



The Joint Summit Working Group

Collaborating to Implement the Inter-American
and Summits Agendas

Promoting Human Prosperity

- Social Development
- Gender Issues
- Sustainable Economic Growth
- Labor
- Health
- Youth and Ageing
- Education
- Migration
- Science and Technology
- Agriculture, Rural Life and Food Security
- Cultural Diversity



The Joint Summit Working Group

Collaborating to Implement the Inter-American and Summits Agendas

Promoting Human Prosperity

Social Development

In Paragraph 9 of the Fifth Summit Declaration of Commitment, the Hemisphere's leaders agreed to "establish a network for the exchange of information on policies, experiences, programs and best practices in social protection." On September 22, 2009 the **Organization of American States (OAS)** co-hosted the launch of the Inter-American Social Protection Network (IASPN) in New York City.

The objective of the IASPN is to promote cooperation and information-sharing among countries and institutions on social protection practices that provide real solutions to help reduce social inequality and poverty. The IASPN will consolidate the experiences of the JSWG institutions in the area of social protection, such as that of the **World Bank** to help countries in the region pioneer conditional cash transfers as a proven approach to help people out of poverty, as well as the work of **Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)** to catalogue conditional cash transfer initiatives. The IASPN will continue to build on these previous successful efforts to match recipient country needs with existing programs and methods that can be transferred. The IASPN will mobilize resources and strengthen institutions around the region through training workshops and technical assistance, and will continue to build on previous successful efforts to match recipient country needs with existing programs and methods that can be transferred.

The **World Bank** supported the creation and launch of the Inter-American Social Protection Network. The Latin America and the Caribbean Region of the World Bank's regional expert on social protection and CCT programs participated during the conference along with representatives of the programs that the Bank supports, such as Bolsa Familia (Brazil), and Familias en Acción (Colombia).

The region's conditional cash transfer programs were expanded during the past year with nearly US\$3 billion from the World Bank as a way of protecting the most vulnerable from the impact of the global crisis. IDA provided US\$203 million in assistance to the poorest countries in Latin America and the Caribbean in fiscal 2009, with non-concessional lending and grants to five countries. Some examples of these programs include:



The Joint Summit Working Group

Collaborating to Implement the Inter-American and Summits Agendas

Promoting Human Prosperity

- A US\$1.5 billion loan to Mexico to expand its Oportunidades CCT program.
- A US\$636.5 million loan to Colombia for its Familias en Acción CCT program.
- A US\$40 million grant and credit financial support to improve water and sanitation services in Nicaragua.
- US\$30 million in financial support for the Rural Alliances Project in Bolivia, which aims to improve accessibility to markets for poor rural producers in selected sub regions.
- A US\$25 million grant approved for Haiti to finance the reconstruction and emergency maintenance of infrastructure destroyed or damaged by the hurricanes and tropical storms that struck the country in August and September 2008.
- A US\$10 million zero-interest loan to address the food crisis in Honduras.

Through its publication, the *“Social Panorama of Latin America”*, and publications related to sense of belonging, social protection systems and most vulnerable groups such as women and youth, **ECLAC** continued to disseminate information and to promote the debate on the new employment-related targets incorporated in the MDGs, the demographic dividend as an opportunity for expanding secondary education coverage, and the issue of youth and family violence from a perspective of social inclusion, as well as the financing of social protection, food security, changes to the family structure and challenges this poses for public action.

Technical cooperation was provided to develop methodologies for measuring social expenditure, improving management of social programmes and estimating the cost of hunger in many countries. ECLAC devoted much of its work to social protection and conditional cash transfers programmes identified as fundamental tools to achieve more equality and poverty reduction in the region providing technical cooperation to several countries. ECLAC has disseminated and shared information through the website dedicated to the LACSIN network (Latin America and the Caribbean Social Institutions Network) or RISALC in Spanish. This Network has served as a platform for knowledge-based social management.

The Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI) founded the Central American Border Zone Development Program (ZONAF) with the objective of improving



The Joint Summit Working Group

Collaborating to Implement the Inter-American and Summits Agendas

Promoting Human Prosperity

the quality of life of the population of 57 municipalities in the border zone areas of the 5 Central American countries. The purpose of attending border zone areas was based on the high levels of poverty and vulnerability and exclusion from all development dynamics, even though these areas have the largest proportion of natural resources in Central America

Through January 2010, the ZONAF Program has approved 99 projects with approximately US\$38.2 million funded by ZONAF. These projects have changed the lives of thousands of border zone residents bringing about social benefits in diverse sectors, such as: health, education, environment, production and value chains, road infrastructures, water and sanitation and energy.

CABEI supports the housing sector in coordination with the active participation of governments through the American Council on Housing and Human Settlements, CCVAH. Thus the "Central American Strategy for Housing and Human Settlements" was developed and approved, as a fundamental initiative in coordination with the Secretariat of Central American Social Integration and CABEI. The regional housing deficit is 4.8 million units; the waste of urban land and rural towns creates disintegrated and disconnected cities. The solution suggested is to create regional synergies to support the sector.

The overall program objective is to provide partial credit guarantees, which will stimulate access to financing for households and businesses seeking loans for the social housing sector, to:

- a) Improve access to financing for the development of social housing projects;
- b) Improve access to micro financing for the expansion, improvement or gradual construction of social housing,
- c) Improve access to finance social housing purchases, new or used.

The goal is to be achieved through three options: two on the demand side and on the supply side of social housing:

A. Partial Guarantee Payment Default (GPI) or Credit Insurance is aimed at meeting the demand or quantitative deficiency (new or used house purchase). The aim is to offer a



The Joint Summit Working Group

Collaborating to Implement the Inter-American and Summits Agendas

Promoting Human Prosperity

credit tool that allows borrowers to partially cover the credit risk of mortgage loans by transferring part of the risk to guarantee entities. This will promote access to mortgage credit financing to lower income people and facilitate mortgage backed portfolio emissions.

B. Micro-finance Guarantee (GPM) is designed to address the demand of housing or qualitative deficit (improvement, expansion and gradual construction). The guarantee consists of partial coverage for Financial Institutions prequalified by CABEI to partially cover the credit risk arising from a portfolio of microcredit for housing, by transferring part of the risk to guarantee entities. The idea is to promote access to microcredit loans to make improvements, expand, progressive construction and lot purchasing.

C. Partial Guarantee for Timely Payment (GPO) is aimed at enhancing the supply of social housing projects. It consists of the issuance of partial coverage for financial institutions prequalified by CABEI, to partially cover the credit risk arising from credit lines to social housing project developers.

The Government of Mexico through the Sociedad Hipotecaria Federal (SHF) has collaborated in the design of the products and will provide technical support in the implementation of PROGAVI.

The **Andean Development Corporation (CAF)** supports shareholder countries in structuring and funding drinking water and basic sanitation programs and projects with a high social and environmental impact. Through different financial and technical assistance mechanisms, CAF works to increase service coverage and quality by facilitating access among the most vulnerable sectors of the population, and to contribute to the creation of conditions that will favor institutional modernization, management quality, and the creation and consolidation of autonomous, efficient utility operators.

CAF pursues greater capacity-building action in underprivileged communities through social responsibility programs and projects focused on musical and athletic training, skill acquisition for basic trades, capital recovery, and the creation and support of local opportunities.



The Joint Summit Working Group

Collaborating to Implement the Inter-American and Summits Agendas

Promoting Human Prosperity

In the area of social protection, which is linked to the objective of a minimum social level for all, the **International Labor Organization (ILO)** has accomplished the following: in Honduras, the draft National Strategy for Social Security was prepared; in Nicaragua, it supported the Social Security Institute in the preparation of statistics on Disability, Old Age, Death and Job risks; in the Dominican Republic a study of the Risks and Safety at Work by the Dominican Institute of Social Security has been conducted; in Mexico, the ILO has initiated a discussion on the extension of social security coverage in relation to unemployment insurance; in Brazil, among other actions, a Memorandum of Understanding has been signed with the Ministry of Social Security to increase social security coverage according to the goals of the Decent Work Agenda for the Hemisphere through 2015; in the framework of the Fund for Innovation in Micro insurance, the ILO is promoting the access of 3 million workers in the informal economy to social protection through specific projects in Mexico, Peru and Haiti.

Within the context of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG), **the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**, ECLAC and the entire UN family has initiated work with member states to update and produce new MDG reports. These reports which are elaborated in a participatory way under leadership of Governments will be presented to the MDG Review Summit in September 2010. The elaboration of these reports allows Member States to take stock of progress and where possible realign social policies and social investments geared to achieve the MDGs by 2015.

The dissemination of these reports also allows interested citizens and civil society organizations to count on a credible progress report that can be used to promote strengthening and increased attention to the MDG at national and local levels.

Gender Issues

The **OAS**, through the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM), continued to work with the OAS Department of Social Development and Employment (DDSE) in its efforts to follow up on the Strategic Guidelines for Advancing Gender Equality and Non-discrimination within a Decent Work Framework, adopted at the 15th Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor (XV IACML, Trinidad and Tobago, 2007).



The Joint Summit Working Group

Collaborating to Implement the Inter-American and Summits Agendas

Promoting Human Prosperity

In particular, work took place on preparing the study on *“Gender Mainstreaming in the Labor Ministries of the Americas,”* and implementation began of the project *“Advancing Gender Equality within the Framework of Decent Work,”* the components of which include high-level dialogues between labor ministries and national women’s mechanisms in the member states, sub-regional training workshops for personnel involved with gender and labor issues from both those sectors, and the development of indicators to support monitoring of the ministries’ progress with gender mainstreaming.

In coordination with the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences (FLACSO), CIM launched an initiative for capacity-building through on-line courses. The first course on *“Women’s Leadership in Current Contexts – Renewing Strategies and Practices”* took place from September 1 to November 1, 2009.

The OAS Department of Electoral Cooperation and Observation (DECO) embarked on a project to incorporate gender awareness and rights into its international electoral observation methods. The project aims to produce a practical manual for the OAS’s Electoral Observation Missions (EOMs) to examine and monitor the implementation of gender quotas and of countries’ acquired commitments regarding the political rights of women in those missions.

The CIM also currently has two projects underway: *“Integration of Policies and Programs on HIV and Violence Against Women from a Human Rights Perspective in Central America,”* and *“Strengthening Capabilities to Integrate Services for HIV and Violence Against Women in the Caribbean.”*

ECLAC continued its advocacy role with respect to women’s rights in the region, launching the *Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean*. The Gender Equality Observatory was developed as a strategic tool that allows governments to monitor women’s economic, political and physical autonomy in line with the MDGs and through indicators commonly agreed on. A set of policy recommendations addressing the need to develop evidence and integrate a gender perspective in social protection policies is being implemented in many countries including policy reforms, labor policies, social protection pension schemes and monetary transfers with the support and technical assistance of ECLAC.



The Joint Summit Working Group

Collaborating to Implement the Inter-American and Summits Agendas

Promoting Human Prosperity

In November 2009, the **ILO** Subregional Office for the Caribbean, in collaboration with the Institute for Gender and Development Studies (IGDS) of the University of the West Indies (UWI), Mona Campus, Jamaica, jointly launched the **ILO-UNDP** publication, *Work and Family: Towards New Forms of Reconciliation and Social Responsibility*. The report provided an excellent platform for raising issues surrounding the reconciliation of work and family and highlighted actions which could be pursued to address these challenges. In October 2009, the ILO was one of five UN agencies which participated in a consultation to build a shared vision and platform for Caribbean organizations to collaborate and participate in a regional programme to end violence against women. The two-day consultations participants assessed gaps, deficits and opportunities for the implementation of the campaign.

Sustainable Economic Growth

The **Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)** approved a \$7 million loan for El Salvador, through its Opportunities for the Majority facility, aimed at helping the country's low-income population address their housing needs by expanding their access to credit.

The Salvadorean housing fund FONAVIPO (Fondo Nacional de Vivienda Popular), a public second-tier financial institution, will use the IDB loan to expand its credit lines to microfinance institutions that, in turn, will provide loans to low-income households for the purchase of a home or a lot, make improvements to a dwelling they already own, or progressively build their own home.

The program is expected to directly benefit around 2,300 families, with individual loans averaging \$3,000, in addition to their eligibility for a government subsidy under El Salvador's national housing program. These subsidies are also managed by FONAVIPO. The Bank's pipeline for the second half of 2009 includes a new loan for the country's housing program and integral improvement of informal settlements.

In addition to the new \$7 million loan, the project includes a technical cooperation grant to establish the Centro de Información y Asesoría al Usuario para el Acceso a Soluciones Habitacionales (CIASUSH), a public information center on housing solutions, which will



The Joint Summit Working Group

Collaborating to Implement the Inter-American and Summits Agendas

Promoting Human Prosperity

help low-income families gather documentation and complete the paperwork to obtain available funding.

The IDB has also approved a \$10 million credit guarantee to help up to 80,000 small entrepreneurs get access to loans under an innovative program provided by Chile's Banco de Crédito e Inversiones (BCI).

BCI will apply new management and credit technologies for the program. It will partner with some of its own corporate clients who have large distribution networks and micro entrepreneurial client bases. It will also provide training to extend financial services to businesses operated by owners with low incomes who typically are excluded from the country's financial system.

The program will focus primarily on the Chilean capital, Santiago, where one quarter of Chile's microenterprises are located, and provide 40 percent of the metropolitan area's employment. Around one million people in Santiago remain unbanked. More than 60% of Chile's microentrepreneurs are estimated to lack access to bank credit.

The IDB's credit guarantee, with resources from the Bank's Opportunities for the Majority initiative, will be denominated in Chilean pesos. A \$600,000 grant from the IDB's Multilateral Investment Fund will support the training component of the program and the formation of strategic alliances with corporate and other partners.

Through this initiative, BCI, with IDB support, will contribute to extend financial democracy to an underserved market through the full use of modern technologies and the development of new business tools, applied in conjunction with strategic partners. BCI will work with corporate suppliers to obtain credit histories and background information needed to decide loan applications by small business owners. The project includes several other innovative tools, such as electronic payments, online collection, specialized training for bank personnel and mobile classrooms to extend financial literacy to borrowers.

ECLAC has devoted efforts to strengthen the capacity of governments to formulate and implement policies and strategies to enhance productivity and competitiveness of the countries' production structures and to strengthen policy discussion on the industrial



The Joint Summit Working Group

Collaborating to Implement the Inter-American and Summits Agendas

Promoting Human Prosperity

development debate through several analytical reports and studies. Furthermore, the *Observatory for the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean (OSILAC)* was developed with the purpose of centralizing and harmonizing data that serves to monitor the status of the "information society" in the region.

In the area of innovation and competitiveness for export diversification and the improvement of the participation of the region in the world economy, the focus was on *Public-Private Alliances for Internationalization, Innovation and Export Development*. Success stories in this area were identified with the aim of drawing recommendations for the region.

Within the framework of the Support Strategy for MSMEs, **CABEI** has the goal to support the sustainable development of these enterprises and the financial system that serves them, contributing to the generation of jobs and wealth.

To accomplish this objective, the following strategic guidelines were established:

1. Provide financial services to MSMEs.
2. Strengthen the development of the financial sector servicing MSMEs.
3. Contribute to the development, growth, and productivity of MSMEs.

Within the Global Line of Credit (GLC), financial institutions have access to financial resources through different programs:

1. Program to provide support for MSMEs (2005, 2009)
2. Credit Facility for Improvement and Progressive Construction of Social Housing (2006)
3. Program to provide support to MSMEs affected by Natural Disasters (2007)
4. Program to provide support to Biodiversity Friendly MSMEs (BF-MSME) (2008)
5. CABEI's Program of Educational Credit (2009)

Additionally, the following programs are also available:

6. CABEI Award to Outstanding Microfinance Management (2004)
7. Program of Productive Chains (2005)



The Joint Summit Working Group

Collaborating to Implement the Inter-American and Summits Agendas

Promoting Human Prosperity

8. Program of Technical and Financial Cooperation for the MSME Sector (2006)
9. Program of Subordinated Debt for Microfinance Institutions (2007)
10. Program for Capacity Strengthening of NBFIs (2008)
11. Program of Partial Credit Guarantees for BF – MSME (2008)
12. BIO – Premio (Bio Award) (2008)
13. Program of Special Eligibility (2009)

CABEI is the main source of funds for MSME in Central America, with noteworthy support to the microfinance sector. CABEI provides financing to microfinance institutions that serve low income citizens with entrepreneurial inclinations. By September 2009, with 145 total disbursements to financial institutions, CABEI managed to channel more than US\$94 million through 88 intermediary institutions (banks, cooperatives and microfinance institutions, among others). With CABEI resources, more than 65,000 credits to MSMEs were granted, with an average disbursement of US\$1,441.20.

With total accumulated disbursements of US\$ 1,568.4 million, CABEI has become the main source of funds for the MSME sector in Central America. This has allowed the support of 659 thousand jobs in the region. In addition, women remain the main beneficiaries of CABEI's programs for MSMEs. By September 2009, 64% of the borrowers benefited were women.

Considering the impact of CABEI in the MSMEs Enterprises and the low income people, in the next two years, CABEI's goal will be to continue providing resources through its current programs and the Anticrisis Plan for MSMEs. Additionally, CABEI is currently analyzing the possibility to participate in The Microfinance Growth Fund in 2010.

The **Andean Development Corporation (CAF)** helps fund its shareholder countries' development plans by granting long-term loans for public investment projects to increase or improve levels of treatment and coverage, productivity, access, and training, chiefly in the agricultural, sanitation, rural energy and transportation, housing, and transportation sectors.



The Joint Summit Working Group

Collaborating to Implement the Inter-American and Summits Agendas

Promoting Human Prosperity

The Competitiveness Support Program (PAC), in accordance with its areas of action, is geared toward developing clusters, improving the business climate, and strengthening entrepreneurial capacity, as well as toward sharing the experiences gained thereby.

As regards access to funding for micro-, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), as in most of the world's countries, such companies make up the main productive apparatus in Latin America and the Caribbean. The projects that receive support include several funding mechanisms, such as capital contributions for MFI, lines of credit, subordinated loans, and partial guarantees for bonds issued through capital markets. In addition, in response to the recurring demands of many of the actors involved with microenterprises in the region, efforts continue to provide financing in local currencies.

In order to help its Member Countries respond to the global financial crisis and economic recession, the **Caribbean Development Bank (CDB)** engaged in a number of initiatives that were not only aimed at mitigating the effects of the recession, but also at improving conditions for longer-term sustainable growth and poverty reduction. During 2009, CDB provided support to BMCs in consolidating their fiscal position while strengthening their economic management systems to improve development results. Policy-based loans to the governments of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Grenada and Antigua and Barbuda were approved in May, October and December, respectively. These loans are intended to provide budgetary support to these countries, which have suffered significant reductions in economic activity, employment and government revenue as a consequence of the global recession. The recession has threatened the implementation of social and economic programs, while limiting access to financing that could help to meet the increasing financing needs. These loans therefore facilitated the continued implementation of the governments' policy agenda on terms that improved debt dynamics. Furthermore, the loans supported ongoing reforms that are aimed at improving economic management systems. Specifically, these loans were:

- US\$25 mn to the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines to support improvements in the institutional arrangements that govern public sector management.
- US\$12.8 mn to the Government of Grenada to support government's programme of macroeconomic reforms designed to strengthen the institutional framework for economic management; consolidate and streamline revenue



The Joint Summit Working Group

Collaborating to Implement the Inter-American and Summits Agendas

Promoting Human Prosperity

- systems; strengthen financial management in the public sector; improve the investment climate; and enhance the framework for sustainable poverty reduction.
- US\$30 mn to the Government of Antigua and Barbuda to support a home-grown programme of economic adjustment and structural reforms geared to bring the fiscal and the debt positions on a more sustainable footing.

Additionally, the Government of Haiti received the first non-reimbursable Policy-Based Grant in the amount of \$10 mn, as part of a broader program of support, both budgetary and technical assistance to enhance fiscal and debt management.

During 2009, US\$46 million in lending to the private sector was approved. This was mainly to provide consolidated lines-of-credit to other local institutions to assist in providing finance to the productive sectors, including loans to medium-sized, small and micro enterprises and for student education.

In September 2009, the Government of The Bahamas took steps to cushion the impact of the recession on approximately 1,000 tourism sector employees who lost their jobs. Under the initiative, unemployment relief was complemented by a 10-15 week retraining programme. Training targeted occupations for which there were demands from the business sector (e.g. masonry, carpentry, welding, landscaping, mechanics, etc.) and areas where participants were more likely to secure employment. The ILO is providing technical support and advisory services for training/retraining workers who have been laid off, in technical and vocational fields and entrepreneurial skills.

In the area of sustainable enterprise promotion, **ILO** and the National Center for Productivity and Quality of Chile published the first report on work indicators and excellence in Chile, a pioneering study in the region that will allow measurements and comparisons of progress or setbacks in the country concerning working conditions. In Chile also, a study on "The Status of Micro and Small Enterprises" has been prepared and published. At a regional level, the network of trainers "Start and Improve Your Business has been strengthened.

The ILO World Pact for Employment, adopted during the 98th International Labor Conference (2009), alludes to the importance of sustainable enterprise and the creation



The Joint Summit Working Group

Collaborating to Implement the Inter-American and Summits Agendas

Promoting Human Prosperity

of an enabling environment for its development, both in terms of generating the necessary response to the crisis based on decent work as well as for the creation of the right conditions to establish recovery and ensure that globalization maintains sustained rhythms of growth, while favoring conditions of more solid social inclusion.

In this framework, ILO has initiated a report that involves addressing decent work from the perspective of the political context of in which it is created; that is, a context that promotes sustainable enterprise. The report tries to give a clear message of a company's potential in the processes of economic and social development, and intends to develop and define specific recommendations on the designing of policies and initiatives intended to improve the business environment and create more favorable conditions for its sustainability, placing emphasis on decent work and on the role of governments, employers and workers.

Labor

The United Nations **Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)** has provided relevant analysis on macroeconomic policy, fiscal policy and labor market. Through publications such as *"The New Labor Scenario in Latin America: regulation, protection, and active policies in the labor market"*, ECLAC has contributed to strengthen the policy debate on labor market institutions, and has informed decision makers and technical staff on policy options regarding regulations and protections. A joint bulletin with the International Labor Organization (ILO) on the employment situation in Latin America and the Caribbean was created with two issues focusing on the design of public policies aimed at increasing employment and well-being, and the evolution of LAC labour markets, both published in 2009. A series of conferences and studies covering topics closely related to the reconciliation of growth with long-term development, such as macroeconomic stability, vulnerability and cyclical fluctuations, labour market institutions and policy options were also organized.

The first contribution of **ILO** concerning the theme of Labor, was to contribute to the signing of four new Decent Work Country Programs (DWCPs) in the region; 4 Work Plans for countries of the OECS, and a support in the design and implementation of



The Joint Summit Working Group

Collaborating to Implement the Inter-American and Summits Agendas

Promoting Human Prosperity

employment plans in Mexico, Cuba, Costa Rica El Salvador, Honduras y Nicaragua as mechanisms to ensure greater opportunities for productive employment and decent work for men and women in the region. To this work must be added the significant contribution of a UN Joint Program (MDGs) in countries of the region: Dominican Republic, Peru, Paraguay, Nicaragua, Brazil, Mexico, on issues of gender equality, youth employment and migration, democratic and economic governance, environment and climate change and economic development of private sector.

Also, ILO highlights its ongoing provision of tools for better decision making in the labor market, considering the context of crisis and post crisis countries in the region. Among the most outstanding measures taken are: the development of decent work indicators in Latin America and the Caribbean; the design of a Report on Labor Situation and Millennium Development Goals in coordination with ECLAC; the design and dissemination of the report of Labor Overview in Latin America and the Caribbean; a Statistical Database, QUIPUSTAT; the implementation of the Labour Observatory in Central America and Dominican Republic; and the support of development indicators for the city of Belo Horizonte in Brazil, among others.

In the area of vocational training, ILO has provided technical support to the Network of Vocational Training Institutes in Central America, offering around 158 virtual training courses. Additionally, ILO has collaborated with the Program of Work Skills Development in the sub-region and has implemented the modernization project of the Sugar Industry in Mexico and Cuba, the fruit industry in Chile and tourism in the Dominican Republic. This has improved working conditions, labor productivity, and health and safety conditions at work in these economic sectors. For its part, the Caribbean office has provided technical assistance and advisory services for training, and reemployment in entrepreneurship and technical areas.

In the framework of the promotion of principles and fundamental rights in work and in the framework of the Declaration of Port of Spain Summit some results such as the elimination of child labor, the elimination of forced labor, the non discrimination of sex, race, ethnicity and the ratification of major conventions of ILO have been obtained in various country of the region. Last year in Belize, the Minister of Labor, along with other strategic partners, put into place a national policy on child labor, taking as central policy the fight against the worst form of work and its elimination. In Central America, the



The Joint Summit Working Group

Collaborating to Implement the Inter-American and Summits Agendas

Promoting Human Prosperity

International Program on the Elimination of Child Labor (IPEC) accompanies the countries of this sub region in the process of designing a waybill for a zone free of child labor in 2020. With this exercise the countries capabilities have been strengthened to fulfill the goals fixed in the framework of Convention Num 138 and 182 of the ILO. Additionally, ILO lent assistance to the work agendas of Mato Grosso and Bahia in Brazil for the elimination of child and forced labor. ILO also initiated the execution of a project to eliminate child labor in agriculture in Mexico. In Paraguay, ILO has provided technical support to strengthen labor inspection with the objective to fight forced labor situations (opening of an office of inspection in the Paraguayan Chaco)

The ILO has also elaborated and published a study in Spanish and English on “Work and Family” for the Caribbean countries with the objective of promoting a platform of knowledge and discussion around aspects linked to family responsibilities and work. ILO was one of 5 agencies consulted to participate in the designing of a joint vision for a program for violence against women in the Caribbean. The Spanish version of the same study, designed in collaboration with **UNDP** has been presented in most of the countries of the region and has been complemented by several national report that deepen the analysis and recommendations. In addition, a tripartite discussion has been initiated for the design and adoption of a national Plan of Action. In some countries, campaigns have been initiated for the ratification of Convention 156. In Guatemala, a Plan of Action is being executed to solve the delay in the judiciary processes of trade union and gender discrimination. The creation of an office of Gender in the Minister of Labor and Job Development is being supported in Panama. In Nicaragua, ILO is taking part into a joint program “Toward Gender Equity and Empowerment of Women”. In Brazil, the program PRO-Equity in the special Secretariat of Policy for women has been extended and trade union organizations for domestic work have also been incorporated in the discussion to advance in the design of an international tool for domestic workers’ protection, which will be one of the key point of the 2010 International Conference Agenda.

In October 2009, Belize launched its Decent Work Country Programme (DWCP), thereby becoming the second country in the English- and Dutch-speaking Caribbean to pledge to make the goal of decent work and productive employment central to its national development policies. To date, work plans for four member countries of **ILO** of Eastern Caribbean States (Antigua and Barbuda, Grenada, Saint Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines) have been completed as part of a Decent Work Programme for the OECS.



The Joint Summit Working Group

Collaborating to Implement the Inter-American and Summits Agendas

Promoting Human Prosperity

In response to requests from its constituents, the ILO Sub-regional Office for the Caribbean, in collaboration with the Office of Trade Negotiations of the CARICOM Secretariat, launched a series of trade negotiation workshops for representatives of employers' and workers' organizations in the Caribbean in September 2009. Three training workshops were convened under the theme "International Trade Negotiations, Trade Agreements and the Decent Work Agenda" (Trinidad and Tobago, September 2009; Grenada, December 2009; and The Bahamas, February 2010). The workshops were designed to equip employers' and workers' organizations to participate meaningfully in discussions on trade and on the social and labour dimensions of liberalization.

The Ministry of Labour, Local Government and Rural Development of Belize, in collaboration with the social partners and other key stakeholders, launched the National Policy on Child Labour in October 2009. The National Policy establishes a number of priority areas for combating child labour in Belize - one of six countries which participated in ILO's Canadian Government-funded Regional Child Labour Project in the English- and Dutch-speaking Caribbean. The National Policy builds on the work initiated under the Project.

Health

In response to paragraph 27 of the Declaration of Commitment of Port of Spain, **the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)** developed a regional initiative called the "Evidence-based Neonatal Intervention Package," in order to raise neonatal and maternal care service quality standards. It also developed neonatal health action plans within the mother and newborn care continuum, and it established interagency partnerships at the country level to support national plans of action. PAHO continues to support countries in increasing their numbers of hospitalized births overseen by qualified health practitioners.

In response to mandate 28, PAHO launched the Partners' Forum for Prevention and Control of Chronic Diseases, with the active participation of governments, the private sector, and nongovernmental organizations. The CARMEN Network initiative (Collaborative Action for Risk Factor Prevention and Effective Management of Chronic



The Joint Summit Working Group

Collaborating to Implement the Inter-American and Summits Agendas

Promoting Human Prosperity

Non-communicable Diseases) was also expanded to cover obesity and diabetes, and another regional initiative is being developed to reduce consumption of salt in diets and eliminate trans fats. In addition, PAHO conducted a research project into the economic and budgetary impact and implications of non-communicable diseases. The Organization supported several countries in enacting tobacco control legislation (Colombia, Guatemala, and Trinidad and Tobago) and in developing legislative proposals (Costa Rica, Peru, and Ecuador); it also gathered regional data for the world tobacco monitoring system, including surveys of tobacco use among young people, teaching professionals, students, and health practitioners, and the most recent global survey of tobacco use among adults conducted to date in Brazil, Mexico, and Uruguay. This work is being carried out in conjunction with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

In pursuit of mandate 29, PAHO provided support for participation by 22 of the region's countries in the Pan American STEPS system (an approach for the surveillance of chronic non-communicable disease risk factors, focused primarily on behavioral risk factors) and for the consolidation of their ability to use those data for planning and evaluation, in conjunction with the WHO; it also developed a minimum dataset for the monitoring of non-communicable diseases (NCDs). As a result, 24 countries have established national non-communicable disease units.

In response to the commitments contained in paragraph 31, not only did PAHO support the countries in the formulation of plans and policies for the development of primary health care (PHC) based health systems and integrated health service networks; it also developed an analytical framework and a methodology for assessing the performance of health systems in the region's countries in accordance with PHC guidelines, along with a regional network for encouraging operational research and exchanges of experiences with PHC. Support was also given for the development of practitioners' skills in PHC-focused health, targeting health system leaders and managers as well as service providers.

To respond to mandate 32, PAHO organized national and subregional workshops to review technical and programmatic issues related to breastfeeding and complementary feeding, human milk banks, the Milk Substitute Code of Practice, and the design, monitoring, and evaluation of food fortification programs; it also launched a regional initiative for the prevention and treatment of diabetes and obesity.



The Joint Summit Working Group

Collaborating to Implement the Inter-American and Summits Agendas

Promoting Human Prosperity

In response to mandate 33, PAHO launched the Pan American Alliance for Nutrition and Development, which was approved by the directors of the region's UN agencies. This is an interagency undertaking enabling those organizations to combine their efforts, integrate mandates, coordinate agendas, pursue joint planning, and provide countries with technical cooperation focused on the factors that determine health and development. A discussion panel on the Pan American Alliance for Nutrition and Development in pursuit of the Millennium Development Goals was also organized during the 45th Directing Council of PAHO in September 2009. The four countries where implementation of the Alliance is to begin were identified, and the Alliance was publicized in various political, technical, and academic forums at the regional and national levels.

As part of its activities in pursuit of mandate 34, PAHO made efforts to strengthen partnerships for providing a swift response to the AH1N1 influenza pandemic. Agencies from 17 countries and territories are involved with the Global Outbreak and Alert Response Network (GOARN); 21 countries and territories participate in the Caribbean network; five countries in the Andean network; and five in MERCOSUR (the Southern Common Market). PAHO supported the formulation of plans of action aimed at satisfying minimum requirements for basic early-warning and response capacities, in accordance with the obligations set by the International Health Regulations (IHR), in 28 countries (87%) of the region, and it conducted training programs on such topics as early detection, public health laboratories, and outbreak responses in 38 countries and territories. In addition, PAHO invited 20 of the region's countries to participate in external performance assessment panels dealing with the topic of quality control at laboratories and strengthening their ability to detect and control outbreaks. The Organization conducted an evaluation of basic capacities, and it prepared plans of action to build capacity of points of entry at all times (routine inspections and controls), as well as to detect incidents, report them, and establish an appropriate response. It also strengthened PAHO's alert and response system. Incidents are registered by means of a computer-based tool called the Event Management System (EMS), which has been implemented in 10 agencies. Training has been introduced to raise this tool's profile throughout the region.

In pursuit of mandate 35, through the Ministers of Health, PAHO carried out the Regional Initiative for the Elimination of Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV and Congenital Syphilis in Latin America and the Caribbean, with the support of PAHO and



The Joint Summit Working Group

Collaborating to Implement the Inter-American and Summits Agendas

Promoting Human Prosperity

UNICEF. An evaluation of national health system responses to the HIV epidemic was conducted in six countries: Dominican Republic, Bahamas, Belize, Guatemala, Paraguay, and Trinidad and Tobago. PAHO supported countries in obtaining and exercising resources from the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria. In 2009, the Global Fund approved 17 of the 30 proposals submitted by the nations of Latin America and the Caribbean during Round 9; these projects are worth a total of US\$185 million. It also supported countries in negotiating prices for HIV drugs, which brought about benefits including an increase in the number of people receiving treatment. (As of late 2008, 445,000 people in the region were receiving drugs, which represents around 54% of the total number who need treatment.)

To meet the commitments of mandate 42, PAHO prepared a special meeting of the Permanent Council on incorporating issues of aging into national policies and law and on the viability of a regional convention on the issue. This task was carried out with the technical assistance of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and in conjunction with the Secretariat for Legal Affairs of the Organization of American States (OAS). PAHO also participated in activities for the promotion and protection of the human rights of senior citizens under the aegis of the PAHO Plan of Action on the Health of Older Persons, in collaboration with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. In addition, training workshops were held for public health workers and members of civil society: for example, a workshop for training and the reform of national aging policy, with a human rights focus, was held in Saint Kitts and Nevis in December 2009.

Working together with UNAIDS Co-sponsors in the region, **ILO** is committed to helping its constituents to halt and begin reversing the spread of HIV in fulfillment of the Millennium Declaration. To this end, in Paraguay, ILO is working with the transport sector, developing data on vulnerabilities associated to mobile work. In Brazil, ILO is strengthening the capacity of tripartite constituents to respond to HIV / AIDS, creating new learning materials that include work, gender, race and HIV.

In Central America, ILO has been strengthening its constituents to incorporate HIV in the agenda of decent work programs through the creation of focal points inside organizations. Currently two projects of development are in the first stage in Nicaragua and Honduras, and they are geared toward the creation of programs and policies on HIV



The Joint Summit Working Group

Collaborating to Implement the Inter-American and Summits Agendas

Promoting Human Prosperity

in the areas of textile “maquila” industry and port transportation. In the Caribbean, ILO is working with the members of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) in its response to HIV/AIDS at the workplace. The members have identified HIV as a priority of the Sub regional program of decent work for the OECS.

Youth and Ageing

The **OAS**-affiliated Young Americas Business Trust and the **Inter-American Development Bank** also supported the Development Marketplace (DM), a competitive grants program, administered by **the World Bank**, which aims to identify and fund innovative projects which generate positive social impact. The focus of this year’s annual Development Marketplace Grant Competition--to help young entrepreneurs in their businesses endeavors to create employment and assist vulnerable groups--is a significant result of the growing participation of young people in the Summits process, particularly the mandates to support entrepreneurship outlined in the Youth Declaration negotiated at the Youth Forum just prior to the Fifth Summit.

OAS member states have addressed youth issues within the framework of the Inter-American Committees on Education (CIE) and Culture (CIC), by engaging in dialogues with youth. Last year, the Office of Education supported Ecuador in the organization of the “Youth of the Americas Encounter on Secondary Education” in the margins of the VI Inter-American Meeting of Ministers of Education. This first attempt to include youth’s perspective on education into education policy dialogue at the inter-American level resulted in a set of recommendations presented by youth to the ministers, who committed in their Declaration to strengthening mechanisms for youth participation. The CIE Authorities and Executive Committee subsequently included in their 2010-2012 Work Plan the development of a strategy to continue dialogues with youth.

In Paragraphs 41 and 42, leaders commit to incorporating issues of ageing into policy agendas and request the UN **Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)** to further strengthen its programs in this area. As such, ECLAC, in the context of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, made this issue a key focus area. As part of the technical secretariat for the Regional



The Joint Summit Working Group

Collaborating to Implement the Inter-American and Summits Agendas

Promoting Human Prosperity

Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing, ECLAC contributed to promoting the proposal for a convention on the rights of older persons. Extensive technical cooperation services were provided to countries all over the region on a wide range of population related topics. In particular, ECLAC contributed to improving the national capacities for conducting the 2010 round of censuses dealing with key issues such as the inclusion of questions related to ethnic identification, health and migration, as well as the use of new technology. In addition a number of countries have utilized the *Manual on Indicators of Quality of Life in Old Age*, published by CELADE, as a framework for calculating and analyzing indicators on the ageing of the population and the situation of older adults.

In April 2009, at the request of the Secretariat of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), the **ILO** contributed to the chapter on youth employment in the Secretariat's Human Development Report (HDR). The ILO's research and contribution covered several pertinent issues including employment and training policies, the coherence of policies and programmes, and the roles of employers' and workers' organizations (actual and potential) in cooperating with government institutions to improve opportunities for youth employment in the OECS.

The ILO partnered with the Youth Training and Employment Partnership Programme (YTEPP) Ltd. in Trinidad and Tobago in September 2009 to introduce the ILO's "Know About Business (KAB)" 'Training of Trainers' programme. KAB is an entrepreneurship development education training course which is aimed at creating a culture of entrepreneurship. A cadre of 26 'small business development' trainers from various institutions in Trinidad and Tobago are now certified KAB trainers who can play key roles in stimulating a culture of entrepreneurship among young persons.

Education

The **GS/OAS** Office of Education and Culture (OEC) has supported member-state governments, with additional technical and financial support from UNICEF, the Bernard Van Leer Foundation, member-state donors, and other international and civil society organizations, in their implementation of the Hemispheric Commitment to Early



The Joint Summit Working Group

Collaborating to Implement the Inter-American and Summits Agendas

Promoting Human Prosperity

Childhood Education approved and ratified through the V and VI Meetings of Ministers of Education and endorsed by leaders at the Fifth Summit. Notable initiatives include: two major Inter-American symposia on early childhood development; a project on early childhood statistics, policies, and programs pertaining to rural and indigenous communities in eight member-states; publication of three books about early childhood transitions; workshops for journalists on how to cover early childhood topics; workshops on the evaluation of early childhood education in each of the five OAS sub-regions; a distance learning course for professionals working with children under the age of three; and a Joint Special Session of the Permanent Council and the CEPCIDI on the importance of investing in early childhood in February 2010.

The Regional Education Indicators Project (PRIE), established in the Summits Process as a mechanism for assessing the progress of OAS member states toward achieving Summit educational goals, is preparing the publication *“Educational Panorama 2010”* with a special focus on member state progress toward the Summit commitment of 75% enrolment in secondary education with a goal of 100% by 2015, and continues to publish indicators of participation in tertiary education.

Leaders at the Fifth Summit affirmed in Paragraph 36 that improving access to and quality of early childhood education is a key factor in achieving universal primary education by 2015. As such, the **World Bank** is providing technical assistance in several areas of Early Childhood Development with a number of clients in the region. Beyond its technical assistance to client countries, the World Bank is coordinating a region-wide community of practice to facilitate dialogue between policy makers and across countries and sectors.

Education is one of the most effective instruments for generating productive development and attaining social mobility. For that reason, **CAF** is committed to providing technical and financial support for education policy initiatives in its member countries, emphasizing those proposals aimed at extending quality coverage for the youngest pupils, modernizing technical and technological education, and ensuring the increased efficiency and comprehensiveness of sector management.



The Joint Summit Working Group

Collaborating to Implement the Inter-American and Summits Agendas

Promoting Human Prosperity

Migration

In 2009 the program of Migration and Development (MIDE) was created within the **OAS** Department of Social Development and employment of the SEDI. A technical agreement with the International Organisation for the Migration (**IOM**) was signed to work together to promote the protection of migrants human rights, to respond to the need of migrant workers and to combat human trafficking. At the same time the cooperation agreements with the **ILO** and the **ECLAC** were being amplified and another cooperation agreement with the Ibero American General Secretariat was signed.

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 500 vulnerable migrants, the majority of whom were unaccompanied migrant children or women.

IOM Mexico and the National Institute of the Women (INMUJERES) work 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.

The discussion on the topic of children affected by migration in the Caribbean is relatively new and evolving. Several Caribbean countries, the CARICOM Secretariat, IOM and UNICEF worked together to identify how migration affects children in the region, particularly for children who stay behind, children who migrate accompanied or unaccompanied, and children who return their country of origin/birth in the region. IOM's efforts have resulted in the publication, *A Framework and Recommendations for Action on Children Affected by Migration in the Caribbean* (spring 2010) for stakeholders to improve policies and practices that protect these children.

In November 2009, IOM and UNHCR hosted the Regional Conference on Refugee Protection and International Migration in the Americas in San José, Costa Rica. Officials from 20 countries, as well as IOM, UNHCR, OAS, OHCHR, national and international NGOs, civil society and academia gathered to discuss the human rights of people on the move irrespective of status; identification, profiling and referral mechanisms; human



The Joint Summit Working Group

Collaborating to Implement the Inter-American and Summits Agendas

Promoting Human Prosperity

trafficking; asylum seekers and refugees; unaccompanied minors; victims of violence or trauma; and intra-regional cooperation.

A new IOM information campaign targeting Costa Rica and Nicaragua is focusing on migrants' rights and responsibilities. The campaign is part of an IOM-managed co-development program which aims to regularize the flows of Nicaraguan migrant workers in Costa Rica, by ensuring legal integration into the local labor market, improving the economic and psychosocial situation of the migrants and their families and promoting the social integration of migrants into Costa Rican society.

To ensure the protection of migrants' rights, the IOM Regional Office in Buenos Aires provided technical support to the governments of Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay to strengthen institutional capacities related to migration management issues, including human trafficking.

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.

Recognizing the need to respect the human rights of labor migrants, IOM has carried out a wide range of projects including labor migration facilitation, skills-training workshops and income generation projects.

Twenty per cent (20%) of IOM's 335 active labor migration projects in 2009 were carried out in Latin America and the Caribbean. Through the establishment of a labor migration agreement with Maple Leaf Foods of Canada, IOM has assisted hundreds of Colombians, Hondurans, and Salvadorians to obtain temporary employment Maple Leaf 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



The Joint Summit Working Group

Collaborating to Implement the Inter-American and Summits Agendas

Promoting Human Prosperity

of questions regarding their employment contracts, medical exams, language training and cultural orientation.

IOM's Labor Migration Department also carries out pre-departure orientation sessions for labor migrants, and is engaged in capacity building activities, including migration training workshops for government officials, civil social partners and employers' associations.

Migrant remittances are a vital source of income for millions of families in Latin America and the Caribbean. IOM, together with governments, migrants, migrants' associations and financial institutions, seeks to (1) reduce remittance transfer costs and (2) enhance the positive impact of remittances by generating research and data collection to support policy and program development, by encouraging policy dialogue and the sharing of good practices, as well as by building the capacity of remittance recipients to invest their remittances in productive and income-generating activities.

Since 2002, IOM Guatemala has carried out the yearly Survey on Remittances. The 2009 Survey, developed with UNICEF, focused on the impact of the financial crisis on children and adolescents in Guatemala and confirmed that the decline in remittances had forced tens of thousands of children to leave school and find work to supplement the family income.

With an estimated 80 million migrant workers around the world, labor migration has moved to the top of the policy agenda of many countries of origin and destination. Three key determining factors will continue to fuel this kind of movement: the "pull" of changing demographics and labor market needs in many industrialized countries; the "push" of population, unemployment and crisis pressures in less-developed countries, and established inter-country networks based on family, culture and history. A large proportion of labor migration occurs in an irregular manner, with a clandestine industry ready to abet it. Increasingly, governments at both ends of the migration spectrum are developing regulatory mechanisms to manage labor mobility to their individual and mutual benefit, and that of the migrant. Governments and migrants are increasingly turning to IOM for expert support and facilitation of regulated labor migration and direct assistance to the migrants. IOM will continue to facilitate the development of



The Joint Summit Working Group

Collaborating to Implement the Inter-American and Summits Agendas

Promoting Human Prosperity

policies and programs that can individually and mutually benefit the concerned governments, migrants and societies

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.

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.

Science and Technology

In keeping with the mandates of the 5th Summit in the Region in the areas of competitiveness and innovation, the **GS/OAS** Office of Science, Technology and Innovation (OSTI) has developed two important initiatives: *Engineering for the Americas* (EftA), a partnership of local governments, civil society, and the private sector to promote engineering education, quality assurance, and job creation, and *the Inter-American Metrology System*, a cooperation network comprised of national metrology institutions of the Member States. It is currently working with IDB funding to develop a Plan of Action for basic metrology infrastructure for the Central American Metrology Network.



The Joint Summit Working Group

Collaborating to Implement the Inter-American and Summits Agendas

Promoting Human Prosperity

Agriculture, Rural Life and Food Security

Focusing on the issue of agriculture and rural areas, **ECLAC**, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and the **Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)** joined forces to prepare a report titled: *The Outlook for Agriculture and Rural Development in the Americas: A Perspective on Latin America and the Caribbean*.

Given the concerns on food security discussed during the hemispheric dialogue (SIRGs) leading to the Fifth Summit and later reflected on the Declaration itself, the IICA presented to the Foreign Ministers of the Americas its institutional response to the food security situation in the hemisphere, in the framework of the 2008 OAS General Assembly, in Medellin, Colombia. In its efforts at follow-up, IICA:

- Has developed a food security strategy based on institutional innovation to promote: technological change for food production and diversification; services to strengthen market capacity of small and medium producers, and the analysis, follow up and dissemination of policies and information on the food security situation and perspectives in the hemisphere.
- Organized, in 2009, an International Experts Workshop in Costa Rica, with the participation of other international organizations followed later in the year by the IICA/OAS Food Security Conferenceⁱ in Washington, D.C.
- Produced and disseminated several major documents to provide guidelines and improve understanding of the subject, its impact and potential response mechanisms.
- Developed methodologies to evaluate the impact of price volatility and to analyze the transference of international commodity prices to rural income. Case studies were conducted in 15 regions of 5 countries in the hemisphere.
- Works in partnership with AACTI of Canada, and several Andean universities to develop the ATINAR project on food production, storage, value added and nutritional analysis technologies.
- Provided support to several other national and regional initiatives and projects on food security in collaboration other international organizations (ECLAC, FAO, IDB, CIDA, etc).

The Ministers of Agriculture of the hemisphere updated the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan at their most recent Ministerial Meetings held in October 2009 in Montego Bay, Jamaica.



The Joint Summit Working Group

Collaborating to Implement the Inter-American and Summits Agendas

Promoting Human Prosperity

This Plan represents a multidimensional and multisectoral hemispheric framework for the sustainable development of agriculture and the rural milieu. Specifically, the Ministers renewed their commitment to the broad-based and comprehensive approach to agriculture and rural life, inherent to that Plan, and defined additional updated strategic actions reflecting the present hemispheric challenges and the mandates of the Fifth Summit on food security, energy, environment and climate change as.

IICA provided support to the Ministers and their delegates in the implementation and updating of the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan with the Jamaica 2009 Hemispheric Ministerial Agreement, and has continued providing support to the countries for the implementation of the Plan.

Cultural Diversity

As part of the CIC Work Plan, the **OAS** Office of Education and Culture is executing a two-year project “Culture in Development: An Inter-American Information Network” to provide informational resources and promote exchange of good practice among policy makers in the field of culture. As part of this project, the “Cooperation Fund for Technical Assistance Missions” was created in 2010 to promote bilateral and multilateral cooperation in development of cultural policy.