacity IICA serves;
- a Hemispheric Ministerial Meeting in the context of the Summit process, which is the forum of ministers of agriculture that adopts the hemispheric agreement and that presents new proposals to the Heads of State and Government;
- a strategic framework for agriculture and rural life in the Americas, comprising the mandates on agriculture and rural life of the

Summits and the HMAs, the common thread of which is the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan; and

- (VI) a renewed concept, integral and sustainable, to perceive and to act regarding agriculture in pursuit of sustainable development.

#### **IICA's contribution**

IICA, as the Secretariat of the Ministerial Process, continued supporting the consolidation of the institutionality of the Ministerial Process and its Fourth Ministerial Meeting, Guatemala 2007 whose theme was “Working together for agriculture and rural life in the Americas”. In addition, the IICA proposed, within the context of the JSWG publication “Regional Challenges: Towards the Fifth Summit of the Americas”, *“Reappraising the rural milieu as part of the national heritage and as an essential resource for comprehensive development”* and the *“Strengthening the institutional framework for the implementation of the commitments adopted at the Summits”*; this last challenge having been proposed based on the six years of experience of the Ministerial Process “Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas”.

For the two year period 2008-2009, looking forward to the Fifth Summit and the Fifth Ministerial Meeting (Jamaica, October 2009), IICA has continued providing support to the Ministers and their Delegates in the inherent tasks of the Ministerial Process “Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas”, within the Summit of the Americas framework, as well as promoting the reappraising of agriculture and the rural milieu, and their multidimensional contribution to development, through reports, forums, international events, and proposals to the Joint Summit Working Group.



Particularly, in view of the new concerns regarding food and nutritional security, energy security and environmental sustainability, all of which are themes being considered during the hemispheric dialogue in the context of the Fifth Summit of the Americas, IICA organized an International Experts Workshop, July 8 - 9, 2008, on the *“Contribution of agriculture and the rural milieu to sustainable development and food security in the new international context”*

As well, responding to the above mentioned hemispheric concerns, IICA presented to the Foreign Ministers of the Americas its institutional response to the food situation in the hemisphere, in the framework of the General Assembly of the OAS, in Medellin, Colombia.

### **The mandate**

*75. We instruct the members of the Joint Summit Working Group, comprised of the OAS, IDB, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), PAHO, Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI), the World Bank, ILO, International Organization for Migration (OIM), Institute for Connectivity in the Americas (ICA), Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), and the Andean Development Corporation (CAF), under the coordination of the OAS, to continue, through their respective activities and programs, to support the follow-up and implementation of the Declarations and Plans of Action of the Summits of the Americas, and of the Declaration and Plan of Action of Mar del Plata, as well as to assist in the preparations for future summits.*

### **IICA's contribution**

In response to the mandates and challenges deriving from its role as an institutional partner in the Summits Process, the Institute has embarked upon a process of institutional modernization which defined two complementary roles for the Institute: (I) a conventional renewed role as an international cooperation agency attuned to the new institutional dynamics in the Americas, and (II) a new role as Secretariat for the Ministerial Process “Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas”.

- As a cooperation agency, IICA has consolidated a cooperation model in which the actions of the Institute are based on the 34 National Technical Cooperation Agendas prepared in conjunction with the public authorities and the private, scientific and academic sectors. IICA is therefore tailoring its technical cooperation to the hemispheric dynamics and to the guidelines set by the Ministers in the framework of the hemispheric ministerial process.
- As Secretariat for the Hemispheric Ministerial Process, IICA facilitates the continuity of that process and its linkage with the Summit Process.

### **Plan of Action of Mar del Plata The mandate**

*35. To support the implementation of the Ministerial Agreement of Guayaquil in 2005, Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas (AGRO 2003-2015 Plan).*



These actions call for a joint effort not only with stakeholders in the public, private and social sectors involved in agriculture and the rural milieu, but also in other areas such as the labor, health, education and technology sectors.

### **The Ministerial Process progress**

The AGRO 2003-2015 Plan is the *global framework* for the development of agriculture and the rural milieu as per paragraph 55.g of the Declaration of Mar del Plata. This role may be explained by the broad-based and comprehensive concept adopted by the Ministers and Ministerial Delegates of Agriculture in perceiving agriculture and rural life and to define the necessary strategic actions for improving them. These actions call for a joint effort not only with stakeholders in the public, private and social sectors involved in agriculture and the rural milieu, but also in other areas such as the labor, health, education and technology sectors. This is specifically set out in the Hemispheric Ministerial Agreement Guatemala 2007 which stresses the importance of promoting cooperation between hemispheric ministerial meetings within the Inter-American System and the Summit of the Americas process.

### **IICA's contribution**

IICA provided support to the Ministers and their delegates in the implementation and updating of the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan with the Guatemala 2007 Hemispheric Ministerial Agreement, has continued and will continue providing support to the countries during the 2008-2009 Ministerial Process for the implementation of the Plan and its updating on the road to the Fifth Ministerial Meeting, Jamaica 2009. It has taken and will take particular care in making the AGRO Plan known, in informing newly appointed Ministers regarding their role in the Ministerial Process, and contributing to train young leaders in the Americas within a hemispheric and holistic approach through the Forum for Young Leaders that has been organized at the Center

for Leadership in Agriculture located at IICA's headquarters in Costa Rica.

### **The mandate**

*43. To request Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and ECLAC to continue with their efforts to develop an information system for the follow-up and evaluation of the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan, and the other members of the Joint Summit Working Group to join in those efforts as a contribution to defining goals and indicators for the mandates of the Summit of the Americas.*

### **The contribution of IICA and ECLAC**

IICA and ECLAC have developed an "Information System for Monitoring and Evaluating the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan" which has three components: (I) national actions undertaken and challenges encountered in implementing the AGRO Plan; (II) performance indicators, and (III) the expectations of agricultural leaders regarding the future of agriculture and rural life.

With regard to the performance indicators component, initially support was provided by other international agencies of the Inter-American and United Nations systems, including FAO, ILO and PAHO. IICA will continue to strive to consolidate the participation of the institutional partners in the Summit Process which have information of relevance on the social, environmental, economic and institutional aspects of agriculture and the rural milieu, specifically, those related to work and employment, health and education in the rural milieu.



### **III. Promoting a development model that recognizes the real contribution of agriculture and the rural milieu to integral and sustainable development in the countries**

IICA gives significant support to the ministerial process for the sustainable development of agriculture and rural communities led by the ministers of agriculture. Accordingly, IICA endeavors to ensure that process is keyed to the objectives, actions and mechanisms for the implementation of the mandates of the Summits of the Americas by facilitating dialogue and consensus on strategic actions to be taken in to account by the countries at the upcoming Fifth Ministerial Meeting “Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas” to be held in Jamaica in October of this year.

Based on the policies defined by the Heads of State and Government and the Ministers of Agriculture at their hemispheric meetings, the Institute will continue to consolidate its *model for cooperation*, which it has been promoting since 2002. A central feature of this model is its participatory style that is driven by the need to ensure that the technical cooperation provided by IICA responds to the priorities and commitments of the countries.

The decisions adopted by the Heads of State and Government at the Fifth Summit, based on the theme “*Securing our citizens’ future by promoting human prosperity, energy security and environmental sustainability*” will provide an opportunity to promote a multidimensional approach to agriculture and the rural milieu. At the same time, it will offer an opportunity to undertake multi-sectoral activities for the development of agriculture and the rural milieu as the countries rethink the future and promote *a new development model* where the contribution made by agriculture and the rural milieu to the economy and integral development in the countries is recognized and valued in its multi-dimensional scope.

It is therefore necessary for all stakeholders in agriculture in the Americas to consolidate the political decision of the Heads of State and Government and the Ministers on “working together” to develop a renewed leadership and institutional framework that will make it possible to move more easily and effectively towards achieving the goals defined at the Fifth Summit of the Americas and by the Ministers at their Ministerial Meetings “Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas”. In this regard, IICA will redouble its cooperation efforts with other stakeholders in an effort to support the countries as they seek to concretize their goals.



# Central American Bank for Economic Integration

## CABEI

CABEI is the multilateral financial organization of the Central American countries and belongs to the multilateral and sub-regional organizations that have an active participation in the SIRG meetings and the different activities performed in the framework of the Summit of the Americas.

Poverty Reduction is one of the priority areas of CABI's 2004-2009 Global Strategy.



# Report for the V Summit of the Americas

## I. Introduction

The Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEL) is the multilateral financial organization of the Central American countries and belongs to the multilateral and sub-regional organizations that have an active participation in the SIRG meetings and the different activities performed in the framework of the Summit of the Americas.

According with the funding CABEL provides to its member countries, poverty reduction, energy, *MIPYMEs* (Micro, Small and Medium Sized-Enterprises in Spanish) and infrastructure are the main theme areas of the IV Summit of the Americas, in which the Bank has focused its efforts to fulfill the mandates of the Mar the Plata Declaration and Action Plan.

CABEL will continue supporting the process of the Summit of the Americas and direct its efforts to achieve the commitments to be agreed at the V Summit, which may include, food security and *MIPYME* (Promotion of Human Prosperity), energy Efficiency and renewable energy (Promotion of Energetic Security), and Social and Environmental Policy (Promotion of Environmental Sustainability).

## II. Outcomes of the Implementation of the IV Summit Mandates

### Poverty Reduction

Poverty Reduction is one of the priority areas of CABEL's 2004-2009 Global Strategy. For this purpose, the following actions have been proposed to: 1) generate opportunities leading to the creation of formal employment; 2) support member countries in developing sustainable

solutions to respond to the basic needs in the areas of health, education and housing; 3) facilitate credit access, fostering the leading role the Bank plays in the micro finance sector; 4) contribute to strengthening public administrations, specially of local governments in programs that drive their economic autonomy and fund raising capacity; and 5) stimulate experience and knowledge transfer between CABEL member countries and the world.

In 2008 CABEL approved US\$423.9 million for programs and projects under the poverty reduction. Particularly, it is worth mentioning the program to finance municipalities, sustainable development projects to increase competitiveness in the rural economy, the insertion of small and medium-sized producers into the value chains and access to markets, as well as the facility for social housing.

In addition, CABEL has the Special Fund for the Social Transformation of Central America (FETS, in Spanish), which is a special window for concessional financing for programs and projects that are part of the efforts to reduce poverty in the region. In 2008, through FETS, CABEL disbursed US\$11.8 million from which US\$6.1 million went to Honduras to fund sustainable rural development in ecologically fragile zones, social electrification, housing and municipal markets. Similarly, disbursements in the amount of US\$5.7 millions were made to Nicaragua to finance projects of rural electrification, road improvement and public safety.

Likewise, CABEL approved financing through the Central American Border Zones Development Program (ZONAF, in Spanish), for up to US\$15, 8 million in 2008, thus, supporting 29 projects in five founding member countries. The main purpose of this program is to improve the

## CABEI has maintained its leading role in the region, and is prominent as the main development organization that provides financial resources in support to the MIPYME sector.

quality of living conditions of the populations in the Central American border municipalities, through actions aimed at reducing poverty, vulnerability and at strengthening their management and social participation capacities.

### Renewable Energy

In April, 2008, CABEI approved the Bank's Strategy to Support the Development of the Energy Sector for Central America. This Strategy is based on an assessment of the energy sources and their uses in Central America, which has identified that CABEI can provide financial solutions to support 3 energetic needs that exist in the region:

1. A more efficient use of energy. 2. Promoting alternative renewable energy sources, and 3. Promoting the development of infrastructure to access and manage the energy. Upon identifying the needs, the general objective proposed is to "Provide financial solutions to foster energetic efficiency, by promoting the development of renewable energy sources and reducing the dependency on non-renewable energy sources in Central America".

With the intention of responding to each one of the needs identified, a series of strategic guidelines have been developed: a) Furthering the implementation of energy efficiency in all energy sources, b) promoting the development of renewable energy sources, and c) fostering the development of the necessary infrastructure to convert, transport and store energy.

In the framework of these guidelines, a series of Programs have been created and structured to support the energy sector in the region. Among the Programs approved are:

**The MIPYMES Energy Efficiency Program** - The Purpose of this program is to contribute to MIPYMEs in the region reducing their consumption of energy and therefore, generate economic savings that will allow transferring this capital to activities of the business itself (thus, generating more profitability). The expected savings in energy consumption will also contribute to the protection of our environment by reducing the emissions of carbon dioxide originated in the region.

**MIPYME Renewable Energy Program** - directed to promote the use of alternative renewable sources, such as biomass, wind energy, hydraulic energy, solar energy and biofuels, etc., that will diminish the Central American MIPYMEs' dependency on fossil fuels. As a result, it is expected to achieve a savings in monetary resources directed to paying energy and reducing carbon dioxide emissions. Additionally, this approach will contribute to reducing environmental problems such as deforestation, global warming and serious harm for human health.

**The Agri-business MIPYME Support Program**, which will increase the coverage in rural zones, with the objective of supporting MIPYMEs that historically have had no access to financial services due to the non-existence of products designed to cover different geographical areas.

A financial cooperation between CABEI and the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany, through KfW, was obtained to implement the above mentioned programs. Also, work is done with other funding sources, which have contributed more than US\$100 Million for renewable energy and energy efficiency projects.

Moreover, jointly with UNDP/GEF, CABEI implemented the Project "Accelerating Investments



in Renewable Energy in Central America (ARE-CA)”, which aimed mainly at improving the access the populations in the region have to the energy services, and at the same time, reducing greenhouse effect emissions, by granting partial credit guarantees for the Isthmus Commercial Banking System.

In addition, CABEL, together with UNDP/GEF, initiated the implementation of the project “Central American Markets for Biodiversity-CAMBiO”, whose objective is to eliminate barriers so that banking activities in favor of developing small enterprises can become a catalyst for biodiversity friendly investments.

In the framework of its Strategy to Support MIPYMEs, CABEL continued designing new programs or products directed to this sector, such as:

- Program to Support Biodiversity Friendly MIPYMEs (MIPYMEs-AB). This program was designed under the CAMBIO Project and its objective is to facilitate funding to MIPYMEs that incorporate protection and conservation of biodiversity in their business, products and services.
- The Partial Credit Guarantee Program for MIPYME-AB. Just as the previous program, this product was designed in the framework of the CAMBIO project, and its purpose is to grant partial credit guarantees that will make it possible to stimulate funding for MIPYMEs that request credits by intermediary financial institutions in order to develop projects that incorporate the protection and conservation of biodiversity.
- Awards for Biodiversity Benefits or BIO-Award. This Initiative was approved under the framework of the Strategy to Support

MIPYMEs, with the objective of providing an incentive for micro and small enterprises (SMEs) that have used or use funding from the CABEL the Program to Support MIPYMEs-AB, to incorporate the protection and conservation of biodiversity in their productive projects, businesses or services.

CABEL will continue with its usual support to develop the energy sector in the Central American region by establishing strategic alliances, for that purpose, with different organizations.

## **MIPYME**

Since 2005, CABEL has a Strategy to Support MIPYMEs that includes the following guidelines: 1) facilitating for MIPYMEs access to financial services; 2) reinforcing the development of the financial sector that services MIPYMEs; and 3) contributing to enterprise development, growth and productivity of MIPYMEs.

As a result of this strategy and its vision, CABEL has maintained its leading role in the region, and is prominent as the main development organization that provides financial resources in support to the MIPYME sector. For this purpose, and in order to benefit the most vulnerable populations of the Central American Isthmus CABEL is supporting the micro finance sector by channeling an important part of these resources through the micro financial institutions’ network, clients of the bank that provide financial services to low income people with a business spirit. In 2008, CABEL channeled more than US\$207 million through 120 intermediary financial institutions (Banks, cooperatives and micro financial institutions, among others). In addition, more than 40,000 entrepreneurs were reached with an average disbursement of \$2,103.





## CABEL will continue responding to investment requirements to promote regional integration and support economic and social development.

It is important to point out that 54% of the beneficiaries were women, 77% of the resources went to the urban sector, 57% of funds disbursed were used for working capital and 56% were oriented to trade and services.

This outstanding role CABEL plays has also allowed the Bank to become the main coordinator of external funding sources (KfW from Germany, AEI from Spain, and ICDF from the Republic of China-Taiwan), interested in supporting MIPYMEs in Central America, through CABEL. In the same way, new funding sources have demonstrated special interest in formalizing strategic alliances with CABEL to develop new programs in the region.

### **Infrastructure**

CABEL maintains its interest in financing infrastructure projects and developing financial solutions both for the public and private sectors, in view of promoting sustainable development in the region.

Based on its Strategy to support the development of infrastructure in Central America, CABEL furthers the design, structuring and implementation of financial mechanisms aimed at pro-

moting infrastructure development projects, in a reliable investment climate and through the direct participation of CABEL and in order to motivate the participation of other national and international actors and investors.

During 2008, the total amount of CABEL's participation in the financing of infrastructure projects reached US\$796,9 million, from which 96% went to the public sector and the remaining 4% to the private sector. The Bank's role as catalyst made it possible for the total amount invested in infrastructure projects to reach the amount of US\$971,9 million.

### **III. Final Considerations**

CABEL is the most important multilateral financial organization of the Central American Region and will continue responding to investment requirements to promote regional integration and support economic and social development that will improve the standards of living of its population in harmony with the environment. In this context, the Bank will support actions to achieve energy and food security in the region, and will continue improving and expanding the necessary infrastructure that will strengthen trade at the intraregional level as well as with third countries.



# Andean Development Corporation

## CAF

CAF reiterated its commitment toward sustainable development and regional integration and made progress with the strategic guidelines on which the Agenda for Integral Development proposed by the Corporation is based.

CAF shares the stance of the region's countries that water is a basic human need and a fundamental right.



# Andean Development Corporation

In its capacity as an institutional partner of the Joint Summit Working Group (JSWG), between 2007 and 2008 the Andean Development Corporation (CAF) continued to carry out important regional initiatives in support of its shareholder countries for implementing the mandates issued by each of the Summits of the Americas held to date and, particularly, by the Declaration and Plan of Action of Mar del Plata.

During those years, CAF reiterated its commitment toward sustainable development and regional integration and made progress with the strategic guidelines on which the Agenda for Integral Development proposed by the Corporation is based. One of the basic elements for updating these guidelines has been the evolution of the region's integration processes, as a result of which the CAF's Establishing Agreement was modified to allow other Latin American countries to join as full shareholding members in the Corporation's structure.

The Agenda for Integral Development proposed by CAF seeks to secure *high*, sustained, sustainable, and quality growth: *high*, to begin overcoming the development shortfall compared to high-income countries and to compensate for demographic expansion; *sustained*, to ensure that growth is neither erratic nor volatile, as it has been in recent decades, and to ensure the continuity of economic progress and social well-being; *sustainable* in environmental and social terms, to ensure the viability of natural capital from one generation to the next, to respect cultural diversity, and to set a foundation for democratic governance in the region; and *quality*, which means that growth must be inclusive, benefiting the majority of the population in an asymmetrically equitable way that favors underprivileged sectors and thereby reduces inequalities and poverty in the region.

Through its strategic programs, conducted with a regional scope and in pursuit of integration, CAF's activities in support of the mandates of the Summits, particularly those agreed on at Mar del Plata, have focused primarily on the following arenas for action:

## **Creation of Decent Work, Competitiveness, Productivity, International Inclusion, and Public Policies**

During 2007 and 2008, CAF carried out numerous actions to promote the development of productive and human capital in its member countries, to strengthen their national competitiveness, to promote the development of microenterprises and other sectors with limited access to capital, to support the strengthening of government institutions, to help build consensus regarding public policies, and to support economic integration processes and international economic inclusion efforts.

During 2007, the *Support Program for Competitiveness (PAC)*, in line with its areas of action, remained geared toward the development of clusters, toward improving the business climate and entrepreneurial capacity-building, and toward disseminating its experiences and lessons learned. In addition, the Support Program for Competitiveness was launched in Panama, intended to strengthen the productive and commercial capacities of export companies by strengthening three strategic productive chains that involve at least 45 SMEs as suppliers. Similarly, a project was approved in Argentina to foster business ties between 50 SMEs and five large corporations.

During 2008, the PAC continued to work on a more focused process, with the approval of 23

## Micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), in Latin America and the Caribbean, make up the main productive apparatus.

projects concentrated in three areas of action: developing clusters and productive and commercial capacities, promoting entrepreneurship, and improving the business climate. In addition, the PAC section of the web site and the bimonthly bulletin *PACompetir* were launched.

Regarding *access to funding for micro-, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs)*, in Latin America and the Caribbean, as in most of the world's countries, micro-, small, and medium-sized companies make up the main productive apparatus. During 2007, in line with the Agenda for Integral Development that has guided CAF over recent years, and aware most particularly of the lost opportunities that barriers to MSME activity create, the Corporation has redoubled its financial support for the region's MSMEs. In 2007, in accordance with its commitment to the microfinance industry and regional leadership in promoting it, CAF approved 57 operations with 38 agencies that provide microfinancial institutions with funding in 11 countries, in the amount of USD \$112.5 million and, at the same time, it worked to incorporate new clients into its existing portfolio. During 2008, through grant operations, CAF supported a large number of initiatives intended to strengthen financial promotion schemes for micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises. These include: in Argentina, it sponsored and participated at the Annual Forum of the Argentine Microfinance Network and at the seminar "Setting the Foundations for Bicentennial Argentina," organized by the Fundación Mediterránea. Also in Argentina, it instructed the Institute for Studies of the Argentine and Latin American Reality (IERAL) to conduct a study into the availability of public funding for SMEs in six of the country's provinces.

During 2007, the *Corporate Governance Program* continued with activities to develop conceptual innovations and tools and to disseminate and implement pilot projects for the introduction of good corporate governance practices in several of the region's business organizations. In 2008, CAF continued to carry out regionwide projects, with emphasis on state-owned companies, as well as specific projects in several of the region's countries.

### Strengthening Democratic Governance

During 2007 and 2008, CAF continued with the implementation of its ongoing regional-level governance programs in the understanding that it is important to create potential arenas for strengthening democratic governance in the countries and to enhance civic coexistence through dialogue and consensus-building.

Under the *Governance and Political Management Program*, which was established in 2001 in partnership with George Washington University and local universities in Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela, during 2007 an agreement was reached for the inclusion of Mexico, with the aim of offering a comprehensive view of economic and social development problems within an articulated framework for action that addresses technical aspects, negotiation considerations, and political, economic, and social viability. By the end of the year, 5,121 participants had graduated from the program in those countries. In 2008, Argentina joined the program and, by the end of that year, this initiative had a total of 7,100 graduates in Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru, and Venezuela.



During 2007, CAF continued its execution of the *Leadership for Transformation Program* that was launched in 2002. This program seeks to emphasize natural leaders as real tools for modern development in order to guide our peoples toward sustained development. In 2007, CAF succeeded in consolidating the execution of this program in the five Series A shareholder countries. By the end of the period, 7,230 natural leaders had received training. During 2008, program execution was consolidated in the five countries of the Andean region and, by year's end, a total of 10,530 natural leaders had been trained.

The *Regional Program for Updating and Improving Local Management (PRAMEG)* builds on the Program for Efficient and Transparent Municipalities (MUNET) that concluded in late 2006. By the close of 2008, almost 1,000 officials had received training in electronic government and land registration procedures from this program, while its regional coverage reached totals of 22 municipalities for electronic government and 15 for land registration procedures.

During 2007, CAF launched the *Tools for Governance and Consensus Building Program* in Colombia and Ecuador through the training courses of Cambridge International Consulting (CIC). Leaders from different public sector agencies and civil society participated in the program, which concluded in October. During 2008, CAF began a second phase of this activity in Bolivia, Peru, Venezuela, Colombia, and Ecuador. The program's two phases had trained some 1,800 people by the end of 2008.

### **Inclusive Social Development and Equality**

During 2007 and 2008, CAF approved investments in social projects, chiefly to fund programs for access to basic essential services in the sectors of education, drinking water and basic sanitation, health, and rural development. CAF's social development agenda is based on supporting social investment, through which the Corporation channels resources into its shareholding countries, helping strengthen the management capacities of public institutions and carrying out a series of activities from an innovative perspective of corporate responsibility.

### **Drinking Water and Sanitation**

CAF shares the stance of the region's countries that water is a basic human need and a fundamental right. At the same time, it believes that in addition to the challenges in the areas of infrastructure and resource availability, the goal of ensuring universal access to adequate and efficient drinking water and sanitation services essentially requires good management. During 2007, it supported programs at both the local and national levels. In Ecuador, it approved a loan for the country's government to fund projects to provide drinking water and basic sanitation in towns with fewer than 100,000 inhabitants and rural areas. It is estimated that this initiative will benefit almost two million people. At the municipal level, support was given to projects in Guayaquil, Loja, Quito, and Riobamba.

Regionally, it signed a loan to support the execution of the Drinking Water and Sewerage Program in the Colombian department of





Magdalena, which will benefit more than a million inhabitants in 25 of the department's municipalities. This initiative is based on a long-term regional perspective and the ordered and efficient use of local royalties earned from fossil-fuel exploitation. Particularly worthy of note is the fact that this is the second loan extended by CAF to support high-impact regional programs in Colombia's basic sanitation sector. In the future, the Corporation will seek to replicate the plan in other countries in the region.

### **Education**

Education is one of the most effective instruments for generating productive development and ensuring social mobility. During 2007, the Corporation contributed specialized publications for discussions on the region's main educational concerns. In particular, in Colombia it distributed a policy notes document to enhance the debate on the 2006–2015 Ten-Year Education Plan, together with a document containing an analysis of and proposals for preschool education in Colombia. It also continued to support the publication of materials for teacher-training in the areas of language and mathematics, in collaboration with the UNESCO International Institute for Higher Education in Latin America and the Caribbean (UNESCO-IESALC) and Fe y Alegría.

In addition, CAF handles specific education funds, such as the Debt Swap created by the governments of Ecuador and Spain, whereby education projects have received USD \$10 million that would otherwise have been spent on servicing Ecuador's foreign debt; it also manages the Mercosur Educational Fund, which promotes the borderland schools program with a view toward regional integration, along with other projects.

### **Rural Development**

One quarter of Latin America's population lives in rural areas, and that is where most of the region's extreme poverty is found. During 2007, in coordination with its strategic ally the International Fund for Agricultural Development (FIDA), the Corporation continued to oversee projects and programs covering various aspects of agricultural development in rural areas of the region's countries; it also expanded its regional scope by bringing on board several projects in Guatemala. In the areas of inclusive social development and equality, noteworthy during 2008 was the granting of nonreimbursable technical cooperation funds for the execution of the following initiatives: design of master plans for drinking water and sanitation in Loja and Riobamba, Ecuador; comparative study of habitats in marginal urban areas of Peru and Venezuela; structuring the Productive Water Fund; strengthening the planning capabilities of public health service providers, with a regional integration perspective, through the Borderland Health Plan initiative, which was launched in December in partnership with the Andean Regional Health Organization (Hipólito Unanue Agreement); support for the organization of the Health and Economy Forum in Ecuador, held on November 19 in collaboration with the Andean Regional Health Organization (Hipólito Unanue Agreement); and support for Peru's Ministry of Health to conduct research into the feasibility of developing a vaccine for bartonellosis.

### **Human, Cultural, and Community Development**

During 2007 and 2008, CAF stepped up its efforts to strengthen the capacities of underprivi-

## CAF stepped up its efforts to strengthen the capacities of underprivileged communities through social responsibility programs...

leged communities through social responsibility programs and projects focusing on training in music and sport, basic trade skills, heritage recovery, and the creation of and support for local opportunities, intended to help improve the living conditions of those segments of the population. The Corporation currently has some 260 partners in these different initiatives (11 in the international public sector, 173 in the local public sector, 97 in the third sector, and 70 in the private sector), for an average of 5.3 partners per operation.

Under the *Social Action Program through Music*, during 2007 the Corporation continued to consolidate its musical training program. Recent progress was showcased with the organization of five concerts in Cochabamba, Bogotá, Guayaquil, Quito, and Lima. Those cities also have new students, many of whom are children from Fe y Alegría schools, who receive vocal training at the workshops of Voces Andinos a Coro (VAC). During 2008 the program was consolidated in the Andean region and in a number of Series C shareholder countries. Activities included the organizing the second international seminar for Latin American instrumental and choral music teachers; promoting the work of the Conservatorio Andino Itinerante (CAI) and Voces Andinas a Coro (VAC), in partnership with Fe y Alegría in Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, and Venezuela; strengthening the luthier workshop in Medellín with the construction of cellos, and consolidating events for that craft in Bolivia and Peru.

With the *Trade Training and Heritage Rescue Program*, CAF consolidated its regionwide alliance with Spanish International Cooperation Agency (AECI) for strengthening workshop-schools in the Andean region through training in basic trades and heritage rescue. The

Corporation currently supports 16 schools of that kind in the region. The same year, it began the trade training of 600 underprivileged youths in Buenaventura, Colombia, with a view toward their insertion into the labor market. During 2008, the partnership with the AECI was strengthened, and workshop-schools were consolidated in all the Andean nations. Work also began on trade training in Bogotá's satellite towns in partnership with the government's Poverty Networks.

Under its *Sports Training Program*, during 2007 CAF expanded its activities intended to foster essential aspects of human development, in particular the nutritional component, in some instances involving local governments. Thus, in Bolivia, it made progress with local capacity building in three departments through sports clinics given under the aegis of the Social Action Program through Football. In Colombia, projects are underway in Barbosa, Bogotá, Buenaventura, Cali, Cartagena, Medellín, Sincelejo, and Puerto Tejada, through partnerships with such executing agencies as the Fundación Colombiantos, the Family Compensation Funds, and Coldeportes. In Peru, efforts began in El Callao and Manchay to create opportunities for local children to begin practicing a sport. In addition, in Arequipa, it launched the Social and Family Inclusion Project for the Mentally Disabled through Sport. Throughout 2008, CAF strengthened its role in supporting training in sport, incorporating essential aspects of human development, local government participation, and other innovative components. Particularly worthy of note was the project Right to Play, launched in conjunction with Peru's Ministry of Education. In addition, with help from Peru's Academia Cantolao, the international Copa CAF tournament was held in Lima. In addition, partnerships were renewed with Tahuichi in Bolivia,

with the Special International Olympics in Peru and Venezuela, and with Fútbol y Mentalidad Ganadora in Ecuador.

Under the *Program for the Construction of Local Opportunities*, the Corporation continued to work on projects with a multicultural focus in the areas of health, education, rural tourism, and culture of savings and investment. As a part of this, it launched the second stage of the Building Bridges Project in Bolivia to provide reproductive health assistance to Aymara and Quechua women; it expanded the Randimpak project in Ecuador, by beginning the incorporation and organization of 15 women and their families in five provinces of the central Sierra, to assist their productive training, health, education, financial culture, and the certification and marketing of their products on national and international markets. In Bolivia, CAF progressed with its consolidation of its achievements with the reproductive and sexual health of Aymara and Quechua women, and it concluded its efforts to improve the sanitation and nutritional standards of the population of El Alto by connecting 100 school facilities to the gas network. It also concluded, with a positive impact, the Integral Educational Program in the municipality of Calamarca. In addition, the Corporation supported heritage rescue efforts in Tiwanaku, in order to encourage tourism based on the area's heritage. In Peru, it supported activities to consolidate and expand local cooperation networks in Huaura, and it supported 2,500 disadvantaged rural women from Puno, San Martín, and Ucayali in entering the job market.

The following activities taken by the Corporation during 2008 are worthy of particular note: strengthening the capacity for handcrafts in Peru, in synergy with the CAF's operation in the Southern Interoceanic Corridor, and microen-

terprise training activities in Lambayeque in partnership with COFIDE; launch of a new project with Casa Campesina Cayambe in Ecuador, the goal of which is the comprehensive training and professionalization of human talent, to improve organizational skills, water management, agricultural production, and health; establishing an alliance with the Red Juntos in Colombia, to fight extreme poverty in accordance with the government's public policy, and supporting strengthened educational and technological capacities at call centers; promoting the Teachers' Prize for education workers in the public and private sectors; and launching capacity-building projects for tourism and basic trades in the Dominican Republic, in partnership with ADOPEM and Fe y Alegría.

### **Physical Integration and Sustainable Logistics**

Over the past fifteen years, CAF has emerged as the main multilateral institution for financing infrastructure projects in the region. This result is a part of the Corporation's commitment to regional integration and the creation of conditions for increasing and sustaining economic development in its shareholder countries in order to overcome poverty and improve citizens' living standards.

Under the *Initiative for the Integration of South America's Regional Infrastructure (IIRSA)*, during 2007 and 2008 the nations of South America persevered with the tasks of physical integration launched in 2000 by the Presidents and Heads of State at the Brasilia Summit, which led to the IIRSA Initiative. During 2007, a thorough review was conducted of the project portfolio agreed on by the 12 countries, which is organized into ten axes for integration and develop-

## Under the Program for the Construction of Local Opportunities, the Corporation continued to work on projects with a multicultural focus in the areas of health, education, rural tourism, and a culture of savings and investment.

ment and 47 project groups. The review took note of the progress made with project implementation, with more than 140 priority projects now underway; planning work began on the Paraguay–Paraná Waterway Axis; and the total portfolio list was updated, and now includes 507 projects.

CAF's participation in the IIRSA Initiative has continued to emphasize support for the implementation of the regional integration portfolio's priority projects; in this, a particularly valuable role has been played by the allocations of the *Sustainable Infrastructure Projects Promotion Funs (Proinfra)*, which has supported studies and preinvestment work for more than 30 projects in a total nonreimbursable contribution amount of almost USD \$9 million. CAF is now funding the execution of 52 IIRSA projects, with contributions of almost USD \$5.4 billion for a total investment of close to USD \$20 billion.

Since the launch of the *Puebla-Panama Plan (PPP)* in 2001, CAF has been serving as a member of the Interagency Technical Group created by the presidents of the Meso-American region to support the plan within the framework of the two development axes that guide its action: the Human Development Axis, and the Productive Integration and Competitiveness Axis, each of which comprises various initiatives.

Geared toward improving the quality of port services as a strategic element in supporting regional integration and the increased competitiveness of exporting productive sectors, the *First-Class Ports Program* is founded on three basic pillars: (I) CAF's previous work on logistics, competitiveness, and transportation; (II) the zoning work of the IIRSA Initiative; and (III) the Guarantee Mark port management model that was successfully applied at the port of Valencia, Spain.

In its first phase, the program worked with the five Andean ports that have the highest levels of container traffic: Cartagena and Buenaventura (Colombia), Guayaquil (Ecuador), El Callao (Peru), and Puerto Cabello (Venezuela). Diagnostic studies were carried out at each of the ports, and Quality Councils, comprising representatives of all associations and sectors involved with the ports community, were set up to direct the reengineering of critical processes. That phase was completed in 2007 and the next step, unprecedented in the region, was the creation of the Latin American Port Quality Association (ALCP), a nonprofit entity that is responsible for the Guarantee Mark throughout the region and provides the institutional framework for the sustained operation of that port management model. In 2007, certification was extended to the ports of Cartagena and Guayaquil.

In 2007, a more ambitious phase began with the launch of the *GeoSUR Program*, developed by CAF under the aegis of the IIRSA Initiative to establish a decentralized network of bodies responsible for creating and storing geographical data to support decision-making in each of the region's countries. This network comprises entities including national geographical agencies, infrastructure, planning, and environmental ministries, and regional universities and research institutes.

During 2008, the Corporation promoted more than 12 bilateral and multilateral initiatives through the *Support Program for Borderland Development and Integration (PADIF)*, including support for the design and implementation Binational Plans for Borderland Development and Integration between Argentina and Bolivia and between Colombia and Peru; the strengthening of projects for physical infrastructure and so-



cial development between Colombia and Venezuela and on the border between Bolivia and Peru; and continued efforts for development in the Ecuador–Peru borderlands. In Colombia, it supported the program of the office of the Vice President of the Republic that identifies and promotes the execution of major social infrastructure projects in the country’s borderland municipalities.

In addition, through the PADIF the Corporation worked on some regional borderland integration programs among the CAF member countries, with the Hipólito Unanue Agreement’s Andean Borderland Health Plan, and, within Mercosur, it began work on defining a Borderland Bilingual Education Program, similar to the one it already has in place on the Brazil–Colombia border, and on the Mercosur social program called “Social Economy in Borderlands.”

These initiatives are financed by technical cooperation grants from the *Borderland Cooperation and Integration Fund (COPIF)*, which was created by CAF in March 2008. This fund supports the timely identification, preparation, and execution of high-impact projects that promote sustainable human development in the member countries’ border regions and that help strengthen dialogue, mutual trust, and borderland integration at the bilateral and multilateral levels. The fund, which receives resources from the member countries and from multilateral institutions and agencies, was set up with an initial contribution of USD \$4 million from CAF, which will be gradually increased until it reaches a total of USD \$25 million.

At the same time, using resources from ProInfra, during 2008 the Corporation funded pre-investment studies for public and private projects in Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Panama,

Peru, and Uruguay, and, by doing so, opened up potential niches with the public sector and with projects run under public-private partnership models. It also launched a quality assurance program for infrastructure credit portfolio management, and it set up a Standards Follow-Up Unit (USE) to support offices in monitoring portfolio management and engineering standards.

### **Sustainable Environmental Agenda**

CAF contributes to the preservation and the sustainable use of ecosystems and natural resources by supporting conservation, restoration, and cleanup projects, by promoting and developing markets for environmental goods and services, by raising the quality standards of investments in the sector and strengthening its institutions, and by promoting environmental responsibility. During 2007 and 2008, the Corporation launched the CAF Strategy Environmental, thus beginning its broad process of social outreach amongst the most important interest groups involved in environmental management in the region.

Through the *BioCAF Biodiversity Program*, the Corporation successfully concluded the design of the regional project “Facilitating funding for biodiversity businesses and support for the development of market activities in the Andean region.” This project will be submitted to the GEF in pursuit of grant funding worth USD \$6.3 million, which will receive national, bilateral, and other matching funds to reach a total value of USD \$14.5 million.

BioCAF also succeeded in channeling support into other initiatives. In Colombia it carried out a training program on good environmental practice in the manufacturing sector at the company



Aromática La Bella, which sells natural products. It also carried out a study to determine the commercial potential of honey produced by Colombian stingless bees in Bogotá. In Bolivia it approved resources for the Fundación Amigos de la Naturaleza to systematize and disseminate successful experiences with the sustainable use of biodiversity through the promotion of animal husbandry for biocommercialization of two species: alligators (*Caiman yacare*) and capybaras (*Hydrochaeris hydrochaeris*). In addition, as a part of the finance operation for the resurfacing of the Potosí-Uyuni highway, it assigned resources to continue with the restoration of the Andean wetlands it had supported in 2006. Those resources will be used to improve the living standards of communities alongside the resurfaced highway and to combat the desertification of the wetlands and the handling of solid waste, which is critical for improving the quality of the Uyuni salt flats. In Peru it secured resources for funding the Sustainable and Competitive Forestry Development Program.

During 2007, through the *Latin American Program for Carbon and Clean and Alternative Energy (PLAC+e)*, CAF made significant contributions to the development of the carbon market with the registration and issuing of certified reductions in the transportation sector. For the first time, it signed an agreement with a forestry project, which will translate into social benefits for small-scale producers in rural areas. It also signed nine contracts for carbon emission sales: seven under the CAF-Netherlands program, and two with Spain's Ibero-American Carbon Initiative. The Corporation signed an agreement to present projects to sellers, thus launching an open sales model with the participation of buyers of all kinds, public and private agencies, and funds. The portfolio included projects in various productive sectors, such

as energy generation using renewable sources (hydro, wind, and geothermal), biofuels, transportation, gas and oil, and forestry activities.

As part of the *Disaster Risk Management Program*, in 2007 CAF published a compilation of the results obtained with the implementation of the Andean regional Program for the Prevention and Mitigation of Disaster Risks (Preandino), which the Corporation put into practice between 2001 and 2006. In addition it supported training and technical assistance in risk prevention and the implementation of the Departmental Early Warning System for the Bolivian department of La Paz, which will serve as a model for other departments.

Through the *Cleaner Industries Program*, CAF launched a model cleaner production agreement with two industrial companies in Peru, and it also started a technical standards project to formalize and implement cleaner production agreements in that country. In addition, it gave support to the Peruvian government through the Cleaner and Eco-Efficient Production Prize. That initiative was targeted at the country's local governments and major companies. It also supported the National Environment Council (CONAM) in assessing and awarding the National Prize for the Sustainable Management of Solid Waste. In Venezuela, it supplied technical and financial support, through the Industrial Reconversion Fund (Fondoin), for the First International Clean Technology Fair.

In pursuit of CAF's sustainable environmental agenda, in 2008 design work concluded on the methodology for the Strategic Approach Environmental and Social Evaluation (EASE) for the project groups covered by the IIRSA Initiative. In conjunction with the IDB, the Corporation conducted a regional training program in five

## CAF contributes to the preservation and the sustainable use of ecosystems and natural resources by supporting conservation, restoration, and cleanup projects.

South American capitals for the 12 countries involved in this initiative. The EASE was applied to the Group of Six in the IIRSA initiative's Andean axis. Design work also finished on the Institutional Environmental Management Plan (PIGA). In this context, CAF's carbon footprint was determined.

Also during 2008, work concluded on the technological and thematic updating of the CON-DOR Geographical Information System, and five training seminars were held in Buenos Aires, La Paz, Bogotá, Quito, and Lima. Cooperation and technical assistance resources for an approximate total amount of USD \$4.5 million were used to fund 43 operations intended to support

and strengthen the environmental sector in the region's countries. Those operations were carried out under the different lines of work of the Strategic Environment Programs such as Bio-CAF, PREVER, Cleaner Industries, PLAC+e, and Sustainable Development at Financial Institutions. PLAC+e succeeded in finalizing ERPA contracts for reductions in greenhouse-gas emissions equal to 2.5 million tons for the Government of Spain. At the end of 2008, the origination work on the Netherlands portfolio was concluded, with a total of 8.6 million tons covered by signed ERPA contracts. To create a business platform for the carbon market, technical cooperation projects worth a total of USD \$160,000 were carried out.





# Caribbean Development Bank

## CDB

The strategic intent of CDB is overwhelmingly geared towards the reduction of poverty among its borrowing member countries (BMCs), and this is accomplished through both direct, as well as indirect means.

The Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) has been active in many areas of the mandates for the Fourth Summit of the Americas, as well as the draft Declaration of the Fifth Summit of the Americas.



## CDB's Main Areas of Focus on Fourth and Fifth Summit Commitments

The Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) has been active in many areas of the mandates for the Fourth Summit of the Americas, as well as the draft Declaration of the Fifth Summit of the Americas. CDB has taken note of the congruence and relevance of the Fifth Summit's theme "*Securing our Citizens' Future by Promoting Human Prosperity, Energy, Security, and Environmental Sustainability*" to its own work and development mandate. Of particular note is the thrust to reduce the incidence of poverty within the Hemisphere and substantially mitigate environmental and disaster vulnerability. Arising out of the Fourth Summit, the Mar del Plata Declaration, CDB has embraced the following themes: *Growth with Employment; Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSEs) of Job Growth; Strengthening Democratic Governance; Hemispheric Cooperation; Social Development; and Poverty*. The strategic intent of CDB is overwhelmingly geared towards the reduction of poverty among its borrowing member countries (BMCs), and this is accomplished through both direct, as well as indirect means.

### (a) Poverty

Under the theme reducing extreme poverty, CDB's mandate is to reduce poverty, and hence, all activities are oriented around this. In this regard, CDB is committed to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). CDB's mandate of poverty reduction is mainstreamed using a poverty prism and operationalised through three pillars of reducing vulnerability, enhancing labour capability, and governance. Since the 1990s, CDB has been instrumental in conducting Country Poverty Assessments (CPAs) for all of its BMCs, and in addition, assisting them with their National Poverty Strategies. Also, in 2006 the Bank hosted a demography workshop

to support the work of achieving the MDGs, and it was clear that there is significant demand for similar workshops and ongoing training opportunities for member countries.

CDB has also been working with BMCs to provide training under the Support to Poverty Assessment and Reduction in the Caribbean (SPARC) programme. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) SPARC project is a multi-donor initiative designed to address these needs. Under SPARC, CARICOM plays the role of joint executing agency with UNDP. The contributions from development partners are placed in a common budget and are managed by UNDP. CDB, however, directly supports countries under SPARC through the parallel funding modality, since these funds are not placed in the common/consolidated budget under UNDP's management.

CDB supported CARICOM's First Regional Demographic Analysis Workshop. The focus related to measurement issues associated with the Caribbean-specific MDGs and served to bring to the fore some of the practical considerations involved in generating the relevant data for measuring and monitoring development at the national and regional levels. CDB also supported the work in the area of regional census coordination. This meeting focused on advancing preparations for the 2010 Round of Population and Housing Censuses in member states, as they relate to the regional strategy of support, and on national and international initiatives that may have already commenced. CDB and UNDP convened a conference/workshop at CDB to closely examine the global MDGs and their accompanying targets and indicators. Undeniably, the goals are relevant to the Caribbean, but there was consensus across the Region that stated as they are, the targets and indicators

## CDB will redouble its effort to ensure that social protection measures and social safety nets are provided for the most vulnerable in society.

were not particularly effective in monitoring and reporting on the development progress of the Region, and to redress this, there was need to customise/localise same.

It was recognised at the meeting that there was a dearth of social data, and there was a call from the countries, and commitment from development partners, for coordinated support to be provided in order to enhance skills in data collection, analysis and interpretation, and data management. These skills are important to monitoring MDGs, and wider human development progress.

In identifying and exchanging practices in the Region to combat poverty, CDB launched a book, “A New Perspective on Poverty in the Caribbean” which shared experiences from the Region. In addition, with IDB funding, a project commenced on capacity building in survey design and implementation, dissemination of survey data and building capacity for poverty measurement, and analysis.

The Basic Needs Trust Fund is CDB’s flagship direct poverty reduction programme which disburses grants in the areas of Education and Day Care Facilities; Water Supply Systems; Roads, Drains and Footpaths; Health Facilities ; Vulnerable Groups; Skills Training and Community Markets.

### **(b) Disaster Mitigation and Preparedness**

Given the frequent occurrence in the Caribbean of natural disasters such as hurricanes, earthquake, floods, and landslides, CDB is intimately involved in disaster mitigation.

The main objective was to strengthen disaster preparedness and management programmes for natural and man-made disasters. This was achieved through provision of technical assistance (TA), loans, and debt relief to countries in the Caribbean that have experienced natural disasters.

CDB works very closely with the regional bodies, such as the Caribbean Disaster Response Agency, to provide immediate relief in the aftermath of a disaster. The Bank is also supportive of the Catastrophic Risk Insurance Initiative and has contributed to it.

With respect to the improvement of the capacity for risk mitigation, early warning, disaster recovery and reconstruction, there has been tremendous foundation work done by the Disaster Mitigation Facility of the Caribbean, which is now complete. Useful outputs created include hazard maps and guidelines, and the disaster mitigation work is now fully integrated into CDB’s work programme.

### **(c) Small and Medium-sized Enterprises**

A thriving small and medium-sized enterprise (SME) sector is crucial to the growth and development of Caribbean economies because it is an important source of economic output, employment and innovation. A corporate priority of CDB seeks to improve competitiveness of business enterprises, in particular, tourism enterprises and SMEs. Additionally, the Bank’s Private Sector Development Strategy supports the development of the financial sector through capacity building and increasing the flow of investment capital to business enterprises. CDB has a private sector development policy which has as its central focus the promotion of SMEs



and with the assistance of the multilateral development banks, CDB seeks to support economic growth.

The provision of financial services is one way to support the growth of SMEs, as it facilitates the expansion of existing enterprises, and the establishment of new ones. Acknowledging this, some financial institutions within the Region have established dedicated SME lending units. However, the problem of access to financing remains a challenge for SMEs.

Over the years, CDB has been a source of financing for enterprise development activities at the levels of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs). Such funding has been made available through development banks and other eligible financial intermediaries within the Bank's BMCs. This funding has been used to assist with initial working capital and plant expansion, retooling, and other activities which commercial banks traditionally have tended to either avoid or limit their involvement, given the high-risk nature of such investments. Such funding has also been supported by appropriate TA for capacity building within enterprises, especially through CDB's Caribbean Technological Consultancy Services (CTCS) Programme. It is recognised that a number of MSMEs need assistance for strengthening management capabilities, marketing and production systems, among others. Over the years, there have been many success stories across the Region from CDB's lending and TA programmes and some enterprises have grown to become larger businesses, generating employment and foreign exchange.

CTCS network contributes to strengthening private sector capabilities by linking people who have business and technical experience with businesses that need consulting advice and

assistance. CTCS also contributes to technical and managerial skills of the Region's small entrepreneurs, especially young persons and women, and promotes gender equity.

#### **(d) Youth Development**

At the end of 2008, CDB decided to initiate a multimedia project called CDB Communication Tools for Youth Dialogue which will be officially presented at the Summit of the Americas in Trinidad, April 16-19, 2009. This project seeks to raise awareness of youth issues and challenges in the BMCs and to enhance communication tools between CDB and Caribbean youth. The project targets a youth cohort, those between 14-25 years old (as defined by United Nations). It entails the production of a youth-oriented video, produced and directed by young persons, for young persons. Using imagery and the views of the youth population in the BMCs, the content of the video centers on: CDB's response to youth development through its sectoral (e.g. agriculture, education, tourism) and cross-sectoral (e.g. environment, disaster risk management, gender) projects; the issues that impact the development of the Region and its youth; youth approaches, solutions or coping strategies; regional integration and the youth. The video is accompanied by a booklet. The booklet guides youth on how they can successfully collaborate with the Bank in joint efforts towards individual, community and regional development. The booklet also aims to communicate the mission and operations of the CDB and how the work of the CDB contributes to regional development and affects the lives of youth. This project will also lead to the production of a youth webpage that will form a framework for building sustainable knowledge networks for advocacy, public awareness, and for a two-way



policy dialogue between CDB and other regional and extra-regional youth networks.

### **(e) Assistance to Haiti**

With regard to assistance to Haiti, the main objective was to cooperate with the Haitian people in order to revitalise democratic institutions, fight poverty, and foster equitable social-economic development, including the creation of decent work. Haiti became a member of CDB in 2007 and, subsequently, CDB mounted a high-level mission to Haiti in January 2007 to explore areas of focus in that country's development agenda. Since then, CDB had three project interventions (jointly with the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank) on basic education and community development; and technical and vocational education, respectively. All of CDB's interventions in Haiti are designed for funding through the Bank's soft window - the Special Development Fund. The Bank has utilised the Interim Cooperation Framework prepared by the donor community as the context for its work in Haiti. Subsequently, this work has been rolled into the Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility.

### **Strategic Approach to Implement the Commitments in the Main Thematic Areas of the Fifth Summit**

CDB will continue to support the work of the Summit of the Americas process and, in particular, continue to lend support to its BMCs as part of its hemispheric action programme. As the global financial crisis continues to affect the world in general, and the Caribbean in particular, there will be a need to increase efforts to create opportunities for human prosperity. Poverty reduction is a part of the Bank's mission statement and as a result, CDB will redouble its effort to ensure that social protection measures and social safety nets are provided for the most vulnerable in society. The Bank will continue to use its resources, both human and financial, to effectively assist where needed.

Given the Region's vulnerability to natural hazards, CDB will continue to be proactive through its natural disaster mitigation programme to assist the Region in dealing with natural hazards. In addition, the Bank will continue to support the immediate response efforts of other regional organisations after a natural disaster.





IOM International Organization for Migration  
OIM Organisation Internationale pour les Migrations  
OIM Organización Internacional para las Migraciones

# International Organization for Migration

## IOM

Established in 1951, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) is the leading inter-governmental organization in the field of migration and works closely with governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental partners.

Recognizing the need for decent work, IOM has carried out a wide range of projects including labor migration facilitation, skills-training workshops and income generation projects.



# Report on the Work of the International Organization for Migration Summit of the Americas

Established in 1951, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) is the leading inter-governmental organization in the field of migration and works closely with governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental partners.

IOM works to help ensure the orderly and humane management of migration, to promote international cooperation, to assist in the search for practical solutions to migration issues and to provide humanitarian assistance to migrants in need, including refugees and internally displaced people.

To assist countries in Latin America and the Caribbean to better manage migration and to meet the goals set out during the Summit of the Americas process, IOM has, and will continue to, contribute to the promotion of the human rights of migrants within an international legal framework; to contribute to the social and economic development of the Americas through the creation and implementation of programs to maximize the benefits of migration; to work with states to facilitate the integration of migrants in communities of destination, as well as to engage diasporas as the agents of development for their home countries; to participate in coordinated humanitarian responses in situations of emergency or post-crisis; to assist states in the design and development of programs to combat human trafficking and the smuggling of migrants, supporting the victims of these crimes; and finally to support the efforts of governments in the creation of mutually beneficial temporary and circular labor migration programs.

IOM recognizes the linkages between human prosperity and migration and will continue to work with the nations of the Americas in the

management of migration for the benefit of migrants and societies.

## **IOM Activities since the Declaration of Mar del Plata**

### **Decent Work**

Recognizing the need for decent work, IOM has carried out a wide range of projects including labor migration facilitation, skills-training workshops and income generation projects.

Through the establishment of a labor migration agreement with Maple Leaf Foods of Canada, IOM has assisted 308 Colombians, 175 Hondurans, and 100 Salvadorians to obtain temporary employment in Canada. IOM's labor migration selection process begins following a request from the employer—and in close coordination with the governments involved—with advertisements in local media, and then continues with the processing and screening of applications, pre-selection interviews, and medical check-ups. The final selection is carried out by the employer during a face-to-face interview with the candidates pre-selected by IOM. After the final selection, the applicants receive IOM assistance in gathering documents and filling out forms to obtain travel documents, support in case of questions regarding their employment contracts, medical exams, language training and cultural orientation.

IOM Buenos Aires, along with other participating institutions, has initiated the construction of an assistance center for the *paseros* and their children. The *paseros* are thus titled due to their practice of “passing” over the Argentine-Bolivian border of La Quiaca – Villazón carrying their merchandise on their shoulders (often up

## IOM continues to support the hemisphere through humanitarian response to natural disasters and to promote disaster preparedness.

to 30 times each day carrying loads of 130 kilograms). The assistance center will have capacity to offer education, sanitation, and nutrition assistance to children as well as skills training workshops to generate labor alternatives for the adults.

In Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras, IOM receives migrants returned from the United States when they arrive at the airport and provides transportation to their places of origin. In Guatemala, working with the Department of Labor, IOM has created a database to gather information on returnees in order to establish links between their qualifications and employment opportunities in the private and public sector.

Through an initiative for public-private alliances, IOM Colombia is working to create strategic alliances between the private sector, the international community and the Colombian Government through income generation activities to promote the successful reintegration of displaced populations, victims of trafficking and demobilized combatant minors, as well as the social and economic recovery of the communities to which they return.

### **Regional Dialogues**

The interconnectedness of issues relating to migration and the migration dynamics that exist between countries generates the need to maintain common spaces for information exchange, consultation, and coordination. To facilitate this interaction IOM organizes, or serves as technical secretariat, to a number of migration dialogues in the Americas where best practices are exchanged and increased cooperation between states is the ultimate goal.

The 2008 South American Conference on Migration, held in Montevideo, included twelve countries and concluded with the “Declaration of Montevideo,” which formed part of the region’s contribution to the Global Forum on Migration and Development held that year in Manila. The Declaration asserts the shared responsibility of countries of origin, transit, and destination to protect the human rights of migrants and to promote mechanisms to ensure full respect for the rights of migrants under the same conditions as nationals. The South American Conference on Migration began in Lima in 1999. Since then, heightened awareness and information on migration related issues have led to the implementation of policies and laws in most participating countries.

The Regional Conference on Migration, also known as the Puebla Process, has made significant strides to protect migrants and promote their rights. The Puebla Process Plan of Action calls for the strengthening of respect for the human rights of all migrants regardless immigration status, with special attention to protection of the rights of vulnerable groups such as women and children. The Thirteenth Regional Conference on Migration, held in 2008 in Tela, Honduras, brought together officials from the eleven member countries to discuss a regional plan of action that includes migrants’ rights, irregular migration, human trafficking, the right of return for migrants wishing to return to their countries of origin, strengthening capacity building and border management, and reinforcing the collection of data on migration.

The annual Caribbean Regional Seminar on Migration, which began in 2001 and is jointly organized by IOM and UNHCR, invites Caribbean government officials and international organizations to gather to discuss the management



of mixed migratory flows in the region. Participants address such topics as contingency planning for mass migration and refugee emergencies; response to the diverse challenges of human trafficking; and ways to strengthen regional integration and legal frameworks to better respond to mixed migratory flows.

### **Natural Disasters**

IOM continues to support the hemisphere through humanitarian response to natural disasters and to promote disaster preparedness.

Following the Peruvian earthquake of August 2007, IOM worked closely with Peru's Civil Defence Institute (INDECI) to help implement an emergency shelter strategy to bring direct assistance to victims of the quake. IOM continues working with its emergency counterparts to strengthen contingency planning for natural disasters. Several workshops and meetings have taken place with this objective, under the coordination of the National Institute of Civil Defense. As a result of these efforts, the first Peruvian National Humanitarian Network was formed in 2008, including IOM as a full member, with the main goal of enhancing the impact of humanitarian operations through the coordination of its members.

When four hurricanes and tropical storms hit Haiti in late summer of 2008 the effects on the nation were devastating. The storms destroyed nearly one third of the seaport town of Gonaives, including the city's primary water system. Among many other recovery activities, IOM's *Programme de Revitalisation et de Promotion de l'Entente et de la Paix* (PREPEP), funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), worked with the state water

authority to restore the system and began distributing water to 50,000 residents. IOM emergency operations in Gonaives also contributed to clearing the mud that covered the city and the distribution of non-food items and return kits for families that were leaving public shelters and returning home to clean and rebuild.

Assistance to victims of flooding and tropical storms was also provided in Mexico, Bolivia, Colombia and Honduras.

### **Protection of Migrants and the Promotion of Migrants' Rights**

IOM works to encourage respect for human dignity and the protection of individuals in the implementation of its programs, and has undertaken a multitude of activities towards this end.

The IOM Regional Office in Costa Rica manages the *Emergency Fund for the Assistance of Intraregional Migrants in Highly Vulnerable Situations*, which was created in 2005 by the member states of the Regional Conference on Migration. Since 2005, IOM has provided assistance to more than 430 vulnerable migrants, the majority of whom were unaccompanied migrant children or women.

In November 2007, IOM Mexico and the National Institute of the Women (INMUJERES) signed a cooperative agreement to promote the rights of migrant women and combat trafficking in women and girls. The agreement allows the two organizations to cooperatively implement assistance programs for migrant women at the local, state, and national level.



IOM periodically holds seminars for government officials on International Migration Law. The purpose of these introductory courses is to provide a preliminary overview of migration terminology, State rights and obligations, and international legal instruments related to the human rights and labor rights of migrants. Recent seminars include a workshop for government officials in the Andean Region and a course in Washington, D.C. for OAS member states in cooperation with the OAS and ILO.

### Trafficking in persons

IOM has been working to combat human trafficking since 1994. At this time, the Organization has implemented almost 500 projects in 85 countries and has provided assistance to approximately 15,000 trafficked persons.

Since 2006, IOM, the Inter-American Development Bank and the Ricky Martin Foundation have coordinated an information campaign entitled *Llama y Vive* and maintain a hotline in five countries of Latin America (Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Peru) where victims and potential victims of trafficking can receive information and assistance.

In 2007, IOM carried out an information campaign in the triple border area at the convergence of Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay, a hotspot for trafficking in persons. IOM Buenos Aires launched the campaign using information materials in Spanish, Portuguese and Guaraní to increase awareness and boost reporting of the crime.

As part of its work to build capacity and to provide technical support, IOM Washington, created the *IOM Counter-Trafficking Training Modules* in 2006. The *Modules* are a cost effective, comprehensive tool that draw on IOM's extensive knowledge on the subject, offering a 'how to' approach on issues relating to victims' protection and assistance. The *Modules* include training on information campaigns, return and reintegration, capacity building, cooperation and networking, victim identification and interviewing techniques, direct assistance, and children.

In 2008, IOM set out to equip Caribbean countries with tools appropriate for the various legal, social, and economic characteristics throughout the region; to improve regional cooperation among nations; and to harmonize legislation to combat human trafficking on the national and regional levels, resulting in a more effective deterrent for traffickers and would-be traffickers. IOM's *Caribbean Counter-Trafficking Model Legislation and Explanatory Guidelines* is now available on-line as a resource for stakeholders in government and civil society wishing to improve domestic legislation and policy to address the crime of trafficking in persons in the Caribbean.

In Haiti, IOM is working to raise awareness and reintegrate children victims of trafficking. The plight of approximately 173,000 Haitian children that are victims of trafficking for domestic servitude, known as *Restaveks* (stay with), has been the focus of IOM's counter-trafficking program in the country. Since 2005, IOM has assisted more than 300 *Restavek* children to reunite with their families.



IOM works to encourage respect for human dignity and the protection of individuals in the implementation of its programs, and has undertaken a multitude of activities towards this end.

## **Health**

IOM addresses the health needs of individual migrants as well as the public health needs of hosting communities through policies and practices corresponding to the emerging challenges facing mobile populations today.

In 2006, concern over the growing HIV epidemic in the Caribbean brought together IOM, the Pan American Health Organization, the AIDS Institute and Art Center College of Design in California to create a public awareness campaign using animated public service announcements. Under the aegis of Designmatters, an ongoing college-wide initiative that focuses on social and humanitarian design projects and partnerships addressing complex global issues, students from the Illustration Department developed an innovative campaign targeting HIV/AIDS-vulnerable populations in the English-speaking Caribbean, particularly youth, migrant and mobile populations.

In Colombia, IOM and its partners carried out a four-year program to reduce the vulnerability of internally displaced adolescents and young adults to contracting HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases. The World Fund Project in Colombia (PFMC by its Spanish acronym), also known as Project Colombia, reached some 620,000 Colombian people between the ages of 10 and 24. Implemented in 48 municipalities with high rates of displacement and high prevalence of HIV, IOM engaged civil society in an effort to increase access to sexual and reproductive health services including HIV testing, treatment, and sex education. The project also includes the collaborative implementation of social, cultural, and income-generating projects among the targeted population.

## **Strategic Approach for the Future**

### **Migration and the Environment**

The environment has long played a role in IOM's operational activities as an important push factor of migration. In line with IOM's comprehensive approach to human mobility, a wide range of activities has been developed over the years from preparedness and prevention to response and recovery with the aim of reducing vulnerabilities and managing the risks.

### **Human Trafficking**

IOM takes a comprehensive approach to trafficking in persons within the wider context of managing migration. IOM's wide range of activities are implemented in partnership with governmental institutions, NGOs and international organizations. The approach is based on three principles that govern all counter trafficking activities: respect for human rights; physical, mental and social well-being of the individual and his or her community; and sustainability through institutional capacity building of governments and civil society.

### **Regional Dialogue**

IOM will continue to support discussions between governments on migration issues throughout the hemisphere through the Regional Conference on Migration, covering North and Central America, the South American Conference on Migration, and the annual seminar in the Caribbean. It is IOM's hope that these and other migration dialogues will contribute to a community of cooperation on migration issues in the Americas, strengthening regional



protection of the human rights of migrants and enhancing the regional standard of migration management.

### **Human Prosperity**

Maximizing the positive relationship between migration and development has long been a strategic focus of IOM's work. In an era of

unprecedented levels of human mobility, the need to develop a fuller understanding of the linkages between migration and development is particularly urgent, as is the need to act in practical ways to enhance the benefits migration can have for development, and to elaborate sustainable solutions for problematic migration situations. Well managed migration will contribute more effectively to an expansion of human prosperity.



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International  
Labour  
Office

# International Labour Organization

## ILO

ILO's contribution is aimed at promoting and ensuring respect for the Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, the creation of decent work, and equitable growth.

Activities for strengthening workers' and employers' organizations (WO and EO) in the context of technical cooperation activities have taken place in recent years in a wide number of countries across the region.



# International Labour Organization and its Contribution to the Declaration of Mar del Plata 2005

## 1. Background

The Fourth Summit of the Americas, held in Mar del Plata, Argentina, in 2005, had as its central theme “Creating Jobs to Fight Poverty and Strengthen Democratic Governance.” In that context, and in light of the Declaration of Mar del Plata, the ILO identified a set of actions on which it has been working and through which it has made progress and attained results linked to the Declaration agreements.

ILO’s contribution is aimed at promoting and ensuring respect for the Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, the creation of decent work, and equitable growth. The office focuses on two main pillars of action: tripartism and social dialogue. Both are promoted and developed in each of the member States through governments, employers’ and workers’ organizations.

In the past three years, the ILO has discussed and adopted various instruments that have enabled it to better reach the agreements made at the Summit in Mar del Plata. The establishment of the Hemispheric Agenda of Decent Work for the Americas 2006-2015 is one of them, which contains an articulated set of general policies and specific areas for the promotion of decent work in the region.

Another important action is the recent adoption of the ILO’s Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization (June 2008), which states that to achieve the constitutional mandate of the Organization, it is necessary to take into account that the goals of promoting International Labour Standards, growth with employment, social security for all and Social Dialogue are inseparable, interrelated and mutually aligned, and that decent and productive work will not

be achieved if those goals are not promoted simultaneously.

Thus, after the Declaration of Mar del Plata, the ILO has been carrying out actions in the following areas: eliminating forced labour, promoting tripartite social dialogue, promoting fundamental principles and rights at work, vocational training, migrant labour rights, improved labour statistics, and the promotion of MSEs.

## 2. Activities and Results

### 2.1. Elimination of Forced Labour

Efforts to achieve this goal in the region come from various sectors and donors. In Brazil, with ILO’s support, a National Pact against Forced Labour has been signed under which public and private sector enterprises commit themselves not to buy products manufactured at places with links to forced labour. In 2007, the number of signatory companies rose from 164 to 191. The pact has succeeded in promoting a public-private partnership to deal with forced labour and adopting new practices in production chains. Additionally, Brazil has been holding discussions with international cooperation agencies to design a project for the elimination of this type of work. In Paraguay the emergency plan for the Guarani captives has been designed and submitted to the government of that country. In addition, with technical assistance from the ILO, proposals have been made for articles relating to forced labour and discrimination to be considered in the new Constitution that is currently being discussed, and these have received a warm welcome amongst the authorities and the general public. In Peru, since 2007 and also with ILO’s support, the National Commission to Fight against Forced Labour has

## Strengthening the social partners in the world of work is central to achieve an active and fair participation in the promotion of decent work in the region.

been created. Additionally on May 1, 2007, a national Plan to Fight Forced Labour was approved by means of a Supreme Decree.

### **2.2. Promotion of Tripartite Social Dialogue**

Strengthening the social partners in the world of work is central to achieve an active and fair participation in the promotion of decent work in the region and also in the consolidation of democracy and social cohesion. An example of the progress achieved is the inclusion of an effective social dialogue as a central priority of the Decent Work Country Programmes (DWCPs) in such countries as Argentina, Bahamas, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Ecuador, Peru, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay and the Dominican Republic.

At the same time, activities for strengthening workers' and employers' organizations (WO and EO) in the context of technical cooperation activities have taken place in recent years in a wide number of countries across the region. For example, in El Salvador, Honduras and the Dominican Republic, a diagnosis of EOs and an updating of WOs were developed to define their situation and propose measures for strengthening them. In Haiti a project to conduct tripartite actions in the workplace with the participation of EOs and WOs has been implemented. In Argentina, the development of the current DWCP is product of an intense and coordinated collective production process between stakeholders and the ILO.

In addition, the Caribbean Academy for the Management of Employers' Organizations (CAMEO) was introduced in June 2007 as a capacity-building programme for Caribbean employers'

organizations. It is aimed at building capacity for the management and sustainability of employers' organizations. The first programme was conducted by the ILO in collaboration with the Mona School of Business, University of the West Indies, Jamaica.

About workers' activities, in June 2008, the ILO and the Caribbean Congress of Labour (CCL) hosted a Round Table on the subject of "Globalization, Regional Integration and Economic Partnership Agreements (EPA): the Social and Labour Dimensions." The EPA was concluded in December 2007 between CARIFORUM (CARICOM and Dominican Republic) and the European Union (EU). CARIFORUM is the first region in the ACP to sign an Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA). The Round Table involved academia, the Caribbean Regional Negotiating Machinery (CRNM), the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) Unit, the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) and the private sector. A Declaration and Plan of Action were adopted which fed into a discussion in the region of the need to review the EPA periodically and to put in place mechanisms for monitoring progress on the application of the "social provisions."

Another important initiative has been the support and the technical assistance to strengthen the institutional mechanisms of social dialogue in countries such as Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Peru and Mexico. In the latter, social dialogue in specific sectors of the economy (automotive, sugar, textile and tourism) was fostered with the aim of ensuring the implementation of agreements reached, such as the "Agreement for Upgrading the Sugar Industry in its labour aspect."



In Brazil, in recent years various bodies of tripartite dialogue in order to promote the discussion of national policies and to monitor the implementation of programs have been established: CONAETI (on child labour), CONATRAE (forced labour), CTIO (gender equality and race), National Council of Immigration (CNIG), etc.

Another example is The Tripartite Caribbean Employment Forum (TCEF) under the title “Responding to globalization: A Decent Work Agenda for the Caribbean in the Context of Regional Integration,” which was held in Barbados from 10-12 October 2006. The TCEF laid the foundation for programmes and policies for carrying out the Decent Work Agenda (DWA) in the English- and Dutch-speaking Caribbean through the formulation of Decent Work Country Programmes (DWCPs).

### **2.3. Promotion of Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work**

Since the adoption of the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, in 1998, there have been a series of efforts to develop this objective. These ranged from communication campaigns, publications and country-country cooperation. One of the most important and innovative actions are the experiences of Argentina, Colombia, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Brazil, Chile and the Dominican Republic. In Argentina, in the year 2006, the Federal Council on Culture and Education incorporated contents on basic rights and decent work into curricula throughout the country. In Colombia, an educational package on fundamental rights which has been incorporated into the training system of FECODE (Colombian Federation of Educators) has been developed. In Guatemala, the Rafael Landívar

University incorporated the issue of fundamental rights into the curriculum of the current Labour Law II course. In Brazil, the ILO and the Superior Labour Court signed a Protocol of Intent to carry out courses on International Labour Standards at the National School of Vocational Training for Labour Magistrates, and it has conducted courses with the College of the Public Federal Ministry on the implementation of standards in the country. Uruguay has started the Project “Building the Future with Decent Work” in order to promote fundamental rights at work in secondary schools. In addition, in the above mentioned countries, a teaching guide was developed for the promotion of fundamental principles and rights at work at universities.

Other activities undertaken by the ILO include the follow-up workshops held in Peru for the Promotion of the ILO Declaration, the program of sensitization and training for civil servants, judges and magistrates on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work in Colombia, and seminars for judges on the International Labour Standards with special emphasis on the ILO standards system in all countries of Central American subregion during 2006 and 2007. Finally, Brazil has promoted the launching of the annual reports of the Global Declaration on Child Labour (2006), equality of opportunities (2007) and Freedom of Association (2008), which serve as a reference for the discussion and implementation of those principles in the country.

Additionally, the ILO Subregional Office for the Caribbean and the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) Unit jointly produced two informational booklets on the benefits and requirements for employers and workers working within the CSME. The booklets highlight the relevance of the ILO Declaration on Fundamental



# The ILO proposal for the region in this area is to promote vocational training programs linked to employment policies and targeted to the needs of vulnerable unemployed people...

Principles and Rights at Work within the CSME. Freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining, and discrimination in employment and occupation, in particular, are closely linked to concerns about conditions under which CARICOM nationals will live, work and run enterprises in the CSME. Likewise, the ILO's Canadian-funded project on labour legislation was implemented between December 2006 and November 2008. This project evaluated the extent to which national legislation conforms to CARICOM model legislation developed earlier with ILO assistance. Two of the main products of this project are the Caribbean Digest of Legislation on Termination of Employment and the Caribbean Database of Labour Legislation (CARIBLEX). Approximately 150 pieces of national legislation will be readily available for consultation through the website. This output will provide government officials, employers and workers from across the region with relevant information on labour legislation. The ILO is also providing technical support and advice for the work on a CARICOM 'Social Floor,' which will be based on, inter alia, International Labour Standards (ILS).

## 2.4. Vocational Training

The ILO proposal for the region in this area is to promote vocational training programs linked to employment policies and targeted to the needs of vulnerable unemployed people, as well as institutions for promoting social dialogue around vocational training and structuring national educational efforts.

In order to do this training, the ILO has the support of the Inter-American Centre for Knowledge Development in Vocational Training (CINTERFOR), and its main actions include: in Argentina,

the technical assistance provided to the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security to strengthen its ability to formulate and implement strategies that improve the quality and relevance of vocational training in that country. In Brazil, the National Training Plan (PNC) has been developed and the Inter-ministerial Commission on Professional Certification has been created. Chile has updated its relevant law and has created a regulatory framework for high-quality training.

In Mexico, together with CINTERFOR and the Council for the Standardization and Certification of Occupational Skills (CONOCER), the ILO provides support for human resource training in the automotive, textile, sugar and tourism.

In El Salvador, the Institute of Vocational Training has designed new training policies that promote productivity, competitiveness, decent work and equality. Similarly, the Institution of Professional Vocation of Costa Rica has gained experience in using the for job-skills approach, while the Institute of Panama has been transformed, thereby improving its working methods. The Vocational Training Institute of Honduras is improving its capacity to expand the coverage of its services in the country.

Finally, it should be noted that the Central American subregion has formed a network of job-related vocational training institutes.

## 2.5. Migrants Labour Rights

The goals of the Hemispheric Agenda for the Promotion of Decent Work (2006-2015) include: "By 2010, put in place a system of statistical data on migrant workers to provide input for policies formulated in this area; achieve ratifi-

cation of ILO Conventions Nos. 97 and 143; and ensure that all the region's countries have in place a strategy and plan of action for the orderly management of migration."

In this context, the ILO, among other actions, has begun implementing a technical cooperation project in the Andean subregion with the overall objective of strengthening the capacities of governments, institutions and social actors to improve the management of migratory flows between Spain and the beneficiary countries, by improving the training of potential migrants, the introduction of intermediation systems and the articulation of mechanisms for voluntary return, thus indirectly integrating workers and immigrants at the social-labour level, so that migration is socially and economically beneficial to the countries of origin, for Spain and for the workers themselves.

In addition, in relation to the implementation of labour rights in Peru, there has been an important contribution to the strengthening of the Labour Inspection Service, through a new Law on Inspection, its regulations and the accompanying computerization process.

The goals of the 2008-2011 DWCP for Argentina include promoting decent employment and protecting migrant workers, through: a) strengthening the technical capacity of the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security and social actors to develop policies and programmes focused on the protection of migrant workers, b) the development of tools for the effective exercise of the labour rights and the labour and social security of migrant workers, especially women, and c) strengthening mechanisms and areas for the promotion and facilitation of free movement of workers within the Mercosur, with guarantees for a mutual recognition of their la-

bour qualifications that takes into account the needs of productive development.

In the case of Paraguay, it is important to highlight the implementation of the Project "Youth: capabilities and economic opportunities for the social inclusion," financed by MDG funds. It will be focused on migrant problematic, especially for the young.

In Brazil, the ILO provides technical assistance to the National Migration Council (CNMi). In this regard, it has discussed the ratification of Convention 150 and has promoted a series of events for discussing the new National Policy on Migration.

## **2.6. Improved labour statistics**

In recent years, the ILO offices in the region have supported countries to improve their systems for measuring labour conflicts, especially in the improvement and compatibility of household surveys, in the identification of new indicators to facilitate monitoring of policies and the construction of indicators for specific groups (women, child labour, and the young).

In Mexico, in 2008, for the first time since 1999 and supported by ILO and UNICEF, indicators on child labour were developed, broken down by gender and various age ranges.

In Guatemala and Nicaragua, the concept of decent work in the measurement of labour market variables was introduced in household surveys and administrative records. In Panama, Costa Rica, Ecuador and the Dominican Republic, the measurement of employment, underemployment and informality was improved, and in Chile elements of gender were integrated.



In Brazil, a technical group was created including the Ministry of Labour, the DIEESE (Institute of Statistics of the Central Trade Union) and the University of Campinas for the development of national indicators of decent work, taking into consideration all work in the region. In addition, a database on employment trends in Brazil 1992-2006 was developed, broken down by sex, race and age.

In addition, Chile is carrying out a study to develop a set of Decent Work indicators that will track the milestones achieved in the implementation of its DWCP.

In the Caribbean, through the project “Information System of the Labour Market in the Caribbean,” more reliable and internationally comparable information is produced about the labour market for use at the national and regional levels. Plans are underway for obtaining information on the labour market in the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Grenada, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago. In 2007, a subregional project known as “Inclusion of the English- and Dutch-speaking Caribbean countries in the harmonization of basic labour market indicators for Latin America and the Caribbean” was initiated. The aim is to build the capacity of the national statistical offices (NSOs) to produce harmonized statistics for six key employment-related concepts in accordance with a timetable agreed on by the CARICOM and the ILO.

In 2008 the ILO created the program “Information System and Analysis System for Latin America and the Caribbean (SIALC),” the basic function of which is to collect, process, systematize, disseminate and maintain files of social-labour information from Latin American countries, structuring different statistical data-

bases which contribute to decision-making in the workplace and in the investigative process of the most significant labour market variables. This program has an updated database that serves as an input for studies being conducted and support for technical assistance to be provided in the region. The design of the Database of Regional Indicators of Decent Work (LACLIS) has also been developed, providing a bilingual (English/Spanish) database that includes 18 decent work indicators and contains information from 41 countries and territories in the region.

Under the EUROSOCIAL programme, the European Commission has entrusted the Regional Office of the ILO for Latin America and the Caribbean and the International Training Centre of the ILO (Turin Centre) with the implementation of the project for the employment sector, which develops actions for the exchange and transfer of experiences and best practices in four thematic areas related to public employment policies: measurement of labour market indicators, analysis of labour market indicators and active employment policies, formulation of active employment policies, and monitoring and evaluation of the impact of public employment policies.

## **2.7. Promotion of MSEs**

The ILO has been devoting special attention to Small and Micro-enterprises and to workers in the informal economy, through technical assistance activities and training. The main challenge is the creation of conditions for small and micro-enterprises in urban and rural areas to achieve a genuine competitiveness in a framework of fairness, which requires the improvement of their rights and capacity, access to technology, credit, markets, social protection

## The ILO has been devoting special attention to Small and Micro-enterprises and to workers in the informal economy, through technical assistance activities and training.

and social dialogue, as well as the identification of ways of incorporating them into national economies and integration processes.

In Argentina, the project “Support for the re-activation of employment in Argentina 2004-2008” (AREA) was developed, in seven provinces, for the consolidation of territorial networks for Local Economic Development (LED) and the promotion of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises. A new project, CEA (2009-2010), is being planned to pursue this line of work.

At the same time, Chile has improved the enforcement of the Family Microenterprise Law. In Jamaica, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago, research projects to measure the productivity and competitiveness of businesses run by women have been developed.

In Peru, the National Plan for Small and Micro Enterprises has been approved and disseminated among partners and associates (2005). Peru and Bolivia have also carried out business training activities, targeting MSE entrepreneurs, to ensure effective and efficient company management.

In Mexico, since April 2007, the ILO has been implementing a pilot initiative with the State Government of Hidalgo, employers and the State University, to promote productive projects for women through service and business centres linked with the market for Mexican migrants in the United States.

In Brazil, the expansion of knowledge on the issue of employment and informality has been supported, through conducting various studies on the topic with emphasis on gender and race. An unpublished report that examines the relationship between human development and

decent work in Brazil has also been produced in conjunction with the UNDP and ECLAC.

Paraguay has been developing intensive labour strategies in its public programmes to combat underemployment and unemployment in the labour market.

Finally, job creation through enterprise development has been included in the National Employment Plans and Programs in Honduras, Costa Rica and Nicaragua. In that regard, the authorities of the government of Costa Rica have learned best practices and procedures to improve the structure of regulation and reduction of bureaucratic barriers and thus improve the business environment and promote the formalization of small business units.

### 3. Thematic areas and implementation of strategies for the Fifth Summit

As part of the ILO’s mandate for the coming years and considering the importance of ensuring the future of the citizens of the Americas, guided by the slogan of the upcoming Summit in Trinidad and Tobago, the ILO proposes the following strategies for working within the framework of the thematic areas identified:

#### 3.1. With regard to human prosperity

the ILO considers this commitment as part of the development and consolidation of decent and productive work in the public policies. This ensures all employees a common ground to achieve an equal and democratic life with social cohesion. Under this line of action, the ILO proposed promoting a “Social Floor for All”, which guarantees a minimum access to social



protection within a framework of decent work. To achieve this, the ILO has been developing various proposals in several countries in the region, to promote social and economic policies closely related and consistent with the Decent Work Agenda.

Likewise, promoting improved training and better employment for young people should be a strategic commitment in any collective action and effort to build true human prosperity. Ensuring young people the access to productive employment and decent work contributes to sustainable and equitable economic development, to the strengthening of democracy and to greater social cohesion. The ILO has been implementing various initiatives to promote

youth employment, ranging from the analysis and characterization of the problem to the promotion of public policies for young people.

### **3.2. Regarding environmental sustainability**

the promotion of “Green Jobs” is a new axis of intervention of the ILO in the framework of caring for the environment with decent work. The ILO has developed initiatives in Mexico and supported new ones in Brazil. On this basis, initiatives that seek to build a sustainable environment for the labour market, the business market, and for workers’ rights are promoted.



# **Institute for Connectivity in the Americas**

## **ICA**

The Institute for Connectivity in the Americas (ICA) has effectively contributed and continues to work towards the achievement of the mandates that emerged during the Mar del Plata (2005) Summit, through the promotion and support of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for development initiatives in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC).



Report on the Results of the Fourth Summit of the Americas  
and Strategic Focus for the Fifth Summit.



# Fifth Summit of the Americas

## Port of Spain, 2009

### Introduction

The Institute for Connectivity in the Americas (ICA) has effectively contributed and continues to work towards the achievement of the mandates that emerged during the Mar del Plata (2005) Summit, through the promotion and support of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for development initiatives in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC). With the funding support of the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), ICA has provided and mobilized support towards valuable regional projects aimed at the adoption of adequate policies and conditions for social inclusion and improved socio-economic equity in LAC.

ICA's role focuses on the provision of funding support for ICT projects that promote (a) the creation of decent jobs and the promotion of entrepreneurship among the youth; (b) improvements in the delivery of health and education for the poor; and (c) the development of innovative mechanisms for increased citizen participation and good governance.

ICA's contribution to the achievement of Summit mandates has included a series of regional projects aimed at bringing together stakeholders from different sectors to discuss and work together on issues that relate to the effective insertion of the region into the Information Society. This multi-sectorial approach has helped to eliminate silos that tend to isolate projects by bringing countries and stakeholders together through regional networks. ICA will continue to foster the formation of collaborative networks to share lessons and experiences, while scaling-up innovative solutions in the fields of education, health, e-economy, transparency and citizen participation in LAC.

### Results and Activities Related to the Fourth Summit thematic areas

#### Training the Labor Force

ICA is supporting the implementation of the project **Partnership in Opportunities for Employment through Technologies in the Americas (POETA): Eastern Caribbean Initiative**. The POETA project offers an intensive training program designed to facilitate entry into the workforce to populations at risk in six countries: Antigua and Barbuda; the Commonwealth of Dominica; Grenada; St Kitts and Nevis; St Lucia; and St Vincent and the Grenadines. All of these countries have cited growing problems with youth unemployment and crime, which the POETA Program is seeking to address through the innovative use of ICTs for the training of labor force and the development of youth skills.

ICA has been actively exploring ways to enhance opportunities of disabled populations to integrate into the labour force through a regional project entitled **Telework and Disabled People**. The project analyzes the socio-labour situation and profile of people with disabilities in nine Latin American countries and identifies capacity building in ICTs and telework opportunities for the disabled population.

ICA is currently supporting the second phase of the Entra 21 program through the project **Connecting Disadvantaged Youth to Quality Employment using ICTs**. Created in 2001 by the International Youth Foundation (IYF) with support from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), Entra 21 increases the employability of disadvantaged youth between 16 and 20 years through training and job placement services, with a focus on jobs that use ICT skills.

## ICA has been actively promoting the use and integration of innovative ICT tools as a way of contributing to strengthen SME's competences as engines of growth.

### **Micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises as an engine of job growth**

Recognizing the important role that SMEs play in the region's economy, ICA has been actively promoting the use and integration of innovative ICT tools as a way of contributing to strengthen SME's competences as engines of growth. ICA continues to work in collaboration with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) in the initiative ICT for Business (ICT4BUS), which provides funding support to small and medium entrepreneurs of the region who integrate innovative uses of technologies into their operations.

ICA is currently supporting the second phase of a regional project on **Open Business Models**, exploring the experience of countries such as Brazil and promoting their development in others such as Colombia, Mexico, Argentina and Peru. The project focuses on the challenge of 'informality' by exploring ways through which open business models can become integrated into the 'formal' economy, as well as into the development of public policies.

ICA also supports the project **ICT for micro-credit - the case of correspondent banking in Brazil** which draws upon different models developed by pioneering banks using the correspondent banking channel in order to scale up microcredit delivery among low-income population in Brazil and across the region.

ICA is working in collaboration with the Inter American Development Bank (IADB) in a project aimed at **Strengthening Procurement Systems in Latin America and the Caribbean**. This regional initiative is expected to contribute to the enhancement of transparency, effectiveness, and efficiency of the public sector

procurement system in LAC with the support of ICT tools and the increased participation of Small and Medium Size enterprises.

### **Strengthening democratic governance**

Based in the increasing recognition of the role that ICTs play in democratic governance through the provision of new tools and mechanisms for transparency, public accountability and citizen participation, ICA has supported a number of initiatives that address some of the challenges that affect the provision and citizen access to government services in the region.

In collaboration with the Executive Secretariat of Integral Development (SEDI)/Organization of American States (OAS), ICA has supported the consolidation of the **Network of E-Government Leaders in Latin America and the Caribbean (Red GEALC, [www.redgealc.net](http://www.redgealc.net))**, which brings together more than 60 e-government leaders from 32 countries in the Americas in a hemispheric space for exchanging knowledge, expertise and proven solutions on e-government issues.

Other initiatives that ICA has supported in this area include the project **Impact of ICTs in Local Democratic Strengthening, Transparency and Citizen Participation**, implemented in the municipality of Peñalolén, Chile, with the objective of analyzing the impact of implementing e-democracy and e-government strategies at the local level, with emphasis on the use and adoption of ICTs to strengthen transparency and citizen participation. The project **ICTs for Building Democratic Dialogue: the Agrarian Revolution Observatory in Bolivia**, also supported by ICA, strengthened the information systems on agrarian issues, making informa-



tion available to civil society and stakeholders in the agrarian process.

As the ICT4D sector consolidates as a field of both implementation and academic study, and the myriad of interested actors continues to grow, virtual communities such as the Caribbean ICT Virtual Community (CIVIC) become necessary venues for sharing information, holding discussions, facilitating networking and linking ideas, experts and projects in the region. ICA supports the **CarISnet II** project (<http://carisnet.org>) to contribute to the social and economic sustainable development of the Caribbean region by strengthening CIVIC as a regional mechanism to promote knowledge exchange, capacity building and collaboration among Caribbean ICT stakeholders.

### **Social Development International Organizations**

ICA recognizes that improving the availability of data on a wide range of socio-economic indicators is crucial to developing good governance and relevant policy making in the LAC region. With the aim of contributing to the formulation of well-informed public policies, as well as to the flow of information, knowledge and policy recommendations among key actors and ICT practitioners, ICA has supported the creation of regional networks such as OSILAC, DIRSI and PROTIC.

The third phase of the **Observatory for the Information Society in LAC (OSILAC)** project, implemented in collaboration with ECLAC, aims to undertake applied research on the information society, its determinants and its consequences, especially with regards to the relationship between ICT use and innovation.

OSILAC maintains and expands its online information system; monitors national policies and projects related to the regional action plan; and aims to increase the number of countries and indicators involved in the project. OSILAC also continues to ensure the quality and harmonization of indicators by means of methodological guides and training sessions.

**The Regional Dialogue on the Information Society (DIRSI)**'s continuing mandate is to help achieve pro-poor, pro-market ICT regulatory and governance regimes in the region, through the consolidation of a regional network for applied policy-oriented research. **The ICT Project Database (PROTIC)** provides information resources (databases, maps, experts database and related material), that aim to serve as tools for ICT practitioners, governments, multilateral and funding agencies to share best practices, identify projects that can be scaled up, and find gaps, overlaps and potential synergies among their activities.

### **Social Development Health**

ICT tools have the potential of playing an important role strengthening innovation in the region. ICA is responding to pre-existing and emerging health threats through its support to innovative initiatives that contribute to increase the quantity, quality and availability of crucial **health information**.

Towards this end, ICA is supporting the second phase of Punto "J", a Peruvian based initiative to reduce the incidence of HIV/AIDS in Youths in the region. The first phase developed a methodology to educate on Health and HIV/AIDS from Youth to Youth ([www.puntoj.com.pe](http://www.puntoj.com.pe)). In



## At the broad regional level and through multi-stakeholder collaboration, ICA supports the project Strategies to Consolidate and Integrate RELPE and REDAL Networks.

the second phase and that is in the process of being adapted to other 4 countries in the region (Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Mexico, Colombia and Argentina).

ICA is also supporting the project **Enhancing Nurses Access for Care Quality and Knowledge through Technology (ENACQKT) in collaboration with** the University of Saskatchewan, Canada. Canadian researchers are working in close collaboration with Caribbean-based health experts and practitioners in the Dominican Republic, the Commonwealth of Dominica, St. Kitts and Nevis and St. Lucia, with the aim of promoting knowledge exchange and strengthening local capacity in the areas of nursing training, care and quality of health services. This initiative advocates the expanded use of a proven simple ICT infrastructure and toolkit (i.e. PDAs, wireless connectivity and health relevant software) to address the quality of care within individual health care systems, and draw lessons that can be adapted/replicated at the regional level.

### **Social Development Education**

ICA has actively supported the articulation of regional educational efforts through several projects. At the broad regional level and through multi-stakeholder collaboration, ICA supports the project **Strategies to Consolidate and Integrate RELPE and REDAL Networks.** This project aims to consolidate the **Latin America Schoolnets (REDAL)** and the Latin American Education Portals Network (RELPE), to promote exchange and collaboration in the production and management of highly valuable educational resources, meeting the demands of the educational systems of the countries of the region.

The relationship between young people and digital media is a complex subject which requires further research and exploration. **Based on an impact analysis of the introduction of 1x1 models** (one laptop per child) in different countries of the LAC region, ICA is supporting research on the way in which children are learning in the 1x1 pilot projects. The research will analyze the skills that are developed through the implementation of this model, as well as the challenges and potential derived from them for the new generations. The project will also analyze the impact that these particular pilot projects are having on the families and communities of the children and youth involved in the program.

### **Conclusion Strategic Approach for Fifth Summit Thematic Areas**

#### **Improving access to quality education**

ICA will continue supporting the development of new initiatives and the replication of proven models that seek to strengthen regional educational processes, and to improve the quality of and access to updated educational content through the use of ICT tools.

The relationship between young people and digital media and the progression of skills related to learning new technologies will be further studied. ICA will also support research on the e-learning and distant learning experiences of major organizations providing professional training and certification in Latin America and the development of effective regional mechanism for the exchange of pedagogical and didactic material.



### **Improving health and wellness**

ICA will continue to support research as a response to pre-existing and emerging health threats, through mechanisms that contribute to increase the quantity, quality and availability of crucial health information.

The use of ICTs offers enormous potential in terms of providing access to health services for marginalized and rural populations, enabling patients' care and monitoring through low-cost/ user-friendly applications such as mobile phones. ICA will support research on innovative ICT tools and approaches that help the region improve the provision and access to health services as a way of contributing toward equity and digital inclusion in LAC.

### **Nurturing the entrepreneurial, innovative and creative capacity of citizens and creating decent opportunities for overcoming exclusion and marginalization**

ICA will support regional initiatives that incorporate training and capacity building opportunities on ICTs, as a contribution to strengthening the region's productivity and the competitiveness of the labor force and small and medium size enterprises (SMEs). It will concentrate in areas such as e-commerce and employment; youth insertion into the labour market, digital and creative industries; and IP rights and public goods, among others.

ICA will work collaboratively with the Inter American Development Bank (IDB)/Multilateral Investment Fund (MIF) towards the implementation of a hemispheric program in e-procurement focused on increasing the participation of Micro, Small and Medium Size Enterprises

(MSMEs) in the public procurement systems of LAC. The aim is to promote efficiency, transparency and the adoption of common standards in this area with the support of ICT tools as enablers of change. ICA will also support the second phase of a regional project on Open Business Models, exploring the experience of countries such as Brazil and promoting their development in others such as Colombia, Mexico, Argentina and Peru.

### **Improving transparency and good governance**

ICA will continue working with regional stakeholders to further consolidate the Red GEALC as a regional mechanism to promote the adoption of e-government in LAC, as well as supporting actions at the municipal and local levels to improve governance and citizen participation.

As part of its support in this area, ICA will continue supporting the Regional Dialogue on the Information Society (DIRSI) initiative, which aims to foster dialogue across a broad range of policy making actors through the creation of an online information and dialogue platform centered on pro-poor ICT themes.

### **Improving natural resource management and responding to climate change**

As an emerging area of concern ICA will support initiatives that explore the role that ICTs can play to contribute to the regional response to the challenges posed by climate change. Future activities in this field will involve the exploration of innovative ICT applications, as well as fostering the regional exchange of experiences and strategies aimed at increasing the effectiveness of policy engagement and policy influence in this area.







