



## **DECLARATION OF SANTIAGO II MINISTERIAL MEETING OF THE CELAC-CHINA FORUM**

### ***“CELAC-China: Working for more development, innovation and cooperation for our peoples”***

1. We, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Representatives of the Member States of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) and the People's Republic of China, held in Santiago, Chile, the Second Ministerial Meeting of the CELAC-China Forum (CCF), on January 21 and 22, 2018, under the theme "CELAC-China: working for more development, innovation and cooperation for our peoples", this being the first time that a CCF Ministerial Meeting takes place in the Latin America and the Caribbean region, which is of great importance for the consolidation of the achievements, as well as to expand and deepen the relations between CELAC and China.

2. We consider that this Ministerial Meeting, fulfills the purposes defined since the founding of the Forum, through which it was decided to further deepen the cooperation between both sides, as evidenced by the adoption of the Beijing Declaration of 2015 and the CELAC-China Plan of Action 2015-2019, allowing us to convene various high-level dialogues to exchange experiences among our governments; promoting consultations on international issues of common interest; and working towards the strengthening of integration among the member countries of the Forum. We therefore agree to the following:

2.1 We recognize and value diversity as a fundamental characteristic of our dialogue that must serve as a framework for the identification of innovative forms of cooperation among the member countries of the forum, including the South-South and Triangular cooperation, and shared visions in favor of peace and development.

2.2 We emphasize the fact that, being China and Latin America and the Caribbean developing and emerging countries, we will continue working together for the attainment of world peace, sustainable development, the growth of our economies, the reduction of



inequalities and the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions. In the midst of a constantly changing world, we recognize that the Forum is of great importance for defining joint responses to global challenges.

2.3 We express our commitment to international peace and security, and with the peaceful settlement of disputes, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the rules, norms and principles of International Law. We reject the threat or the use of force as a means of resolving conflicts, as well as the unilateral coercive measures that are contrary to international law, and undermine sovereignty, stability and the self determination of peoples.

2.4 We recognize that for the development of our countries it is fundamental to guarantee the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development, promotion of democracy, inclusiveness, participation and institutional strengthening.

2.5 We reaffirm the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, including the settlement of international disputes by peaceful means and respect for the rule of law.

We recognize that States have the right to their own political, social and cultural system, as an indispensable basis for promoting peace and global harmony, with due respect for the commitments assumed in the relevant regional instruments.

2.6 We maintain our commitment to promote and defend multilateralism and highlight the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter.

China and Latin American and Caribbean countries support the reform of the UN to better accomplish the responsibilities given by the United Nations Charter, strengthen its capability to counter the global threats and challenges and promote the role played by the UN in the global governance system.



2.7 We ratify the full validity of the proclamation of Latin America and the Caribbean as a Zone of Peace, signed in Havana in January 2014, in the relations between our countries within the framework of the Forum.

2.8 We commit to overcome the challenges of development and inequalities, between and within the countries, and we agree on the need to promote a multilateral, non-discriminatory, trade system, based on norms, transparent, open and inclusive, within the framework of the World Trade Organization. In this regard, we take note of the results of the 11th Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, held in Buenos Aires between December 10 and 13, 2017, and we commit to continue working towards the strengthening of such system.

2.9 We express that in the Paris Agreement, adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the broadest consensus of the international community to tackle climate change is crystalized; therefore, we reiterate our willingness to work together in its implementation, under the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.

2.10 We underline the importance of ensuring compliance with all pre-2020 commitments, under the UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol, in terms of mitigation, adaptation and financing, including the commitments of developed countries in terms of financing.

2.11 We recognize the negative effects of climate change and its impact on national economies, generation of energy, its impact on human health, biological diversity and the ecosystems, the agriculture and food production of our countries, particularly in developing countries vulnerable to climate change, such as Small Island Developing States (SIDS), low lying coastal countries, so we emphasize the need to take actions to prevent and counteract these effects, within the framework of the UNFCCC, its Kyoto Protocol, its Doha amendment and the Paris Agreement. Likewise, we will continue to work together to reduce the conditions that generate vulnerability to the effects of climate change and the consequent increase in disaster risk, in order to provide the tools to generate more resilient communities, according to the priorities and goals of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and its implementation in the region.



2.12 We agree that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provides a guide for the development of the countries and for the international community to work together, in the achievement of its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and its 169 targets, within the framework of a revitalized Global Partnership for sustainable development. In this regard, we reiterate that the Addis Ababa Action Agenda is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda. Therefore, we emphasize that international cooperation is called upon to fulfill a fundamental role, in order to strengthen public policies and the exchange of experiences and good practices, within the framework of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. China and CELAC member countries can exchange knowledge, good practices and long-term visions to achieve compliance with the SDGs, which will serve to advance the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, taking into account the national priorities of the CELAC-China Forum countries. The joint work and the prospective vision will promote progress towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, considering the national circumstances.

3. The Chinese Party presented the Belt and Road Initiative for international cooperation.

We consider that the Belt and Road Initiative of the Chinese Government constitutes an important opportunity for the strengthening of cooperation for development between the countries concerned in accordance with the wording of the Special Declaration that we have agreed upon on this occasion.

4. We express our willingness to work to promote peace, cooperation, openness, inclusion, and mutual learning on reciprocal benefit and shared gain.

5. We highlight the progress made since the I FCC Ministerial Meeting, held in January 2015 in Beijing, China, including the institutional building of the Forum, as well as the promotion of economic development and cultural exchange. We recognize that cooperation between CELAC and China should play an active role in promoting the development of relations between the Parties.

In this sense, we agree on the need to increase efforts to promote and intensify cooperation within the framework of the CCF, therefore:



5.1 We will take advantage of the CELAC-China Forum mechanisms, such as the Ministerial Meeting, the Foreign Ministers' Dialogue of the CELAC Quartet and China, and the Meeting of National Coordinators, promoting communication and coordination on the construction of the Forum and joint cooperation. We will promote the holding of a CELAC-China Summit when conditions so warrant.

5.2 We will promote the Economic and Trade Cooperation Forum between the Caribbean and China; we will promote activities such as meetings between the young people, business people, civil society, think tanks and at sub-national level, as well as in infrastructure, innovation, science and technology, legal affairs, business and agriculture and friendship among the peoples.

We will also seek to strengthen the Economic and Trade Cooperation Forum between the Caribbean and China, as well as to explore the possibility of convening meetings in the areas of poverty eradication, industry, communications and the fight against corruption and transnational organized crime, among others by common agreement.

5.3 We will continue to promote exchange of knowledge on Chinese financing and on the funds for cooperation, and the implementation of the package of financing arrangements offered to CELAC member countries by China.

5.4 We will work towards the promotion and protection of human rights, gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, social inclusion, as well as the fight against all forms of discrimination, including racial discrimination and xenophobia, and intensify the protection of the rights of children, adolescents, young people, the elderly, persons with disabilities and indigenous peoples, afro-descendants and other vulnerable groups; we will work in the progressive realization of economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development and the observance of the right to universal effective access to basic services, health, education and Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) without discrimination.

5.5 We will continue deepening the cultural exchange, encouraging experiences in cultural, educational, scientific-technological and training matters; we will strengthen



areas related to the cultural and creative industries of our peoples, and we will address, in a decisive and coordinated way, the illicit trafficking in heritage cultural goods.

5.6 We recognize and respect the diversity of cultural manifestations and the national and historic identity that characterizes the members of CELAC.

5.7 We will jointly explore possible areas of cooperation in security, between China and Latin American and Caribbean countries, taking into account the national legislation of the CELAC-China Forum member states.

5.8 We reiterate that the programs carried out within the framework of this Forum, under the principles of flexibility and voluntary participation, are complementary and independent from the bilateral cooperation programs, previously agreed by some of the CELAC countries with China.

5.9 We renew our commitment to innovate in cooperation and development modalities by promoting dialogues in the main areas of the Forum and in other areas agreed by both Parties, with a view to promoting sustainable development, social welfare and economic and productive growth, adding new contributions to South-South cooperation. We will consider, specially, the challenges and needs of developing countries, in particular: Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs), Small Island Developing States (SIDS), countries in conflict or emerging from situations of conflict, and consider the diverse specific needs of middle income countries, which continue to present significant challenges to achieve sustainable development.

5.10 Considering the relevance of increasing the activities of cooperation in the Latin American and Caribbean States, we must make joint efforts to design and activate triangular cooperation models among CCF member states and with international organizations, within and outside the region, as well as to contribute to the promotion of direct foreign investment in the member countries of CELAC.

6. We highlight the preliminary results of the 2015-2019 Cooperation Plan, we emphasize the importance of advancing its implementation and we agree on the



expansion and updating of the Joint Action Plan for Cooperation (Priority Areas) between CELAC Member States and China until 2021, within the framework of the areas of cooperation since 2015 and, understanding that the objective is cooperation in multiple axes, we have identified particular interest in eight areas of mutual benefit and development: Policy and Security, Infrastructure and Transport, Trade, Investment and Finance, Agriculture, Industry, Science and Technology, Cooperation on the Environment, Cultural Exchange, and Cooperation in other Areas, which will improve cooperation in the sectorial areas in which member states have committed since 2015.

7. We welcome the activities carried out successfully in 2017 within the framework of this Forum, such as the III Forum on Cooperation on Infrastructure in China-Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) (June 1 and 2, Macau, China), the XI China Business Summit- ALC (Punta del Este, Uruguay, November 30 to December 2), the I CELAC-China Academic Forum, organized by the Republic of Chile and ECLAC, on October 17 and 18, in the city of Santiago, as well as the Training Course for the CELAC countries on access to Chinese financing under the FCC, held on November 30 and December 1, 2017 in the city of Buenos Aires.

8. We consider that the objectives defined in this Declaration require a solid follow-up and joint monitoring of initiatives, plans and programs, for which the support of international organizations is fundamental, especially the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), the Inter-American Bank of Development (IDB), the Development Bank of Latin America (CAF) and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). We call upon these entities to continue supporting the activities of the CELAC-China Forum. The research and reports of these entities serve as valuable inputs for the Forum, so we wish to record our gratitude in this Declaration.

9. We thank the government and the people of Chile for their warm welcome and the preparations they have made for the holding of the II Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the CELAC-China Forum. We appreciate the participation of Chilean President Michelle Bachelet in the opening ceremony, as well as the message sent by Chinese President Xi Jinping to this meeting.

10. We agree to hold the III FCC Ministerial Meeting in China in 2021.