Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development OEA/SER. W

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PRELIMINARY DRAFT ANNOTATED AGENDA

THIRD SPECIALIZED CIDI MEETING OF

HIGH-LEVEL COOPERATION AUTHORITIES

December 2 and 3, 2021, Virtual Format

(Prepared by the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development and adjusted as a result of the electronic consultation carried out on October 4, 2021)) 

Theme: *“Cooperation and Partnerships as engines for*

*post-COVID-19 socioeconomic recovery in the region”*

1. BACKGROUND

The Third Specialized CIDI Meeting of High-Level Authorities of Cooperation*,*to be held virtually on December 2 and 3, 2021 under the theme “*Cooperation and Partnerships as engines for post-COVID-19 socioeconomic recovery in the region*” provides a unique opportunity for member states to come together with donors, the private sector, and other development actors and join forces to define hemispheric actions to overcome the crisis and build a more resilient, sustainable, and inclusive region for all.

Cooperation and partnerships have gained greater relevance for the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), as they respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic triggered an unprecedented global crisis, reversing decades of progress in poverty reduction, healthcare, and education1, and disproportionately affecting the world's poorest and most vulnerable, particularly women, children, older adults, persons with disabilities, migrants, and refugees.

The urgency to activate post COVID-19 recovery within OAS member states presents a challenge which is beyond the capacity of any one country or government acting alone. The pandemic offers unequivocal evidence of global interconnectedness and of the need for international cooperation multilateral response to confront and recover from the crisis in a sustainable, resilient, and inclusive manner. The member states of the Organization of American States (OAS) have long recognized the importance of establishing mutually beneficial relationships, rooted in solidarity, to address the region’s development challenges.

The Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI), the development arm of the OAS as the broadest hemispheric platform for engagement at the highest levels of government in the Americas, plays a pivotal role in facilitating cooperation and building partnerships that deliver solutions to address some of the core social, economic, and environmental issues affecting the countries of the hemisphere.  Thus, the time is propitious for member states to strengthen the OAS Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development in order to facilitate this process in conjunction with other mechanisms in which they already participate.

In 2018, Cooperation Authorities made recommendations and provided important insights on opportunities for action to boost cooperation for development within the framework of the OAS. In 2019, a follow-up Technical Meeting on Cooperation for Development provided guidance for the work of the Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development (IACD and SEDI) in strengthening the capacity of the organization to effectively respond to the development cooperation trends and initiatives underway within the Hemisphere and the international arena. Further, SEDI’s Partnership Strategy, developed and launched in 2019, leverages the convening authority and partnership experience of the OAS to engage the private sector, foundations, academia and other relevant non-governmental and multilateral actors in multi-sector dialogue and action.

As part of the Triennial process, the Meeting of Cooperation Authorities scheduled for 2021 offers a relevant opportunity to come together as a region in this challenging time to share solutions and to identify cooperation and partnership opportunities that can contribute to post COVID-19 economic, social, and environmental recovery. Beyond policy dialogue, the meeting is expected to provide concrete opportunities to support recovery efforts underway in member states, as well as initiatives undertaken with other international and regional organizations.

1. PROPOSED TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION
2. Discussion on needs and opportunities for cooperation to contribute to a sustainable, resilient, and inclusive socioeconomic recovery between and among OAS member states.

* Priority needs for socioeconomic recovery in the region.
* Opportunities for south-south, triangular, and north-south cooperation between and among OAS member states, including existing catalogues, practices, programs, technical assistance, knowledge exchanges, and available funding.
* Recommended actions for active ongoing engagement and cooperation among and between OAS member states.
* Financing Development Cooperation by member states in the context of the OAS.

An essential purpose of the OAS is:

*“To promote, by cooperative action, their economic, social, and cultural development.”* OAS Charter. Chapter I: Nature and Purposes.

1. Opportunities for cooperation with OAS permanent observer states.

* Discussion on priority needs from member states and opportunities for south-south, triangular, and north-south cooperation with OAS permanent observer states for sustainable, resilient, and inclusive development.
* Solutions and cooperation opportunities in the following priority areas:
  + The Knowledge, Virtual, and Digital Economy
  + MSME Economic Recovery
  + Education in the Digital Era
  + The Future of Work and Job Recovery
  + Climate Action and Building Resilience
  + Health Systems

1. Discussion between member states and stakeholder partners from the private sector, foundations, academia, and other relevant non-governmental and multilateral actors to assist the recovery process.

* Responses from the private sector and other institutions in following priority areas:
  + The Knowledge, Virtual, and Digital Economy
  + MSME Economic Recovery
  + Education in the Digital Era
  + The Future of Work and Job Recovery
  + Climate Action and Building Resilience
  + Health Systems

1. PURPOSE OF THE MEETING:

* Harnessing the role of international cooperation in all its modalities and multi-stakeholder partnerships to assist member states in achieve a sustainable, resilient, and inclusive post-COVID-19 recovery.

1. EXPECTED RESULTS OF THE MEETING:

* The exchanges are expected to yield opportunities for cooperation and partnerships in areas of focus essential to a sustainable, resilient, and inclusive post COVID-19 recovery in member states.
* Member States are expected to identify short- and medium-term international cooperation actions in priority areas that contribute to the economic, social, and environmental recovery of the region.
* The meeting will result in the development of a catalog of tangible offers and needs of technical cooperation; exchanges of knowledge, good practices, and potential alliances. The catalog will be shared and updated on an ongoing basis by the Secretariat within the context of CooperaNet.
* Member States will have the opportunity to discuss and present proposals for cooperation and partnerships based on national and regional needs to multi-sectoral partners with the intent of gaining support for implementation.

1. STRUCTURE OF THE MEETING:

The one-day and a half virtual meeting proposes a series of exchanges of solutions to the most pressing challenges that member states face for post-COVID-19 recovery. Participating Authorities from member and observer states and representatives of the private sector, foundations, academia, and other relevant non-governmental and multilateral actors will be invited to share offers of cooperation and solutions for practical exchanges over the next three years. The offers will focus on the pre-identified needs of member states, based on a survey undertaken in preparation for the meeting, and the opportunities provided by the Secretariat’s portfolio of programs.

Day 1: December 2, 2021

* Discussion on cooperation needs and offers between and among OAS Member States for socio-economic recovery.
* Discussion on opportunities for cooperation with OAS Permanent Observer States.

Day 2: December 3, 2021

* Building multi-stakeholder partnerships between member states and the private sector, foundations, academia, and other relevant non-governmental and multilateral actors to assist the recovery process.

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