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**WORK PLAN FOR THE MEETINGS**

**OF THE** **INTER-AMERICAN COUNCIL FOR INTEGRAL DEVELOPMENT (CIDI)**

**FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY-JUNE 2023**

(Approved during the regular meeting held February 2, 2023)

**INTRODUCTION**

Peru will serve as Chair of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) for the period January to June 2023 and during its tenure will prioritize the issue of Climate Change for discussion and attention of the Council. Likewise, this October CIDI will hold the meeting of Ministers of Sustainable Development which had been postponed from 2019, and further delayed by the onset of the pandemic. Consequently, it is proposed that the meetings of the CIDI for the first semester begin to lay the groundwork for this most important meeting for the region, providing member states with the opportunity to bring to the table critical issues affecting them as they relate to climate change.

All member states of the Organization of American States (OAS) are impacted by climate change and related threats to their sustainable development. There is a need for OAS member states to urgently design and implement policies, strategies, and pragmatic solutions to address their vulnerability to climate impacts and to reduce their contributions to greenhouse gas emissions—the primary cause for climate change. Innovative solutions which may be implemented on a national, sub-regional, and regional basis can support efforts to adapt to, and mitigate the causes of climate change and stimulate sustainable development throughout the Americas.

At the IV Ministerial Meeting on Sustainable Development, member states will meet to consider strategic areas for action to address the growing threats from, and the expanding opportunities to, meet the challenges of climate change.

The Permanent Representatives to the OAS will be encouraged to share their countries’ vision for economic growth, the opportunities and challenges in their attainment, and the steps needed at the regional level to support development, which is sustainable, resilient, and inclusive. Each session will begin with a brief introduction to the technical subject matter, followed by a discussion amongst member states facilitated by the Chair. In their deliberations, the member states will be able to elaborate on, and reach consensus with respect to, the types of services that SEDI should deliver to foster sustainable development in the Americas.

The proposed CIDI work plan is consistent, with the importance assigned to sustainable development by the governments in the Americas, most notably at the Ninth Summit of the Americas held in Los Angeles on June 9, 2022. On that occasion, the Heads of State and Government of the Americas agreed to pursue “Our Sustainable Green Future”[[1]](#footnote-2). Their commitment further the UN Climate Change Conference UK 2021 (COP26), Glasgow Leaders’ Declaration on Forest and Land Use, and is an emphatic call to cut greenhouse gas emissions, harness the role of oceans and other bodies of water to mitigate and adapt to climate change, accelerate climate change adaptation, strengthen regional cooperation to assist governments and build resilience, and promote responsible and sustainable production and consumption.[[2]](#footnote-3) In the same vein, the Heads of State and Government of the Americas gathered in Los Angeles also committed to “Accelerating the Clean, Sustainable, Renewable, and Just Energy Transition”[[3]](#footnote-4) as the most efficacious action to hold the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.

At the global level, on November 20, 2022, at the Twenty Seventh Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 27), the parties acknowledged “the urgent and immediate need for new, additional, predictable and adequate financial resources to assist developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change in responding to economic and non-economic loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, including extreme weather events and slow onset events, especially in the context of ongoing and ex post (including rehabilitation, recovery and reconstruction) action.”[[4]](#footnote-5) The parties decided “to establish new funding arrangements for assisting developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, in responding to loss and damage, including with a focus on addressing loss and damage by providing and assisting in mobilizing new and additional resources, and that these new arrangements complement and include sources, funds, processes and initiatives under and outside the Convention and the Paris Agreement.”[[5]](#footnote-6)

Meetings will include presentations with interactive dialogue facilitated by the Chair with invited experts and member states. The discussions will be guided by a concept note.

**Structure of the FIRST semester of 2023 for CIDI meetings**

The first semester of CIDI meetings will be structured as a series of discussions among delegations from member states, leading experts and partners around concrete initiatives on sustainable development.

**Proposed CIDI meetings schedule FOR JANUARY-JUNE 2023**

**February 2, 2023: Procedural matters**

* Presentation of the CIDI Draft Work Plan for January-June 2023
* Presentation of the 2022 SEDI Annual Report to CIDI
* Procedures related to CIDI Ministerial and Sectorial Meetings

**February 28, 2023: Decarbonization in the Americas - Energy and Nature-Based Solutions**

Electric power generation and consumption, and transportation are major sources of greenhouse gas emissions. Countries seeking to reduce their carbon footprint and decarbonize the energy sector have at their disposal a set of policies which, if successfully deployed, have the potential to drastically reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Although Latin America and the Caribbean have made considerable progress in decarbonizing the energy sector, the countries remain heavily dependent on highly volatile oil markets[[6]](#footnote-7) and fuel subsidies.[[7]](#footnote-8) One way a country may enhance energy security, improve the balance of payments, and achieve greater fiscal stewardship is to increase the share of renewables in the national energy matrix. Accelerating the uptake of renewable energy technologies curbs dependence on oil imports, creates new employment opportunities, and reduces greenhouse gas emissions.

In addition to deploying renewable energy solutions, effectively decarbonizing the economy requires major efforts to improve energy efficiency in homes, businesses, and industries. Energy efficiency is a cost-effective way to combat climate change, reduce energy costs, and improve competitiveness. Energy efficiency is also vital in achieving net-zero emissions. Conserving energy reduces the need for future investments, frees up capital and hedging of fuel risks, enhances competitiveness, and supports long term resource planning. Most Latin American and Caribbean countries contemplate energy efficiency targets as part of their Nationally Determined Contributions under the Paris Agreement.

With regard to the transport sector, according to World Bank data, in Latin America and the Caribbean, 35% of greenhouse gas emissions related to fuel combustion originate from internal combustion engine vehicles—much higher than the global average of 22%. On the other hand, the region’s public transport ridership is one of the highest in the world. Electrifying public transport would bring about huge transformational gains in terms of reduced greenhouse emissions, while helping countries meet their nationally determined contributions under the Paris Agreement.

From the perspective of technological innovation, green hydrogen is showing great promise, as a growing number of countries in the region are gearing up to produce clean hydrogen, driven by their abundant renewable energy resources, the need to decarbonize their economies, and the huge potential for hydrogen exports.

Additionally, nature-based solutions are sustainable management and engineering practices that weave natural processes into the built environment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Forests capture carbon and lock it away, oceans absorb heat from human-induced warming, wetlands create natural barriers to more frequent and intense storms, and communities rely on the resources from Earth to thrive. Recent research indicates that nature-based solutions could provide “around 30% of the cost-effective mitigation” needed by 2030 to stabilize global warming to below the threshold of 2°C.[[8]](#footnote-9)

This session will discuss ways in which member states may accelerate the energy transition with a view toward becoming carbon-neutral by 2050, notably through climate financing and private sector engagement. The findings of the session will contribute to the discussion supporting the formulation of the agenda for the IV Ministerial Meeting of Sustainable Development.

Questions for member states will feature:

1. What mechanisms should be promoted to accelerate the clean energy transition?
2. 2) What nature-based solutions can help reduce the cost of combating climate change?
3. What types of partnerships or policy incentives can be deployed to accelerate electric mobility in the region?
4. Can hydrogen generation and export to Europe and Asia become a source of revenue for the region?

**March 28, 2023:** **Science and Data for Decision-Making, Resilience and Disaster Risk Management**

All people face natural and human-made threats such as disasters. Today, climate change is scientifically linked to water scarcity and compound natural disasters, including hurricanes, floods, wildfires, heat waves, and extreme weather events. The Americas remain one of the most disaster-prone regions in the world, leaving citizenry exposed to multiple rapid-onset disasters and a constant state of struggle. Although Member States are willing to strengthen cooperation on disaster risk reduction, most notably through the implementation of the Sendai Framework, they understand this is not enough if they want to build an integrated approach to greater resilience.

As the frequency and intensity of extreme weather phenomena increase, Member States should contemplate in their planning processes, measures to reduce the impacts of catastrophic events on the economy and the people, with the mindset of protecting the most vulnerable groups, especially women, the elderly, persons with disabilities, the youth, and the poor.

Vulnerability is never evenly distributed, especially considering factors such as the dynamic changes in the natural environment, the region’s high rate of urbanization (80% of the population resides in urban areas), environmental degradation, and the unplanned overloading of cities with aging and often inadequate infrastructure. This context underscores the need to strengthen disaster risk management capacities.

Furthermore, the concept of Smart Cities is characterized by digital innovations and the use of modern communication technologies, enabling new capabilities to assess the impact of natural disasters and the response that a particular solution can provide, which contribute to mitigate the impacts during natural disasters caused by climate change and to achieve a faster and more efficient recovery after an emergency.

To mitigate and respond to disasters, it is necessary to design comprehensive strategies and intervention models that allow for risk management to be addressed at multiple levels within government, with special emphasis on the urban sphere, and considering cross-sectoral measures that are key elements for making cities more resilient. However, despite the large amount of information available today, there is still limited capacity for analysis and interpretation for decision making and analysis to identify appropriate courses of action.

This session will present the report of the first OAS Conference on Science and data for decision-making on DRM in the Caribbean which was held in Dominica in October 2022. The report will present priority areas for action as well as the multi-sectoral partnerships needed at the International, regional and national level to build and share critical data to guide decision-making at both policymaking and programming levels. The session will focus on member states initiatives, plans, studies and policies to promote the use of information and technologies to mitigate and respond to disasters, as well as opportunities to strength their capacities for risk management, as the region undertakes meaningful actions to tackle the climate crisis and will inform the preparatory process for the IV Meeting of Ministers of Sustainable Development

Questions for member states will feature:

1. How can science and data improve the design and implementation of effective and adaptive policies and strategies for resilient and sustainable development?
2. What critical data is needed and how can it be used in a practical context?
3. Are there examples of good practice in science-based decision-making?
4. What are the key recommendations for capacity building and institutional strengthening in the short, medium, and long-term?
5. What resources, tools, technologies may be deployed to improve decision-making on disaster risk management and resilience?

**April 25, 2023: Climate Finance (innovation) – Understanding the Loss and Damage Fund**

Over the course of the CIDI meetings in the first semester of 2023 the delegations have been presented with, and have discussed the situation wherein the environmental, economic, social, and political situation throughout the world – and notably in the Americas – is threatened by the reality of climate change. To address the challenges of climate change we need to 1) slow down the pace of warming by reducing the emissions/release of greenhouse gases – Mitigation; and 2) reduce the vulnerability and increase the resilience of our populations to the inevitable effects of climate change – Adaptation.

There have been some positive developments on reducing the scarcity gap regarding climate finance. At the recently concluded COP27, countries have reached consensus on an innovative "loss and damage" fund to support countries vulnerable to climate impacts. The funding levels and operationalization of this fund will be defined at the next COP28 at the end of 2023. Nonetheless, many questions remain unresolved, such as those related to the role of the LAC region during the negotiations process, the mechanisms to be used for the implementation and the standardization of procedures and transparency to catalyze the so much needed financial support in our region.

The challenge for all countries, and especially countries in development, is that investments in change to meet mitigation and adaptation commitments are expensive. In fact, at the UNFCCC COP27 in Egypt it was reported that developing countries alone need a combined $1 trillion a year in external funding to meet the goals set out in their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). This funding, in addition to the countries’ own expenditures, is needed for things like cutting emissions, dealing with deadly disasters and restoring nature.[[9]](#footnote-10)

Climate Action – those activities designed to mitigate and adapt to climate change – requires significant financial investments; this is where climate finance comes in. A key challenge facing countries is increasing the scale and pace of climate finance flows. This is particularly true for developing countries with limited fiscal headroom to de-risk private sector investment in climate change mitigation and adaptation.

To meet the substantial needs of the world to invest in climate action, private financing must play a pivotal role. Examples of private financing for climate include sustainability-linked loans and bonds, green loans and bonds, and direct investments in climate-beneficial projects.[[10]](#footnote-11)

Access to climate finance is a major hurdle for most countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, especially the most vulnerable and least developed ones. The meeting will assist in the preparation of the IV Sustainable Development Ministerial planning process and the Inter-American Climate Action Plan that will be developed by the CIDS. Furthermore, this meeting will be a space for member states to share their priorities of action with regards to the current Climate Finance mechanisms and to learn about their expectations and ambitions with respect to the new proposed mechanism “Loss and Damage Fund”.

Questions for member states will feature:

1. Based on your country’s experiences, how can the member states increase their share and capacity of climate finance and investment?
2. How can the LAC region ensure climate finance flows steadiness and increased transparency and participation within the existing climate financing tools?
3. What do you think is the role of Latin America and the Caribbean in shaping climate finance strategies? Can the OAS have a financing role in the Climate arena at the regional level?

**May 30, 2023: Climate Change and Water – Water security in the Climate Crisis**

Latin America boasts abundant water resources, accounting for 31% of the world's freshwater reserves. However, many areas in the region are being affected by climate change-induced fluctuations in precipitation patterns, mega-droughts and extreme weather events.[[11]](#footnote-12) Climate change is exacerbating the variability of hydrological cycles, leading to extreme weather events that weaken people's ability to manage the impacts of phenomena such as droughts or floods, reducing the predictability of water resources availability, decreasing water quality, and threatening sustainable development, biodiversity, and access to safe drinking water and sanitation worldwide.

Climate change is also affecting water supply systems and the different productive uses of water. Access to safe drinking water, adequate sanitation and hygiene are essential for human health and well-being, this taking into consideration that today more than 166 million people[[12]](#footnote-13) (26% of the population in LAC) do not have adequate access to safe drinking water. Additionally, water is needed for industrial, food and energy production, which are closely related and potentially in conflict with each other if mismanaged. Given that access to safe, affordable and reliable drinking water and sanitation services are basic human rights, moreover, the previous risks stated risks and water insecurity in our region are exacerbated due to the low rate of investment in the water and sanitation sector.

Strengthening the region’s transboundary water resources agenda is a priority, considering the impacts of climate change, increasing water scarcity, and a growing demand for water. The region has 67 international river basins covering approximately 50% of its land, and a large share of the region’s economic activities depends on transboundary water resources; therefore, this economic and hydrographic dependence on shared water bodies required a basin-wide approach. Transboundary water resources rely on cooperation between different countries. This requires the promotion of dialogue, diplomacy and the development of agreements between countries. In this regard, the OAS has played a key role in supporting member states and developing mechanisms to promote mutual cooperation for sustainable transboundary water management.

An integrated and sustainable approach to climate and water resources management brings about substantial benefits and should be given adequate consideration in climate policymaking and planning at the national and regional levels.

Recognizing the essential role of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and the transformational power that access to clean water represents to human wellbeing and as part of the preparatory process for the Ministerial, this meeting will identify priority areas of action to promote governance, financing and innovative ways to promote water security within the climate crisis in the Americas.

Questions for member states will feature:

1. What are the priority topics or areas of action your country encounter to promote of water security within the climate crisis for the next century?
2. Financing is essential for good water governance. What examples can you give where the public and the private sector work together to achieve adequate financing for projects on sustainable water management and climate change? What are the incentives and what mechanisms being implemented in your country that promote private and public investment in the water sector?
3. Multinational cooperation is important for climate action and water management. What are the priorities of action your country identifies to promote transboundary water cooperation within the current climate scene?

**June 13, 2023: Climate Change and Poverty – Multidimensional impacts and solutions**

Eradicating extreme poverty for all people everywhere by 2030 is a pivotal goal of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Between 2015 and 2018, global poverty continued its historical decline, with the global poverty rate falling from 10.1% in 2015 to 8.6% in 2018. With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the global poverty rate increased sharply from 8.3% in 2019 to 9.2% in 2020, reversing progress by about three years.

In Latin America and the Caribbean output fell by 7%, the worst of any region tracked by the IMF.[[13]](#footnote-14) Last year, 32.1% of the region’s population (equivalent to 201 million people) fell below the poverty line, while extreme poverty affected 13.1% (82 million).[[14]](#footnote-15)

In tandem with this,climate change is becoming an increasing threat that deepens the social divide, exacerbates inequality, and pushes millions into poverty. Impoverished people, rural communities, and indigenous peoples are always those most affected by the adverse effects of climate change. For example, in November 2021, two massive hurricanes that lashed Central America—Eta and Iota—upended the lives of millions of people, compelling them to pull up roots and seek a better future elsewhere. The World Bank has estimated that climate change will lead to up to a 300% increase in extreme poverty in Latin America and the Caribbean by 2030. [[15]](#footnote-16)

The World Bank estimates that climate change could push 3 million people into poverty every year in Latin America and the Caribbean until 2030. This impacts people in cities, rural areas, and along coastlines and low-lying areas where hurricanes and other hazards are a growing threat.[[16]](#footnote-17) To overcome many of the challenges and stave off the fall of millions of people into poverty, critical investments in resilience and economic support for the poorest urban, rural, and indigenous communities must be prioritized. The recent UNFCCC COPs have taken up these issues, but many efforts are yet to be activated, and regionally based solutions are lacking.

As part of the preparatory process for the Ministerial, this session will enable an expert discussion on the challenges and opportunities to bring people out of poverty and to prevent the region’s poorest communities from suffering the most extreme consequences of climate change.

Questions for member states will feature:

1. How have elevated climate risks and the potential impacts of natural disasters affected the poorest and most vulnerable communities of the region?
2. What issues have not been adequately addressed to improve economic growth and shared prosperity?
3. Do governments apply targeted methodologies to address the nexus between climate change and poverty? What challenges are most critical in applying these throughout the region?
4. Recognizing that new technologies for risk assessment have been developed, is your country currently engaged with these science-based institutions to establish security standards and better planning in your country?

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1. IX Summit of the Americas, Our Sustainable Green Future, June 9, 2022, Los Angeles, United States. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. [Glasgow Leaders’ Declaration on Forests and Land Use - UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) at the SEC – Glasgow 2021 (ukcop26.org)](https://ukcop26.org/glasgow-leaders-declaration-on-forests-and-land-use/) [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. IX Summit of the Americas, Accelerating the Clean, Sustainable, Renewable, and Just Energy Transition, June 9, 2022, Los Angeles, United States. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, November 20, 2022, Funding arrangements for responding to loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, including a focus on addressing loss and damage, Decision -/CP.27 -/CMA.4, Twenty seventh session (advance unedited version). [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. Ibid. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
6. At present, the energy sector of Latin America and the Caribbean is dominated by fossil fuels, which account for around 70% of total primary energy supply, while the remaining 30% comes from renewables. In terms of installed capacity, fossil fuels represent 39% and renewables 61% (OAS, based on OLADE, 2020). [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
7. According to the IMF, fossil fuel subsidies were $5.9 trillion or 6.8% of GDP in 2020 and are expected to increase in the near future. Source: <https://www.imf.org/en/Topics/climate-change/energy-subsidies> [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
8. Nature-based Solutions in Nationally Determined Contributions. Synthesis and recommendations for enhancing climate ambition and action by 2020 <https://portals.iucn.org/library/sites/library/files/documents/2019-030-En.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
9. [How much money is needed to fight climate change? | The Economist](https://www.economist.com/graphic-detail/2022/11/11/how-much-money-is-needed-to-fight-climate-change) [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
10. [How to Scale Up Private Climate Finance in Emerging Economies (imf.org)](https://www.imf.org/en/Blogs/Articles/2022/10/07/how-to-scale-up-private-climate-finance-in-emerging-economies) [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
11. OAS, 2022; Glaciares tropicales y cambio climático, perspectivas desde las NDC y la adaptación: Análisis y propuestas desde los escenarios de Bolivia, Perú, Ecuador y Colombia. [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
12. UN Statistics Division, <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal/database> [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
13. [Why Latin America’s economy has been so badly hurt by covid-19 | The Economist](https://www.economist.com/the-americas/2021/05/13/why-latin-americas-economy-has-been-so-badly-hurt-by-covid-19) [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
14. ECLAC, 2022 Social Panorama. Available here: <https://repositorio.cepal.org/handle/11362/48518> [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
15. [Climate change and poverty: the perfect storm (worldbank.org)](https://blogs.worldbank.org/latinamerica/climate-change-and-poverty-perfect-storm?cid=SHR_BlogSiteTweetable_EN_EXT) [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
16. [Promoting Climate Change Action in Latin America and the Caribbean (worldbank.org)](https://www.worldbank.org/en/results/2021/04/14/promoting-climate-change-action-in-latin-america-and-the-caribbean) [↑](#footnote-ref-17)