

SPECIAL DECLARATION 16: IMPLEMENTATION OF 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND ACHIEVEMENT OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)

1. The Heads of State and Government of Latin America and the Caribbean, gathered in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, on the occasion of the Fifth Summit of the Latin American and Caribbean States Community (CELAC), on January 25, 2017;
2. Considering that, after the positive experience on the efforts made for the realization of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), it's reflected that great challenges remain.
3. Recalling that on September 25, 2015, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, whose preamble recognizes that the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest challenge the world faces, and an indispensable prerequisite for sustainable development.
4. Highlighting the need for continued support by the United Nations through its programs, funds and specialized agencies to accompany the countries in the region in the efforts to implement the Goals of the 2030 Agenda, according to our national priorities.
5. We recognize the importance of international cooperation for development in the fulfillment of the SDGs, as well as South-South cooperation in its different modalities.
6. We recognize that each country faces specific challenges in its search for sustainable development, with special attention to the most vulnerable countries, in particular the Least Developed Countries, landlocked Developing Countries, and Small Island Developing States. We recognize as well, the challenges that climate change poses for Low Lying Coastal States.
7. We reaffirm our conviction, the pressing value and the commitment of the region, to follow up and fully implement the 2030 Agenda and the fulfillment of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and its 169 targets, which are of an integrated and indivisible nature, and which combine the three dimensions of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental, highlighting the role of the Forum of Latin American and Caribbean Countries for Sustainable Development under the auspices of ECLAC, which is the regional mechanism for its monitoring and follow up, including the Addis Ababa Agenda for Action.

8. We recognize that concerted efforts under the premise of convergence in diversity will allow for the fulfillment of said goals and achieving a visible sustainable development within the countries of the region.
9. We urge CELAC member States to continue to foster work in the different sectors and to cooperate among them with the aim of obtaining concrete outcomes.
10. We emphasize the commitment assumed by the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), by establishing the CELAC Plan on Food Security, Nutrition and Eradication of Hunger 2025 (CELAC FSN Plan) with the aim to support the attainment of the sustainable development goals (SDG) aiming to guarantee food security and promote sustainable agriculture.
11. We commit to join efforts to promote education, human resource training and technology transfer under favorable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, in order to advance towards closing the existing social and economic gaps within and between countries.

Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, January 25th of 2017