

## **SPECIAL DECLARATION 17: GRADUATION CRITERIA WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)**

1. Conscious of the importance of International Cooperation in the implementation of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Goals and Objectives, in the economic, social and environmental dimensions, in a balanced and integrated manner; we recognize that each country faces specific challenges on its way to Sustainable Development and must consider its different realities, capacities and levels of development to respond to its national priorities, requiring intensification of international financing, including concessional and non-concessional, in addition to national resources to strengthen capacities at the country level.
2. Reiterating the need to formulate transparent measures to assess progress towards sustainable development, recognizing poverty in all its forms and dimensions, and structural problems at all levels, as set out in the Addis Ababa Agenda for Action.
3. We express our concern with the current graduation criteria for the list of countries eligible to receive ODA, applied by the Development Assistance Committee (DAC), the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), as well as other International Financial Institutions, and which are also used to access trade benefits. Those criteria, based on a skewed approach to development, that only use the per capita income of the countries as a measure for development do not reflect the integrated character of the three dimensions of sustainable development included in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development nor the existing deep inequalities in the region and the specific vulnerabilities of some of its countries.
4. We recognize the Agreement adopted at the CELAC-EU Ministerial Meeting held on October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2016, to conduct a consultation and reflection process to address the new challenges tied to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, including the subject of graduation issues aiming to reflect the realities and the challenges of the Latin American and Caribbean populations and its potential side effects on bi-regional relations, aiming to present results on the CELAC-EU Summit of 2017.
5. We reiterate the need and importance of implementing multidimensional methodologies agreed on between governments, to measure a country's level of development with the aim to define adequate criteria to allocate official development assistance (ODA) by developed countries. These methodologies must go beyond per capita income, in a balanced and integrated fashion, recognizing the diverse needs, challenges and capacities of each and every country in Latin America and the Caribbean at the adequate decision-making levels, including the United Nations.
6. We reaffirm that the promotion of Development requires the formation of an unprecedented global alliance, involving the different development actors at national

and international levels. In this regard, we emphasize the need to promote a system of comprehensive and non-exclusive international cooperation that contemplates schemes for all developing countries.

7. We reaffirm our commitment to work jointly as a mechanism for dialogue and agreement to advance the development of a common position, that allows us to interact with relevant extra-regional countries and partners, as well as recipients of ODA and International, South-South, Bilateral and Triangular Cooperation, and thus to achieve satisfactorily our sustainable development, seeking to continue to participate effectively so that no one is left behind.

Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017.