

SPECIAL DECLARATION 15: ON THE INCLUSION OF CELAC MEMBER STATES ON LISTS OF NON-COOPERATIVE JURISDICTIONS

We, the Heads of State and Government of Latin America and the Caribbean the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States gathered in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic on the occasion of the V Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) on January 25, 2017;

1. Taking into consideration the Special Declaration on the Inclusion of CELAC Member States on European Union Lists of Non-Cooperative Jurisdictions which was adopted at the 10th Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of CELAC held in Santo Domingo on April 1, 2016.
2. Reiterating the right of each nation to peacefully and freely build its own political and economic systems and institutions in accordance with the sovereign mandate of its people, international law and the principles of flexibility and voluntary participation that are in accordance with the actions and practices of CELAC.
3. Recalling special declaration no. 20 from the 4th Summit of CELAC in Quito on Correspondent Banking that expressed concern at the progressive decline in correspondent banking relationships with developing countries and particularly those in the Caribbean in light of the de-risking actions by certain major international banking partners, and urged the international financial community to make extra efforts to resolve the problems being faced by some member States due to the loss of correspondent banking relations.
4. We are aware of the importance of international cooperation and the exchange of tax information to stop tax avoidance and evasion of the tax base and transfer of profits, as well as to combat money laundering and the financing of terrorism.
5. Reaffirming our commitment with the introduction of norms to detain tax avoidance and evasion, money laundering and the financing of terrorism, as evidenced by the progress made by our States in the development, application and compliance with adopted norms in recognized Forums adopted in recognized forums on normalization, including the Global Forum on Transparency and Information Exchange for Tax Purposes (Global Forum) of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the programs of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) for tax information exchange.
6. Recognizing the economic fallout on our countries from being negatively listed by other states and International Financial Institutions, and on the overall economic growth and development prospects of our countries from the loss of potential

investment especially at this time when countries are still struggling to emerge from the worst recession in years on a global scale, and recognizing the issues faced and the efforts made by the Member States at cooperation on transparency and exchange of information on tax purposes at multilateral level.

7. Affirming the need for open, constructive dialogue and closer cooperation in tax matters in keeping with international standards, we urge all CELAC partners to support the request to countries, regional integration mechanisms and international financial institutions that publish lists on non cooperative jurisdictions, to act on the basis of objective criteria and to fully take into account CELAC member States compliance with commitments of the Global Forum or other recognized international agreements or standards on financial transparency and exchange of tax information.

Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, January 25th, 2017.