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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT FOR INTEGRAL DEVELOPMENT (SEDI)

TO THE INTER-AMERICAN COUNCIL FOR INTEGRAL DEVELOPMENT (CIDI)

(January - December 2021)

(Approved during the regular meeting held March 22, 2022)

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INTRODUCTION

The work of the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development of the Organization of American States (OAS/SEDI) is guided by the core tenets articulated in the OAS Charter and Social Charter of the Americas. SEDI derives its mandates from the Summit of the Americas, the OAS General Assembly and the various sectoral meetings at ministerial level. Fundamental to the work of OAS/SEDI is political dialogue and technical cooperation among the member states working towards the socio-economic development of the region. Through high-level political dialogue, OAS/SEDI works with member states to define policy and priorities that they consider critical to the alleviation of poverty and the elimination of inequality in the Hemisphere. Policy imperatives are translated into programs, projects and activities which are implemented through cooperation and in partnership with other regional an international public and private institutions and civil society organizations with common goals. The OAS Comprehensive Strategic Plan approved in 2016 tasked OAS/SEDI with some specific objectives in the following areas: education, competitiveness, small and medium enterprises, labor, culture, science and technology, resource management, renewable energy and energy efficiency, tourism and sustainable development. Activities in these core areas are primarily geared towards human capacity building and institutional strengthening to foster a strong socio-economic ecosystem which allows for the amplification of democratic governance in each member state. Additionally, OAS/SEDI promotes competitive, secure, sustainable, and inclusive port development in OAS member states.

The organizational structure of OAS/SEDI includes the Office of the Executive Secretary (OES), three departments: (i) the Department of Human Development, Education and Employment (DHDEE); (ii) the Department of Economic Development (DED); and, (iii) the Department of Sustainable Development (DSD), and the Secretariat of the Inter-American Committee on Ports (CIP). OAS/SEDI also works closely other Secretariats within the OAS as well as with OAS affiliates such as the Trust for the Americas, the Young Americas Business Trust (YABT), and the Pan American Development Foundation (PADF). Additionally, SEDI has established partnerships with other international organizations; civil society organizations, the academic community, and the private sector.

In addition to being the Secretariat of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development(CIDI)- the primary multilateral forum for dialogue on the development challenges facing the region- OAS/SEDI provides advisory services and direct technical assistance to member states on specific issues and finances, implements, and/or coordinates specific development projects with resources from the Development Cooperation Fund (DCF/OAS) and with external resources from member states, observer member states, development banks, the private sector, academia and other partners. The core remit of SEDI as articulated in OAS Charter, continues to be a conduit for Triangular, South-South, and Horizontal cooperation. Through its many networks, programs and projects, OAS/SEDI facilitates the transfer of knowledge, lessons learned and good practices between and among members states as they lead and manage their own socio-economic development.

SEDI is acutely mindful of the dire challenges facing our region. Reports indicate that, in 2020, Latin America and the Caribbean experienced the worst crisis in its recorded history, a sharpest economic contraction in the developing world. Data indicates that contraction of investments relative to GDP was greater in Latin America and the Caribbean that in any other developing region. During 2021, as since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, in the face of the unprecedented challenges faced by OAS member states, SEDI has focused on reorienting existing programs and initiatives to meet the emerging needs of member states. Thus, SEDI programs have provided authorities and support institutions with capacity building opportunities and simple, reliable and secure tools to engage member states in some of the most urgent development issues confronting our region at this time: climate financing, food security and nutrition, education and human development, national energy transition as an engine for recovery, improving new skills for industrial revolution, and science for decision making, youth skills gap and readiness for industry 4.0, promoting the inclusion of women, rural and indigenous communities and other populations in vulnerable situations in STI, public-private-academia collaboration to enhance quality of life and support micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), among others.

As is well known, the travel and tourism sectors have been among the worst affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. International tourist arrivals world-wide declined amid global travel and other restrictions adopted to contain the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Due to the overwhelming impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on the tourism sector, specific activities were undertaken by SEDI to support member states’ response. Much of this involved capacity-building and sharing Webinars or adapting existing actions to address the new reality and covered the following priority areas: Tourism Safety and Security; Infrastructure; Sustainability; Product and Service Quality: Marketing and promotion; Travel and Visa Facilitation. The OAS General Secretariat through SEDI has also been supporting country efforts to safely re-open destinations to international visitors.

While pre-pandemic was already characterized by the huge inequalities in our region the post-pandemic brings into sharp focus just how quickly we must act to confront the stark reality that we now face as it relates to education in our region. SEDI activities with the sectoral authorities, addressed the issues of inclusion and equity in education with the objective of sharing educational policies, regulations, tools and experiences of the countries of the region for the promotion of a quality, inclusive and equitable education in contexts of change.

Recognizing that the pandemic accelerated the digital economy, and that e-commerce reinforced the need to develop skills and training in innovation-driven sectors and technologies, SEDI supported the design of policies and programs aimed at improving access to science, innovation and technology in order to support digital transformation in member states, closing digital and opportunity gaps; and improving the economic and social situation of youth, women and the vulnerable population. In this regard, another achievement in 2021 that SEDI is pleased to highlight is the launch of the first Youth Academy of Transformative Sciences and Technologies in the Americas.

In a scenario of diminished resources, much of SEDI’s work is funded by voluntary contributions from member states and other donors. Recent decline in the development resources for the Latin American and Caribbean region, among key donors has presented the Secretariat with the challenge of inadequate resources which has negatively impacted it’s ability for fully respond to the emerging needs of member states. For this reason resource mobilization remains a key component of SEDI’s work and thus has pursued partnership with major international and regional actors such as IBM, Amazon, Facebook, the IDB, GDF, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, internet societies, the Space Foundation, the US Department of Commerce, and leading academic institutions like Texas A&M University, University of California Riverside, University of Chicago, Duke University, and many others, with programs in women’s economic empowerment, digital transformation, STEM teacher training, water sanitation, the commercialization and transfer of technology, digitalization of small businesses, energy transition and launched the first Youth Academy on Transformative Technologies.

This report corresponding to the year 2021 activities includes the results attained by SEDI in each of the strategic lines and objectives in the development pillar of the Comprehensive Strategic Plan for the Organization. [AG/RES. 1 (LI-E/16)]

**STRATEGIC LINE 1: PROMOTING INCLUSIVE AND COMPETITIVE ECONOMIES**

The pandemic has accelerated the adoption of new technologies and exacerbated the digital divide for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). Millions of them had to close as they were unable to access digital platforms to leverage new economic opportunities. The OAS/WhatsApp Business Partnership for MSMEs and the Caribbean Small Business Development Center Program have provided MSME authorities and support institutions with capacity building opportunities and simple, reliable and secure tools to provide MSMEs with an entryway to digitization to connect with their customers and reach new markets. Additionally, SEDI launched the “Economically Empowered Women for Equitable and Resilient Societies” project and the #SheMeans Business Program to increase the participation of women in the digital economy. Other initiatives have supported knowledge sharing on measures adopted by member states to mitigate the pandemic's economic impact (MSME Clearinghouse and OAS/MSME Newsletters), contributed to identifying tools and new policies to strengthen the MSME ecosystem in member states (RIAC COVID-19 Ideas Accelerator), inspired the development and implementation of collaborative projects (ACE program, Prospecta Americas), and offered support to professionals and entrepreneurs through mentoring sessions with experts and leaders to help accelerate their innovative solutions, technologies, products and services “from idea to market (two virtual platforms: “COMCYT Central” and “COMUNITT”). SEDI also launched the Indigenous Tourism Collaborative of the Americas, a network of indigenous leaders and tourism industry organizations across the Americas, to help drive collaborative action in support of sustainable development and growth in Indigenous communities throughout the Americas.

**OBJECTIVE 1.1: Enhance the capacity of member states’ institutions that support the design and implementation of policies and programs that encourage productivity, entrepreneurship, innovation and internationalization of micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), as well as cooperatives and other production units.**

**Seventh Inter-American Dialogue of High-Level MSME Authorities Dialogue**

* Convened the Seventh Inter-American Dialogue of High-Level MSME Authorities, held virtually September 9-10, 2021 under the leadership of the Government of Chile and with the participation of 30 member states, to focus on public policies, programs, and solutions for MSME post-COVID economic recovery. Priority areas of action identified by member states to support MSME recovery through the exchange of good practices and experiences on: 1) financial solutions including a gender perspective; 2) digitization, e-commerce and other technological solutions; 3) courier services and international shipping; and 4) women’s economic empowerment.

**OAS MSME Digitization Program**

* Launched with Facebook (Meta) the [#SheMeansBusiness](https://shemeansbusinessfb.com/training-hub-eng/) Program to unlock the potential of women entrepreneurs. The platform offers a learning space of growth and encouragement allowing women access to free learning resources, specifically designed for female-led MSMEs. It includes business resiliency and financial management tools, digital skills and WhatsApp for Business best practices.
* Delivered six customized virtual training programs directly to MSMEs and a train-the-trainer program for 500+ MSME authorities and supporting institutions through the OAS-WhatsApp Business Partnership for MSMEs to strengthen MSME resilience and recovery from the pandemic.
* In partnership with the Government of Chile’s agency assisting micro and small businesses (SERCOTEC), shared Chile’s best practices on “Internationalization of MSMEs: How to open spaces in new markets,” “Digital Processes - Smart Businesses," and “Sustainability and Circular Economy.”

**Women’s Economic Empowerment**

* Launched the “Economically Empowered Women for Equitable and Resilient Societies” project, with funding from the U.S. Permanent Mission to the OAS, to enhance the capacity of women to effectively function in the economy, build sustainable livelihoods, and increase their participation in policymaking and leadership within their societies.

**Caribbean Small Business Development Centers (SBDC) Program**

* In partnership with non–profit Ten Habitat, hosted a series of 14-day online accelerator programs conceptualized as a direct response to the fallout being experienced by small business owners and entrepreneurs impacted by the COVID - 19 pandemic to provide MSMEs with intensive support through various coaching and mentoring approaches. The accelerators were geared primarily toward businesses in the tourism, creative and agri–business or agro-processing industries given the outsized impact that the pandemic has wrought upon these sectors in the Caribbean region. A total of 90 MSMEs participated and successfully completed the three intensive iterations of the accelerators. More than half, 55 of the participants represented women-owned businesses.
* Delivered, in conjunction with the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA), an online training program designed to assist 103 directors and advisors of existing Caribbean SBDCs in guiding their clients through the survival and recovery process in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The training series included 2-hour online workshop sessions that sought to address the following thematic areas:
* Adapting SBDC internal processes (2 sessions);
* Client service best practices for start-up clients;
* Providing high–value services for established business clients;
* Managing stakeholder relations;
* SBDC human resource management.
* Economic impact: 1223 new business started; 1061 jobs created and 11,996 jobs supported through SBDC interventions; $55,947,708.59 in sales revenue and $5,364,041.91 in profit generated; 12 business expansions; and $ 1,068,956.83 in capital infusion leveraged through loans and equity in six Caribbean member states.
* Undertook consultations in the context of Phase IV of the SBDC program with the Permanent Missions and key partner institutions that would be instrumental in the coordination and execution of the program in new beneficiary countries Brazil, Ecuador and Uruguay.

**OAS Foreign Trade Information System (SICE)**

* Updated the MSME Online Clearinghouse and produced 11 special editions of the OAS MSME Newsletter to enhance the sharing of good practices, horizontal cooperation initiatives, policies, programs, and projects that support the MSME sector in OAS member states.
* Online Trade Policy Portal (SICE) enhanced: Over 37,000 official documents and 37 million views.

**OBJECTIVE 1.2: Increase regional cooperation, the exchanges of knowledge, transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms and conditions, and intersectoral collaboration among and within member states in the areas of competitiveness, productivity, and innovation.**

**Americas Competitiveness Forum (ACF) and Inter-American Competitiveness Network (RIAC)**

* The XI Americas Competitiveness Forum (ACF) and Meeting of Competitiveness Ministers and High-Level Authorities, held virtually February 25-26, 2021, focused on priorities for a post-COVID recovery. The ACF convened 600 participants, including ministers and high-level authorities of 32 OAS member states, senior executives from the private sector, and regional experts from the public, private, and academic sectors. Member states shared 15 good practices and identified priorities for post-COVID recovery in the Americas to reduce vulnerability and build short and long-term resiliency, with actions on: i) digital transformation, MSMEs and citizenship readiness, ii) innovation-driven business development and empowering entrepreneurs; iii) Improving the regulatory environment, trade facilitation, and regional value chains; and, iv) climate adaptation and post-COVID.

**Americas Competitiveness Exchange (ACE)**

* Shared over 70 good practices related to economic recovery from COVID-19 by innovation hubs, research centers, and industry clusters in Denver, El Paso County, and Jefferson County, Colorado, United States, at the 13th Americas Competitiveness Exchange (ACE), resulting in over 30 concrete collaboration leads between 37 leaders from the private, public, and academic sectors of OAS member states.
* The ACE program inspired the development and implementation of five collaborative projects initiated through the ACE Network:
  + Imagine Lab Chile expanded its business mentoring program throughout Latin America. The program currently mentors SMEs in Chile, Argentina, Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, and Panamá.
  + A telecom start-up, Vozy, from Colombia was accelerated in Puerto Rico, United States and incorporated as a company in the United States. It created subsidiary branches in Mexico and Colombia, and currently has over 100 commercial agents in Puerto Rico, United States, Spain, Chile, Argentina, and other countries.
  + BRAVA, a gender equality solutions lab, was created and started operations in Montevideo, Uruguay. More than 600 people and 30 companies have received training on inclusive economic development and gender equality strategies and mechanisms.
  + The National Agency for Research and Innovation (ANII) of Uruguay launched Proyecta Uruguay to offer mentoring sessions, access to investors, and access to seed capital to companies. The program has attracted 12 tech-based startups into Uruguay.
  + The **Remaining Initiatives for Sustainable Empowerment** (RISE) Project carried out in Trinidad and Tobago focused on empowering female-driven businesses led to the launch of the Academy for Women Entrepreneurs (AWE Academy) in collaboration with the Embassy of the United States in Trinidad and Tobago.
* Shared over 260 initiatives from 26 countries in the RIAC COVID-19 Ideas Accelerator on tech-driven tools, health solutions, business support initiatives, and economic response and recovery plans implemented by member states in response to the pandemic.

**Group of Experts on Subnational Competitiveness (GTECS)**

* Shared 30 good practices through the Working Group on Indicators and the Working Group on Construction Permits.
* In collaboration with leaders of the private sector prepared and presented at the ACF the paper “Digital Transformation, Economic Reactivation and Employment in Latin America and the Caribbean Post COVID-19,” as a guide on public policies for digital transformation for OAS member states.

**OBJECTIVE 1.3: Increase cooperation for strengthening member states’ institutional capacities to incorporate innovation and transformative technology in order to generate added value and diversification in their economies in a sustainable and inclusive way.**

**Science, Technology and Innovation (STI)**

* Organized the Sixth Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of Science and Technology held virtually on December 7-8, 2021 that adopted the Declaration of Jamaica “Harnessing the Power of Transformative Science and Technologies to Drive our Communities Forward.” The topics for the Ministerial Meeting included: regional cooperation on science and technology to accelerate the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, addressing the youth skills gap and readiness for industry 4.0, promoting the inclusion of women, rural and indigenous communities and other populations in vulnerable situations in STI, technology foresight as input for public policy decisions, and effective public-private-academia collaboration to enhance quality of life and support micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) through STI.
* Two Strategic Sessions of the Prospecta Americas, held virtually October 27-28, 2021, Blockchain and Artificial Intelligence and Robotics, in collaboration with the Permanent Mission of Mexico to the OAS, CONACYT and the State of Hidalgo, Mexico.
  + Supported the launch of two regional technology foresight studies under Prospecta Americas in collaboration with MINCIENCIAS of Colombia, on “The Future of Work in Latin America,” directed by the Center for Strategic Thinking and Foresight of the *Universidad Externado de Colombia* and on “Foresight in the Agri Food Sector in Latin America and the Caribbean,” directed by the Open Network on Foresight and Innovation of the Ibero-American Program on Science and Technology for Development (CYTED).
* Fifty good practices and experiences shared with 500+ participants from 24 countries during six thematic sessions of the Inter-American Committee on Science and Technology (COMCYT) held between April and June 2021 on: Innovation and Entrepreneurship in the Americas; Policies of Artificial intelligence in the Americas; Inclusive Innovation and Women in STEM; Impact Engineering; National Quality Infrastructure as a Pillar for Sustainable Development and Bioeconomy: Sharing of Good Practices and Priorities.
* Two virtual platforms [“COMCYT Central” and “COMUNITT” (in collaboration with the University of California Riverside)] created to support professionals and entrepreneurs through mentoring sessions with experts and leaders of the OAS-HUB for Commercialization and Transfer of Technology for the Americas to accelerate their innovative solutions, technologies, products and services “from idea to market” and address some of the most pressing challenges in communities of the Americas while contributing to the diversification of the economies of the region.
* In collaboration with COMCYT Working Group 2 Partners, convened 3 regional conferences on engineering education (LACCEI, ACOFI and LEIRD), which supported the exchange of good practices and provided training in engineering education for more than 1200 professionals and engineering students of the Americas.
* Supported virtual events showcasing the social, scientific, and intellectual contributions of women in STEM with academic organizations from the Matilda Regional Chair on Women in Engineering in the Americas and the UNESCO Regional Chair for Women, Science and Technology in Latin America based in FLACSO, Argentina.

**OBJECTIVE 1.4: Support member states in strengthening the capacities of institutions that foster the generation of sustainable economic activities in the tourism and culture sectors.**

**Culture and Tourism**

* Within the framework of the Work Plan of the Inter-American Committee on Culture (CIC), shared 30 good practices with member states on the following topics: Strengthening the Creative and Cultural Industries for Institutional Coordination and Complementarity; Guidelines for the Creation of Culture Satellite Accounts; Promotion and Protection of Cultural Expressions at the Local Level; Positioning of the Culture Sector in Public Agendas to Promote Sustainable Development, and “Commemoration of Freedom: Abolition of Slavery in the Americas.”
* Organized the Sixth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Committee on Culture (CIC) on April 27, 2021, at which 31 member states were represented. Assessed progress and implementation of ministerial mandates and execution of the activities of the CIC Work Plan and received an update on the next Inter-American Meeting of Ministers of Culture and Highest Appropriate Authorities, to be held in 2022 under the leadership of Guatemala as host.
* Advanced the execution of the project Building the Resilience of Small Tourism Enterprises in the Caribbean to Disasters:
  + Enhanced capacity in Emergency Preparedness and Management in nine Caribbean countries, with 23 emergency management personnel having completed the Basic Community Emergency Response Team (CERT).
  + In collaboration with the Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association (CHTA) produced an Assessment of Challenges to Post-Disaster Business Continuity of Small Tourism Enterprises (STEs), and validated the assessment’s findings through a Multi-stakeholder Forum of more than 60 industry participants.
  + In collaboration with the University of the West Indies (UWI) through its Institute for Sustainable Development and the Disaster Risk Reduction Center, delivered training to more than 50 owners, operators and staff of small tourism enterprises to prepare, execute, review, and update their business continuity multi-hazard contingency plans.
* In partnership with the American Hotel and Lodging Educational Institute, shared new industry-driven and competency-based programs for vocational institutions with hospitality and tourism businesses and governments to address labor market challenges and skills gaps.
* In partnership with the Department of the Interior of the United States and the George Washington University International Institute of Tourism Studies, established the Indigenous Tourism Collaborative of the Americas through two launch events held at the Twenty-Fifth Inter-American Congress of Ministers and High-Level Authorities of Tourism (October 6) and on Indigenous Peoples’ Day (October 11), respectively.
  + The Collaborative is a network of 100 indigenous leaders and tourism industry organizations across the Americas to exchange ideas and experiences and foster dialogue to drive collaborative action in support of sustainable development and growth in Indigenous communities throughout the Americas. The current priorities of the Collaborative include: 1) Covid-19 Recovery; 2) Building Capacity, Sustainability and Technology; and 3) Respect, Representation and Inclusion in Government and Industry Planning and Development.
* Organized the Third and Fourth Special Meetings of the Inter-American Committee on Tourism (CITUR) on March 26, 2021 and June 28, 2021, with 30 and 22 members states in attendance, respectively to offer member states a forum to review the progress made by the CITUR Working Groups, discuss measures to address the impact of the pandemic and revive the travel and tourism sector, as well as to prepare it for the post-pandemic period.
* Organized the Twenty-Fifth Inter-American Congress of Ministers and High-Level Authorities of Tourism, held virtually October 6, 2021, that adopted the Declaration of Paraguay on the meeting’s theme “Toward the Reconstruction and Rebuilding of Tourism Post COVID-19.” Ministers and high-level authorities from 30 member states shared strategies to mitigate the adverse effects of COVID-19 on tourism and their initiatives related to post COVID-19 tourism. The Congress accepted Ecuador’s offer to host the Twenty-Sixth Inter-American Congress of Ministers and High-Level Authorities of Tourism in 2024.
* Partnered with the Inter-American Development Bank and the U.N. World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) to support member states on issues related to "Biosafety Protocols for the tourism sector,” including the development of a series of regional recommendations that guide the design, implementation and, above all, the updating of biosecurity protocols in hospitality, local transport, airports, ports, and beaches, under the guidelines of the most recent scientific evidence.

**The Secretariat of the Inter-American Committee on Ports (CIP)**

* Organized the Twelfth Regular CIP Meeting, and the Twenty First Meeting of its Executive Board (CECIP) held virtually on May 19, 2021. During the meetings, the Resolution of Buenos Aires and its corresponding 2021-2023 Plan of Action, the 2021-2022 operative budget, the activity reports from the six Technical Advisory Groups (TAGs) and from the CIP Secretariat were approved. Significantly, during the meeting the new CECIP Authorities were elected.
* Developed the Green Guide for Ports, in English and Spanish, which provides practical recommendations on how to operate a port in an environmentally sustainable manner through sustainability reports and guidance on how to obtain a green port certification.
* Published and disseminated the most recent issue of the CIP Magazine (Volume 31) about “Technological tools applied to new Port Governance” which offers expert analysis on port governance, specifically during the COVID-19 pandemic, port legislation, PCS, among others.
* Published and disseminated 12 issues of the monthly newsletter “CIP Highlights” which include news, events, publications and relevant articles for the CIP Community.
* Published and disseminated the Seventh Edition of the Bulletin on Social Responsibility, Gender Equality and Women Empowerment created by the National Port Authority (APN) of Peru in its capacity as Chair of the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) on the aforementioned topics, with important contributions from the CIP community.
* Managed the update of the CIP Portal, useful tool for the 34 National Port Authorities and the private sector (Associate Members and Strategic Partners). Also, the CIP Portal had 16K users which represents a 45.5% increase in traffic, compared to 2020.
* Supported CIP in awarding four (4) Maritime Award of the Americas and three (3) honorary mentions to public and private institutions from Ecuador, Jamaica, Mexico, Peru and United States for their distinguished practices in the following categories: Port–City Relation, Disaster Risk Management in Ports and/or Terminals, Digitization, Automation and Technological Transformation, and Outstanding Women in the Port Sector.
* Supported CIP in awarding (4) Port Industry Award of Excellence, in collaboration with the American Association of Port Authorities (AAPA), to public and private institutions from Brazil, Colombia, Jamaica and Peru for their successful practices in the categories of: Public-Private Partnerships, Port Infrastructure Development, COVID-19 Pandemic Response and Technology and Innovation.
* In collaboration with the North American Marine Environment Protection Association (NAMEPA), co-organized an art contest for kindergarten – 12th grade students on the protection of the marine environment and disseminated the 2022 calendars with the winning artwork to the CIP community.
* Participated as speaker in seven (7) virtual events for Latin America and the Caribbean, presenting current trends and challenges of the port sector.
* Participated as guest professor in the masters on Logistics Management in Customs and Ports of the Santo Domingo University, Dominican Republic.

**STRATEGIC LINE 2: STRENGTHEN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE 2016-2021 INTER-AMERICAN PROGRAM FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (PIDS) 2016-2021**

The Department of Sustainable Development further mainstreamed resilience and disaster risk management, with particular attention to recovery of the pandemic, across all the strategic areas of the PIDS. Efforts for fund mobilization were focused on transboundary basin and biosphere management, renewable energy and energies of transition, community resilience and business continuity and contingency planning.

**OBJECTIVE 2.1: Enhanced member states’ capacities in the area of disaster risk management in line with the goals and strategic actions outlined in section 3.1 of the PIDS.**

**Disaster Risk Management and Adaptation to Climate Change**

* Followed up on the recommendations embedded in the document CIDI/CPD/ doc.200/20 rev.3: adopted it at the fiftieth regular session of the General Assembly, through AG/RES. 2955 (L-O/20).
* Developed a proposal for enhancing the on-line database of the Inter-American Network for Disaster Mitigation (INDM) and coordinated with the Inter-American Defense Board (IADB) its population.
* Supported the Chair of the Inter-American Committee on Natural Disaster Reduction (IACNDR) in its efforts to coordinate with partners of the Committee within the UN System, International Community on Disaster Risk Management, IFIs and Development Banks, and subregional Specialized IGOs, amongst other relevant organizations.
* Provided technical secretariat support to the working group for the drafting and adoption of the Inter American Business Charter and resolutions related to Sustainable Development and Disaster Risk Management, prepared by the CIDI Committee on Partnership for Development Policies, and the Committee on Hemispheric Security.
* Enhanced capacity in Emergency Preparedness and Management in nine (9) Caribbean countries, with 23 emergency management personnel having completed the Basic Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) course as part of the project “Building the Resilience of Small Tourism Enterprises in the Caribbean to Disasters”.
* Conducted an integrated holistic assessment on the challenges and barriers to post disaster business continuity of small tourism enterprises in the Caribbean with participation of over 1,200 enterprises and government officials from fourteen (14) Caribbean countries.
* Launched a call for proposals for a National Basic CERT training to create community emergency response teams in at least one community as part of the project Building the Resilience of Small Tourism Enterprises in the Caribbean to Disasters. Five (5) countries submitted proposals to deliver training for 30 community members per session during the reporting period.
* Delivered technical assistance to over fifty-five (55) owners, operators, and staff of small tourism enterprises in business continuity/multi-hazard contingency planning in Caribbean countries as part of the project Building the Resilience of Small Tourism Enterprises in the Caribbean to Disasters, funded by the USOAS.
* Presented a webinar on International Disaster Response Law under the theme, “Building National Capacity for Disaster Management", in collaboration with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and Amazon Web Services (AWS) to support OAS member states in the Central American Isthmus in their efforts to facilitate international disaster response and humanitarian assistance.
* Facilitated the delivery of COVID-19 kits through the OAS-White Helmets Program, as part of the Argentine White Helmets assistance to Central America and the Caribbean.

**OBJECTIVE 2.2: Enhance member states’ capacities in the area of sustainable management of ecosystems in line with the goals and strategic actions outlined in section 3.2 of the PIDS.**

* This objective, which is under the strategic area 3.2 of the PIDS, is being addressed through all programs and projects of SEDI/DSD. More particularly, sustainable management of ecosystems is an integral objective and component of all Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) projects in transboundary basins, such as La Plata Basin, and transboundary biospheres, such as the *La Fraternidad* tri-national biosphere in the Trifinio region. Likewise, all efforts in sustainable energy, particularly those for the promotion of renewable energy, energy transition policies and energy efficiency contribute to the sustainable management of ecosystems, their natural resources and ecological services. And all efforts towards building community resilience and disaster risk management directly contribute to this objective.

**OBJECTIVE 2.3: Enhance member states’ capacities in the area of integrated water resources management in line with the goals and strategic actions outlined in section 3.3 of the PIDS.**

**Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM)**

* Completed submission and approval of a 4.8 USD million grant from the Global Environment Facility (GEF), through the United Nations Programme for Environment (UNEP), for Fostering Water Security in the Trifinio Region (El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala).
* Continued execution of the *La Plata* Basin project, developed through a $2M grant secured through the GEF for the implementation of the Strategic Action Plan (SAP), to accelerate actions in the priority areas of water security, climate resilience and ecosystem health, including the development of a basin wide multisector projects portfolio for the short term.
* Developed a proposal for Sustainable and Climate-Resilient Management of The High-Andean Ecosystems (Hame), a regional initiative (Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru) for a contribution of US$ 5,147,825 from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (COSUDE) which was awarded.
* The Haiti USAID grant for the Community Driven Development (CDD) and Small Grants Facility (SGF) projects was transferred to SEDI/DSD. In extending the agreement with USAID, the CDD project was reprogrammed with an overarching objective of building resilience of the water sector and an Integrated Water Resources management approach. A new contribution of US$2,300,000 is expected to be granted for execution in 2022.
* SEDI/DSD partnered with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit* (GIZ) and the Secretariat of the Cartagena Convention (CAR/RCU), in the execution of the GEF project “The Caribbean Regional Fund for Wastewater Management (CreW+)”, with a contribution of USD 15M, in the Wider Caribbean Region: Barbados, Belize, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago. SEDI/DSD is responsible for the overall coordination of the project and in Barbados leads the development of a National Communications Strategy (and Associated Implementation Plan) for Integrated Water and Wastewater Management (IWWM) and the evaluation of the enabling environment needed for a Wastewater Revolving Fund and Development of a Co-financing/revolving fund mechanism to support uptake of wastewater treatment and reuse programs.
* SEDI/DSD jointly with the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) and in collaboration with the governments of Costa Rica, Jamaica and Uruguay undertook the regional initiative “Climate Action Program for Development in Latin America and the Caribbean: a comprehensive proposal based on best practices in the region”. This regional approach seeks to promote climate action activities and tools for the achievement of National Determined Contributions (NDC).
* Published the guide “Gender Equality and Water in The Americas: Considerations and Guidelines for Incorporating the Gender Approach in Water Management Programs, Plans, Projects and Activities”.
* Develop the Publication methodology “Transboundary Basins: Water and Peace in The Americas: Methodology for Diagnosing Transboundary Cooperation and Resilience” to be published in 2022.

**OBJECTIVE 2.4: Enhance member states’ capacities in the area of sustainable cities and communities in line with the goals and strategic actions outlined in section 3.4 of the PIDS.**

* This objective is also addressed as an overarching objective of all SEDI/DSD programs and projects, as they target urban communities within transboundary basins and regional planning and management units. Likewise, the Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas (ECPA) and the Disaster Risk Management Program contribute to advance the objectives of sustainable cities and communities.
* Fund mobilization efforts continued for the implementation of the Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) on sustainable urban communities reviewed in 2020 to provide youth with the tools and knowledge to influence changes in culture, practice and habits, and public policies to achieve sustainable and resilient communities.

**OBJECTIVE 2.5: Enhance member states’ capacities in the area of sustainable energy management, prioritizing the promotion of clean, renewable, environmentally sustainable energy and energy efficiency in line with the goals and strategic actions outlined in section 3.5 of the PIDS.**

**The Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas (ECPA)**

* Convened nine (9) virtual public-private sector dialogues focused on grid flexibility, natural gas, and integration. The dialogues focused on policy recommendations presented by the private sector to the Heads of State at the VIII Summit of the Americas held in Lima in April 2018, as well as recommendations to address effects of the pandemic caused by the COVID-19.
* Hosted the Island Energy Transformation Training Series as part of the Caribbean Renewable Energy Forum (CREF). The training series brought together energy experts, policymakers, regulators, utility officials, and the private sector to learn about tools and methodologies developed by several U.S. national laboratories -through the U.S. Department of Energy’s Energy Transitions Initiative- to support energy sector transformation. Sessions in the series featured: (1) fundamentals of electric power systems, including governance and institutional considerations for resilience; (2) approaches to identifying critical infrastructure and operational objectives, (3) requirements of robust procurement processes, and (4) finance elements to enhance the economic viability of projects.
* Hosted four (4) high-level dialogues on energy in partnership with the National Energy Secretariat of Panama. Energy policy makers and energy industry leaders in the Americas discussed key issues relating to the advancement of energy transitions and low carbon development in the Americas.
* Development of a project aimed at exchanging experiences, best practices and lessons learned in air quality measurement and ozone monitoring.
* Development of a project for Transparency and Civic Engagement for Democratic Energy Transitions in the Americas. The goal is to support the efforts of OAS member states to engage civil society organizations, minorities, marginalized groups, and vulnerable communities in the decision-making process for clean energy policy, energy security, and climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies.
* Panama announced it will convene the Fifth Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas (ECPA) Ministerial meeting on February 10-11, 2022, in Panama City. The ECPA Ministerial will focus on “Just and Inclusive Energy Transitions”. Energy companies, entrepreneurs, and development partners will partake in the event, showcasing technologies and sharing knowledge, tools, and mechanisms to advance energy transitions in the Americas. During 2021 the National Energy Secretariat of Panama hosted several public events to develop the Partnership’s 2022-2024 Action Plan to be approved at the hemispheric gathering of ministers.

**OBJECTIVE 2.6: Enhance member states’ capacities to attain efficient, effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions for sustainable development in line with the goals and strategic actions outlined in section 3.6 of the PIDS.**

**Strengthening institutional capacity for sustainable development**

* Prepared and submitted the 8th Evaluation Report of the CAFTA-DR Environmental Cooperation Program (ECP) to the CAFTA-DR Environmental Affairs Council, which showcases results, success stories, challenges, and recommendations of the ECP, in the areas of:

▪ Strengthening institutional capacity for effective compliance and enforcement of environmental legislation

▪ Building capacity to combat illegal wildlife trade

▪ Developing air quality standards, including urban air monitoring systems

▪ Strengthening wastewater and solid waste management

▪ Strengthening the capacity to conduct environmental impact assessments (EIAs)

▪ Promoting conservation of marine and coastal ecosystems

▪ Fostering public participation and increasing civil society's knowledge of environmental legislation

* Provided administrative and technical assistance to the Secretariat under the U.S. – Peru Trade Promotion Agreement (U.S.–Peru TPA) for submissions on Environmental Enforcement Matters, and in receiving and processing public submissions regarding failures of a Party to effectively enforce its environmental laws.
* Developed a project proposal for “Building Capacity of GEF National Executing Agencies in Latin America and The Caribbean”, in collaboration with the GEF Secretariat and as part of its Country Support Program. This project proposal is under consideration for the GEF eight replenishment.

**STRATEGIC LINE 3: PROMOTING EDUCATION AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT**

**IN THE AMERICAS**

The General Assembly of the Organization of American States, through resolution AG/RES. 2955 (L-O/20), instructed SEDI to begin planning the second phase of the Inter-American Educational Agenda. In this sense, under the leadership of the Authorities of the Inter-American Committee on Education (CIE), the dialogue between ministries of education held in 2021 acquired a dynamic that was consolidated in the IX Regular Meeting of the CIE, held in November 2021, where 28 countries adopted the Methodology for the Construction of the Second Phase of the Inter-American Educational Agenda (AEI) contained in document CIDI/CIE/doc.9/21. The Methodology reflects the process carried out for the generation of consensus and the collective construction of the needs and urgencies that affect the region in terms of educational continuity; all with a special focus on populations in vulnerable conditions and in accordance with the topics discussed in the dialogue held during the last 18 months.

**OBJECTIVE 3.1: Strengthen member states’ institutional capacities to provide quality, inclusive, and equitable education.**

**The Inter-American Education Agenda and implementation of the 2019-2022 Work Plan of the Inter-American Committee on Education**

* A virtual dialogue on inclusion and equity in education was held within the framework of project #13 of the Work Plan of the CIE with the objective of sharing educational policies, regulations, tools and experiences of the countries of the region for the promotion of a quality, inclusive and equitable education in contexts of change.
* A virtual dialogue was held within the framework of project #17 of the CIE Work Plan with the objective of promoting new visions about the development of communication skills of students through foreign, autochthonous, and visual-gestural languages.
* Synergies were generated and opportunities for collaboration and cooperation among member states, as well as with regional institutions were identified for the implementation of initiatives in education and human development as a result of the regular meeting of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) held in May 2021, with the theme “Promoting the Hemispheric Action Plan for the Continuity of Education (PHACE) considering the effects of the Coronavirus pandemic.”
* In collaboration with ILO/Cinterfor and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the workshop “Advancing towards a Regional Qualifications Framework” and for the development of capacities in national teams on the concept and viability of a RQF within the framework of new public employment and training policies according to the project # 21 of the CIE Work Plan.
* Following the collaboration with PAHO that started on 2020, and within the framework of project # 4 of the CIE Work Plan, two virtual dialogues were held on “Promoting Healthy Life Skills through Physical and Nutrition Education in Schools” and “Policies and Programs on the Promotion of Regulations and Standards for Foods in the School Environment.”
* Documents were prepared to systematize the dialogues on public policies carried out in 2020 and in 2021, which compile the contributions of the countries on lessons learned, the challenges faced, and local experiences on issues of great relevance to the region. These documents were validated by the authorities and officials of the countries who participated in the respective dialogues.
* A capacity building program was launched within the framework of collaboration between the Internet Society (ISOC) and the OAS through the Department of Human Development, Education and Employment. This program consists of five virtual courses on topics associated with the integration of the Internet and governance at the level of public policies, programs and/or projects.

**OBJECTIVE 3.2: Strengthen the teaching profession in the member states by creating more training opportunities.**

**The Inter-American Teacher Education Network (ITEN)**

* Improved the capacity of 57 teacher education institutions across the region to provide quality STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) teacher education through multilateral collaborations supported by nearly US$500,000 in benefits and financial awards to 26 member states.
* Improved the capacity of over 237,000 STEM educators from 34 member states (including face-to-face trainings of 3,288 educators) to provide quality STEM education to their students.
* Consolidated and disseminated effective strategies in STEM teacher education through the execution of a Virtual Poster Session, Virtual Seminar, and publications on effective STEM teacher education practices.

**The Educational Portal of the Americas**

* 416 citizens from 22 member states benefited from partial scholarships for courses and diplomas taught in the Virtual Classroom of the Educational Portal of the Americas.
* 156 people had free access to short, open, self-administered courses (MOOC) in Gender affairs and STEM Education.
* Throughout alliances with strategic partners within the OAS, 7 virtual courses were produced in different areas. Some results of these alliances:
* 1,061 people trained in human rights (alliance with the IACHR)
* 101 people trained in prevention and attention to victims of armed violence (alliance with the SMS-OAS).
* 50 people trained in prevention of gender-based violence in the workplace (alliance with CIM and RIAL).
* Within the framework of the OAS-ProFuturo digital education program, 72 teachers and officials from Ministries of Education were trained in the use of the ProFuturo technological equipment and learning management system granted to 92 primary schools in The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Guyana and Saint Lucia. More than 1,400 teachers have also been trained in ICT innovation and integration in the classroom. Similarly, 60 people representing more than 10 civil society organizations (CSOs) in Latin America were trained in the course "Innovative Alliances for Sustainability."

**OBJECTIVE 3.3: Strengthen member states’ institutional capacities to provide a comprehensive early childhood care.**

* Signed co-sponsorship agreement with the UWI to provide 19 scholarships for the 2021-2022 academic year to OAS-UWI PAEC Scholarship Recipients from the anglophone Caribbean member states registered in the Early Childhood Development and Family Studies certificate course.

**OBJECTIVE 3.4: Foster access in member states to quality, inclusive, equitable educational opportunities at all levels, in all modalities, and in all the four official languages of the Organization.**

**The OAS Scholarship and Training Programs**

* Awarded 3,131 needs-based scholarships, in partnership with various regional and international institutions, to citizens in 34 member states.
* Modality: 87% Online; 13% Traditional/Hybrid
* Level of Study: 84% Master’s; 9% certificate; 5% Doctorate; 2% Bachelor’s
* Gender: 52% Men; 48% Women
* Offering over 11,000 scholarships through partnerships with key institutions, with *Soluciones Integrales de Formación y Gestión* (STRUCTURALIA) in Spain, Marconi International University in the United States, and *Formato Educativo Escuela de Negocios* in Spain.
* The 2021 PAEC Chile program will hold it selection committee in the first quarter of the year and recipients will be selected by March 2022.
* Engaging key partners, the DHDEE has increased the number of scholarships and training opportunities offered to CARICOM citizens by 2,400 new offers for online undergraduate studies and post-graduate courses in the 2020-2021 cycle.
* The Professional Development Scholarships Program (PDSP) Committee selected total of 7 courses aligned to OAS countries priorities. The Committee evaluated and ranked 29 shortlisted course proposals (out of 58 received) from 13 different institutions situated in five OAS member countries (Chile, Colombia, Mexico, Peru and United States) and two OAS Observer countries (Italy and Spain). Two will be taught in English and in the areas of renewable energy which are necessary for the economic and sustainable development of the region and have high potential for employability; two courses selected in the area of education will allow teachers adapt their classes to new modalities with innovative educational proposals and different methodologies. One of the selected courses will help professionals include a gender approach in their programs and projects therefore providing countries and their institutions elements to overcome historical inequalities. And the last two selected courses will help participants to update their knowledge on the latest generation technologies that are currently being developed for water treatment, and to identify the international framework for disaster risk management and climate change. These courses will be implemented between March and June of 2022.
* The Academic Scholarship Program received applications from 31 member states in response to the 2021 Call for Scholarship Applications. The Ad Hoc Selection Committee evaluated and ranked 104 eligible applications, which led to the offering of 37 scholarships. 8 scholarships were awarded for undergraduate studies and 29 for graduate studies. Academic Scholarships are awarded for the last two years of undergraduate studies for citizens of the English-speaking Caribbean member states and Suriname, while graduate scholarships are awarded for studies leading to master's, doctoral, and/or graduate research to citizens of all OAS member states. Scholarship recipients receive up to US$10,000 per academic year, for a maximum of two academic years, to pursue studies at reputable academic institutions in OAS member states in the onsite, online, or blended modalities. A total of 37 scholarships were awarded.

**The Leo S. Rowe Pan American Fund**

* Managed an investment portfolio of $22.9 million.
* Administered 369 loan accounts worth $2.25 million with a one-digit default rate.
* Awarded USD 610,563 in financial aid helping international students from 20 of the 32 eligible OAS member States.
* Financially helped close to 100 international students from the region cover tuition and living expenses while studying at universities in the United States.
* 70.2% enrolled in graduate studies (master’s or PhD)
* 52.4% Women
* 100% on-site (traditional) studies
* Granted educational and emergency loans to GS/OAS staff members
* Awarded two COVID-19 emergency relief scholarship to women from Belize and Peru to help offset the financial challenges created by the pandemic while studying in the United States.
* Continued the "Give to Education" fundraising campaign to provide additional emergency scholarships.
* In collaboration with other higher-education related institutions, carried out webinars to citizens of seven OAS member states.
* Provided seminars on principles of investment and risk management to the Rowe Fund Committee and maintained the members informed about relevant news in the industry of higher education and exchange programs during the pandemic.

**Inter-American Committee on Ports (CIP) Scholarship and Capacity Building Program**

* Awarded 840 scholarships with a value of USD $733,570 to port personnel from 30 OAS Member States for 31 certified professional development online courses in topics such as logistics, port operations, INCOTERMS 2020, technology and digitization, port security, disaster risk management, competitiveness, waterways, among other priority issues. Also, through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between CIP and the Port Management Association of the Caribbean (PMAC) and a strategic alliance with the United States Coast Guard (USCG), port personnel from Aruba, Bermuda, Bonaire, St. Maarten and Turks and Caicos Island also benefited from these activities.
* Exposed more than 3,000 port officials from 28 Member States to successful practices through 17 technical Webinars organized in collaboration with eight (8) Strategic Partners in relevant topics like port protection and security, digital transformation, maritime single windows, rise in maritime shipping costs, cruise industry, sustainable operations, and gender equity, among others. These webinars were possible thanks to the strategic alliance with Reel ID.

**STRATEGIC LINE 4: PROMOTING DECENT, DIGNIFIED, AND PRODUCTIVE WORK FOR ALL**

SEDI strengthens the capacity of member states to improve labor conditions, promote labor rights, and create jobs; in essence, to promote productive employment and decent work for all. The Covid-19 pandemic, which has disrupted labor markets across the region and worsened unemployment, informality, and labor inequalities, has heightened the importance of these objectives, placing them at the center of economic and social policy response. Since the onset of the pandemic, SEDI has geared its efforts to support governments in responding to the crisis while creating conditions for a sustainable recovery.

In 2021, the actions taken by SEDI in this area remained focused on supporting member states to address the social and labor effects of the pandemic, especially regarding wider gender gaps, the risk of setbacks in eradicating child labor, the need to strengthen job training and reskilling, and the commitment to advance universal social protection and guaranteeing institutionalized dialogue mechanisms among workers, employers and governments.

**OBJECTIVE 4.1: Enhance member states’ capacities for the strengthening education and lifelong training systems to better prepare the workforce.**

* Organized the Twenty-first Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor (XXI IACML). Its main result is a new roadmap for the region with broad consensus and concrete actions to build a more resilient world of work and achieve a sustainable, inclusive and human-centered recovery. Among the consensus and commitments, the Ministers agreed to improve the coordination between labor, education, and training; promote and facilitate life-long learning and re-skilling; and develop digital and socio-emotional skills consistent with the changes in the world of work, among other.
* Continued collaboration between Ministries of Labor and Education with a dialogue between Ministers of Labor and the Chair of the Inter-American Committee on Education (CIE) at the XXI IACML in which some of the commitments indicated in the previous point were endorsed.
* In partnership with the International Labour Organization (ILO) and UNESCO, SEDI continued to work towards a Regional Qualifications Framework to guide the design and implementation of national qualification frameworks.
* Launched training program with the Internet Society for Ministries of Education and Labour with a view to developing the skills of public officials in Internet governance and integration into public policies.

**OBJECTIVE 4.2: Enhance member states’ institutional capacities to promote equitable and inclusive job conditions and opportunities for populations in vulnerable situations and all groups that face the significant challenges in the labor market.**

* Continued strengthening of gender mainstreaming in the Ministries of Labor, which has gained more urgency given that the pandemic has disproportionately affected women. Hemispheric dialogues were held with representatives from the Ministries of Labor of 25 member states to define the elements needed in a telework policy to ensure this new work practice contributes to caregiving co-responsibility and closing employment gender gaps, and to revise the current situation of gender units. Additionally, a Virtual Course on Gender-based Violence at Work was launched, in partnership with the Inter-American Commission of Women, and a Manual for Gender Units was developed.
* With great commitment from the Ministries of Labor, labor cooperation continued to be deepened. In 2021, the Ministries of Labor of Argentina, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Panama, Peru and Trinidad and Tobago provided and received technical advice on re-designing social security policies, improving legislation on workplace harassment and violence, implementing new strategies to eradicate child labor, and strengthening social dialogue.
* Updated on an on-going bases the “Portfolio of responses from Ministries of Labor to COVID-19” and the “Guidelines and Protocols for Deconfinement and Return to Work”, gathering more than 490 measures adopted to date by Ministries of Labor to face the crisis, and more than 70 guidelines to return to work after confinement.

**STRATEGIC LINE 6: FOSTERING DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AND PARTNERSHIPS**

**The OAS Development Cooperation Fund (DCF)**

**OAS/DCF Program Cycle 2017-2021**

* + - * The MB/IACD extended the deadline to implement the programs of the 2017-2021 DCF Programming Cycle from May 31, 2021 to December 31, 2021 given the challenges that member states were facing due to the COVID-19 pandemic and other unforeseen events.
      * The pandemic affected the implementation of 17 DCF programs in different proportion mainly because several countries went through national lockdowns, closures of business and governmental changes on priorities to respond effectively to the expansion of COVID-19.
      * Establishment of partnerships by participant countries to increase the seed funding and secure sustainability for the Programming Cycle that ended on December 31, 2021: UNICEF, UNESCO and CDB. Additionally, the SEDI partnership with Amazon Web Services (AWS) provided immediate support and solutions to the DCF programs to respond to the challenges evoked by the COVID-19 pandemic.

**OAS/DCF Program Cycle 2021-2024**

* + - * The MB/IACD approved the **“Inclusive Resilience for an Effective Recovery, with a Focus on Science and Technology”** as an Area of Action for the programming cycle of the OAS/DCF 2021-2024 ([AICD/JD/DE-126/20](http://scm.oas.org/IDMS/Redirectpage.aspx?class=AICD/JD/DE&classNum=126&lang=e)) with four Program Themes:

1. Retooling MSMEs through innovation and technology.

2. Innovative Reskilling for Tourism sector recovery and regional economies.

3. Scientific and technological innovation for building resilience.

4. Science for decision making in disaster risk planning.

The area of action and corresponding themes were approved by CIDI at its regular meeting, held on December 8, 2020 [CIDI/doc.304/20 rev.1](http://scm.oas.org/IDMS/Redirectpage.aspx?class=CIDI/doc.&classNum=304&lang=e).

* + - * The MB/IACD on August 24, 2021 ([AICD/JD/DE-130/21](http://scm.oas.org/IDMS/Redirectpage.aspx?class=AICD/JD/DE&classNum=130&lang=e)) approved the seed fund of US$1.7 million and on November 2, 2021 ([AICD/JD/DE-131/21](http://scm.oas.org/IDMS/Redirectpage.aspx?class=AICD/JD/DE&classNum=131&lang=e)) added US$100,000 to the approved seed for a total of US$1.8 million for the 2021-2024 programming cycle as a respond to the inclusion of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines as a beneficiary for the DCF Program cycle 2021-2024.
      * A total of 18 countries are eligible to participate in the DCF/OAS Programming cycle 2021-2024 Cycle to develop a program on one of the four program themes (To date Nicaragua is pending submission of Confirmation Letter).

**Program I: Retooling MSMEs through innovation and technology**

* Ecuador: Facilitate the access to information and business development services through a digital platform that will enable and boost the entrepreneurial activity, intrapreneurship, or innovation in the country.
  + Honduras: Provide technical and financial skills for up to 100 migrants that have returned and people at risk of migrating (men and women).
  + Jamaica: 100 MSMEs adopting technological and non-technological tools to improve their competitiveness, market reach, boost their productivity and enhance their resilience.
* Dominican Republic: Improve the access of eighty (80) MSMES and entrepreneurs to prototyping services throughout the national territory by creating and/or strengthening four (4) Prototyping Centers during the project implementation.
* Panama: Improve the capacities of 300 Tourism MSMES to develop new services, products and innovative processes with innovation mechanisms and post-pandemic tools.
* Saint Kitts and Nevis: To enable MSMEs to connect with customers online and deliver their services by financing the construction of e-commerce websites for MSMEs and have them hosted at the National ICT Centre.
* Saint Lucia: Lend support and strengthen the current digital platforms in Saint Lucia by empowering MSMEs of the sub-sectors of the Creative Industries, Professional Industries, Spa and Wellness and ICT through technological development and innovation, resource and information sharing and connectivity between MSMEs, the Government and the world.
* Saint Vincent and the Grenadines: help MSMEs achieve economic recovery and sustainable development by promoting change in strategies and business practices through technology and innovation.

**Program II: Innovative Reskilling for Tourism sector recovery and regional economies**

* Dominica: To strengthen 50 tourism MSME’S from the accommodation and wellness sectors by increasing online visibility and building capacity in areas identified by the needs assessment.
* Guyana: Develop, deliver, and promote COVID-19 business specific health and safety protocols and strengthen the resiliency of the sector to allow for the economic recovery and the safe reopening of tourism businesses in Guyana.
* Uruguay: Offer an intensive virtual training program to 50 people that will acquire knowledge on the main technologies applied to the tourism sector and will strengthen their skills based on innovation, resilience, and change adaptation in order to support the recovery and exploit the potential of Uruguay’s tourism sector.

**Program III: Scientific and technological innovation for building resilience**

* Argentina Promote the linkage and technology transfer to increase health autonomy through the use of installed capacities and generation of technology to study post-COVID neurocognitive repercussions.
* Barbados: To provide support to local innovation through the development of a supportive policy environment, inclusive of monitoring and evaluation.
* Costa Rica: Enable access to technological and innovation spaces for the population to develop capabilities, knowledge and skills related to industry 4.0 to boost the productive and meaningful use of digital technologies to achieve a more sustainable social and economic development.
* El Salvador: Strengthen the capacities of 30 women and young people through technological innovations, along with technical assistance to improve resilience on their productive systems by strengthening food security in areas with the greatest territorial climatic effects in the municipalities of Jucuaran, Chinameca, Sesori, San Luis de la Reina, Nueva Esparta and El Carmen.
* Peru: i) To strengthen the capacities of the youth on science, technology, innovation and entrepreneurship in order to promote inclusion of vulnerable population and guarantee the preparedness for industry 4.0.; ii) To foster the access and knowledge sharing in STI+e with participation from the key actors of the STI ecosystem, to support the recovery process of education post- COVID19.

**Program IV: Science for decision making in disaster risk planning**

* Bahamas: Develop a comfort and reliance on scientific data for disaster risk assessment and management, including planning. Data includes GIS base data, meteorological data, updated hazards/storms, historical events, socio-economic analyses, lessons learned, disaster management analyses and more.

**The Inter-American Cooperation Network (CooperaNet)**

Cooperation Exchanges:

* + 240 offers and needs from 11 member states published.
  + Additional offers emanating from the 2021 Meeting of Cooperation Authorities will be populated in collaboration with member states and partners.

Training and monitoring:

* + Ongoing dialogue and support provided to engaged member states.

Cooperation Authorities:

* + Profiles updated according to communications received from Cooperation Authorities and Permanent Missions of member states to the OAS.
  + Updated information on the specialized CIDI Meetings of High-Level Authorities on Cooperation of 2018, 2019 and 2021 (Main documents, reports, One Pagers of Initiatives, and cooperation opportunities in priority areas for recovery, etc.)

**Specialized CIDI Meeting of High-Level Authorities of Cooperation**

* + The [Third Specialized CIDI Meeting of High-Level Authorities of Cooperation](https://www.oas.org/ext/en/development/cooperanet/Cooperation-Authorities/Meetings-of-Authorities.) was 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”.** The two half-day virtual meeting brought together more than 230 participants from 30 OAS member states, including government ministers, high-level cooperation authorities, ambassadors, and other representatives, along with partners from different sectors.
  + During the meeting, representatives of more than 20 OAS member offered concrete cooperation offers or identified needs where they need further assistance. In addition, new financial contributions were announced by the United States ($500 thousand) and Brazil ($200 thousand) to support cooperation initiatives in the region.
  + 25 strategic partners, including representatives of observer states, international and regional organizations, philanthropic foundations, private companies, and academic institutions outlined some of their priorities in the region and highlighted areas in which there is potential for collaboration with the OAS/SEDI. These priorities are aligned with the OAS/SEDI programmatic areas and will strengthen project delivery in 2022 and beyond.
  + The new Chair of the Management Board of the Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development (IACD), El Salvador, proposed the establishment of three working groups to make the work of the IACD more strategic and responsive to countries’ needs: (1) CIDI ministerial process and the role of the region’s cooperation authorities; (2) financing for development cooperation within the OAS/SEDI framework; and (3) the IACD’s role in the international development cooperation landscape. The working groups are open to participation from all member states and will be convened in the first quarter of 2022.

**OBJECTIVE 6.1: Foster bilateral, South-South, triangular, and international cooperation in the Hemisphere.**

**The Secretariat of the Inter-American Committee on Ports:**

* Established two (2) Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) and one (1) supplementary agreement. Thanks to the MoU, the General Port Administration (AGPSE) of Argentina will generously offer scholarships through its National Training Centre (CENCAPOR) with the objective of increasing the capacity building opportunities offered by the CIP. The second MoU was signed with the maritime consultancy firm Maritime Policy Bureau (MPB) who will support the CIP by creating course content. Finally, the supplementary agreement was signed with the National Port Authority (APN) of Peru to guarantee the 2022 online course offer.
* Began implementation of the project “Establishment of a Port Community System (PCS) in Bridgetown, Barbados”, which includes a logistics and international supply chain-related assessment and producing an implementation roadmap with a set of legal, operational, and financial recommendations, among other issues.
* In the context of the “Improved Disaster Risk Management Project for Ports in the Caribbean”, developed a Model Emergency Operations Plan, available in English, French, Spanish, and Portuguese. In addition, it organized the first online regional workshop on Improved Disaster Risk Management in Caribbean Ports, benefiting 30 port officials from 11 OAS member states in addition to five (5) non-sovereign States.
* In collaboration with its Associate Members, Maritime Policy Bureau (MPB) and Prodevelop, opened a call for applications for the Posidonia Port CDM License. This call was intended to provide a port or terminal in the region with the opportunity to use, free of charge, for a six (6) month period the license for the Posidonia Port CDM tool, among other benefits, in order to improve decision-making, operation indicators, increase its competitiveness and positively impact the customer satisfaction, through the analysis of the exchange of standard information generated in the port. The winner of the call was the Integral Port Administration (API) of Lázaro Cárdenas, Mexico.

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