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PROGRESS REPORT OF THE

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT FOR INTEGRAL DEVELOPMENT (SEDI)

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

ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ITS 2023 WORK PLAN

January – May 2023

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

 **Page**

**OVERVIEW OF STRATEGIC LINES 1**

**INTRODUCTION 1**

**STRATEGIC LINE 1 3**

**STRATEGIC LINE 2 7**

**STRATEGIC LINE 3 10**

**STRATEGIC LINE 4 13**

**STRATEGIC LINE 6 15**

**STRATEGIC LINE 7 17**

**CONCLUSION 19**

**OVERVIEW OF STRATEGIC LINES**

**STRATEGIC LINE 1**

PROMOTING INCLUSIVE AND COMPETITIVE ECONOMIES

**STRATEGIC LINE 2**

STRENGTHENING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (PIDS)

**STRATEGIC LINE 3**

PROMOTING EDUCATION AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT IN THE AMERICAS

**STRATEGIC LINE 4**

PROMOTING DECENT, DIGNIFIED, AND PRODUCTIVE WORK FOR ALL

**STRATEGIC LINE 6**

FOSTERING DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AND ESTABLISHING PARTNERSHIPS

**STRATEGIC LINE 7**

FOSTERING THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMPETITIVE, SECURE, SUSTAINABLE, AND INCLUSIVE PORTS IN MEMBER STATES

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**ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ITS 2023 WORK PLAN**

January – May 2023

**INTRODUCTION**

AN OVERVIEW OF SEDI’S 2023 WORK PLAN PROGRESS REPORT (JANUARY – MAY)

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 various sectoral meetings at the Ministerial level. Fundamental to the work of OAS/SEDI is political dialogue and technical cooperation among 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. Indeed, the OAS’ mandate, *More rights for more people*, is central to SEDI’s own operational ethos. Policy imperatives are translated into programs, projects, and activities which are then implemented through partnerships with civil society organizations and other regional, international, public, and private institutions with common goals.

The organizational structure of OAS/SEDI includes the Office of the Executive Secretary, three departments: the Department of Human Development, Education and Employment (DHDEE); the Department of Economic Development (DED); and the Department of Sustainable Development (DSD); and the Secretariat of the Inter-American Committee on Ports (CIP). OAS/SEDI also works closely with other Secretariats within the OAS, alongside OAS affiliates such as the Trust for the Americas, the Young Americas Business Trust, and the Pan American Development Foundation. SEDI also has established partnerships with other international organizations, civil society organizations, the academic community, and the private sector. SEDI’s remit is indeed vast, and, critically, largely dependent on partnerships and voluntary contributions from Member states and other donors.

In a global arena characterized by competing priorities and development agendas, SEDI’s partnerships reflect its commitment to delivering critical programming to strengthen the sustainability of Member states and meet the demands of a changing world. Even as our region continues to grapple with the myriad challenges of a post-Covid environment—rising levels of inequality, economic uncertainty, and political instability—scientists, academic institutions, and international development organizations alike have recognized climate change as the most significant threat to this Hemisphere. With this in mind that SEDI has retooled its strategic mission to work “*to secure sustainable, inclusive and equitable development in the Americas as a foundation for democracy, peace, social justice and progress*.”

SEDI’s Work Plan for 2023 is under implementation within the framework of the 2023-2025 Comprehensive Strategic Plan of the Organization, applying the ONE SEDI approach – integrated programming and implementation and the elimination of silos between departments. This report corresponds to an update of SEDI’s programming, projects, and initiatives between January-May 2023. It is organized according to the six strategic lines and objectives as outlined in the development pillar of the Comprehensive Strategic Plan for the OAS.

**SEDI would like to thank all of its partners and stakeholders for their engagement and service to the Hemisphere thus far in 2023.**

**STRATEGIC LINE 1**

PROMOTING INCLUSIVE AND COMPETITIVE ECONOMIES

SEDI continues to accelerate the region’s adoption of new technologies and ease its adjustment to digital ecosystems – two factors essential to promoting inclusive economic growth and, per the *World Bank*, helping to more effectively “explore innovative avenues towards green, resilient, and inclusive development.” A few of SEDI’s standout programs—the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) Program, the MSME Competitiveness Program, the Inter-American Competitiveness Network (RIAC), the Inter-American Competitiveness Exchange (ACE), the OAS Youth Academy on Transformative Technologies, and Prospecta Americas—remain front and center in its efforts to increase productivity, regional cooperation, and knowledge exchange.

Between January-May 2023, under *Strategic Line 1*, DED has made significant progress towards achieving a number of benchmarks as outlined in its 2023 Work Plan. National SBDC networks were projected to be started in Brazil, Ecuador, and Uruguay – three centers are set to be launched in Brazil in November, and program frameworks have been established to open centers in Ecuador and Uruguay. After the first iteration of ACE, two projects (out of six projected for 2023) to advance economic development, innovation, and entrepreneurship have already been developed, and four partnerships (out of seven projected for 2023) around innovation-driven local economic development and resiliency have already been cemented. Finally, Prospecta Americas is well underway to incorporating its goal of two new Centers of Excellence, having received proposals on AI (Chile) and Nanostructured Materials (Peru).

**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 MSMEs, as well as cooperatives and other production units.

**Economically Empowered Women for Equitable and Resilient Societies (WEE)**

* Created the first draft of the MSME Clearinghouse, which includes a database of resources developed for the Caribbean with over 45 experiences and resources shared by 6 OECS countries.
* Published 5 MSME Newsletters in English and Spanish highlighting more than 180 programs and initiatives from 21 countries and regional organizations.

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

* Continued technical assistance with Brazil for the transference of the SBDC model, with centers set to be launched in 3 states in November.
* Formally executed MoU with the Uruguayan Agency for International Cooperation (AUCI) in March to formalize cooperation program.
* Held validation meetings with AUCI, Instituto Nacional del Cooperativismo, and other key stakeholders to outline the program framework and parameters of technical assistance in Uruguay.
* Held validation meetings with the Ministry of Production to outline the framework of support and activities for implementation in Ecuador.

**MSME Competitiveness Program**

* Held validation meetings with the Ministry of Commerce/SBDC Saint Lucia to approve proposed technical assistance activities to support MSMEs accessing the SME Loan Grant Facility.

**Inter-American Competitiveness Network (RIAC), Forum (ACF), and Exchange (ACE)**

* Shared 7 good practices and collaboration opportunities with 18 member states on ACF priorities in ACE Seattle.
* Shared 1 good practice on subnational competitiveness in ACE Seattle on Policies, models, and strategies implemented by the Government of Seattle in the tourism sector and the creative industries to support the local economy.

**OBJECTIVE 1.2**

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

**Inter-American Competitiveness Exchange (ACE)**

* ACE participants developed 2 new projects to advance economic development, innovation, and entrepreneurship:
	+ The *LAC Invest Network*, created by over 15 institutions from 12 member states
	+ Project proposal for a *Global Accelerator Program* to support startups
* ACE participants established 4 partnerships around innovation-driven local economic development and resiliency:
	+ Cooperation agreements were signed between AEI Ecuador and ProPanama; the Government of Cordoba, Argentina, and ProPanama; and Orbital Engenharia (Brazil) and Aerialoop (Ecuador) to develop joint business opportunities
	+ *Acento Global* from Cordoba Acelera in Argentina and *Sos Paisa* from Medellin, Colombia established a formal partnership
* ACE stakeholders agreed to 3 business development, trade, or investment cooperation opportunities and/or projects:
	+ ProColombia and the Government of Quito held a digital business roundtable in February
	+ The Government of Cordoba, Argentina became a formal member of the International Economic Development Council
	+ Launched and enhanced a new entrepreneurial initiative called *Re-forest Latam* promoted by the Secretariat of the province of Tucuman, Argentina

**OBJECTIVE 1.3**

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

**OAS Youth Academy on Transformative Technologies**

* 8 good practices shared from Argentina, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Mexico, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, and the United States on COMCYT priorities with 24 OAS Member states during the X Meeting of the COMCYT held in May.
* 7 tangible offers of collaboration from 10+ strategic partners of the COMCYT shared with 24 member states presented by the Science History Institute, Harvard University, the TEC of Monterrey, Girls in Quantum, Hub Apta, MIT, and IBM during the X Meeting of the COMCYT held in May.
* Held the High-Level Roundtable Dialogue “*Artificial Intelligence: Public Policy Imperatives for the Americas*” at OAS Headquarters to provide a space for governments, academia, the private sector, and civil society to share perspectives on how best to drive the development and use of generate AI in a safe, responsible, and inclusive manner.
* A new course on Artificial Intelligence in partnership with Structuralia is now available on the OAS Youth Academy platform in both English and Spanish. The 60-hour course includes 4 modules, including AI Fundamentals and AI for Business.

**Propsecta Americas**

* Designated Center of Excellence on Blockchain of Hidalgo as an OAS Center on Transformative Technologies in Pachuca, Mexico, in February.
* Held 1 online workshop with 3 Centers of Excellence—Blockchain (Mexico), Robotics and AI (Colombia), and AI (Chile)—where good practices were exchanged and discussions were held on steps to become an OAS Center on Transformative Technology.
* Received 2 proposals to host OAS Centers of Excellence on Transformative Technologies (AI, Chile, with the support of the Ministry of Science, Technology, Knowledge and Innovation; and Advanced Materials and Nanostructured Materials, Peru, with the support of the National Council on Science, Technology and Technological Innovation (CONCYTEC).
* Presentation of the framework of collaboration for the development of Innovation and Sustainability Ecosystems’ diagnostics in collaboration with Harvard University announced at the COMCYT Meeting.

**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.

**Agenda on Climate Change and Sustainable Development for Tourism in the Americas**

* Call for member states to submit their technical tools and/or strategies used for tourism development planning based on mitigating climate emergencies to be included in the compilation of an Inventory sent out in May.
* Held the V Special Meeting of the CITUR in April to discuss proposed new hemispheric cooperation tourism initiatives within the context of CITUR in the following areas: Regenerative Tourism, Capacity Building on the deployment of new technologies and human development in the tourism sector, and Global Tourism Resilience Day 2024.
* Prepared and shared with Development Bank of Latin America project proposal for *Building a Resilient Tourism Network in member states*.
* Collected 461 separate resources (36 percent of which are indigenous specific) for Indigenous Tourism Portal ahead of August 9 launch (in coordination with International Day of the World’s Indigenous Peoples).

**Inter-American Committee on Culture (CIC)**

* Prepared and presented to the Planning Meeting of the Culture Authorities Draft Work Plan of the CIC 2023-2025.
* CIC Planning Meeting included site visits to the Renwick Gallery and Meta offices for Virtual Reality and other interactive demonstrations.
* Presented to the Committee on Policies of the Draft CIC Work Plan (awaiting final approval following the 30- day period for Member states to submit additional comments).

**STRATEGIC LINE 2**

STRENGTHENING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (PIDS)

The Department of Sustainable Development (DSD) continues to deliver critical programming to strengthen the sustainability and resilience of Member states. To help further implementation of the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals, DSD has worked in collaboration with countries throughout the Hemisphere to advance efforts contributing to mainstreaming resilience and disaster risk management, strengthening capacities in the area of climate resilience and sustainable ecosystems management, fostering enhanced water security, building capacity for integrated water resources management, and supporting the development and use of sustainable energy alternatives. In 2023, climate action has become a particularly crucial thematic concern, with the upcoming Climate Ministerial in The Bahamas representing a key element of DSD’s overall collaboration portfolio.

Between January-May 2023, under *Strategic Line 2*, DSD has made significant progress towards achieving a number of benchmarks as outlined in its 2023 Work Plan. Continued development of the ‘one-stop disaster response database’ will ensure that Caribbean Member states (ten targeted for 2023) will benefit from increased capacity to respond to hurricanes and natural disasters. Additionally, DSD’s extensive participation in both the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) Conference—where it led one panel and coordinated another—alongside the UN Water Conference—where it took part in two side events—marks a step closer towards achieving the goal of leading or co-leading one session in two key water sector events in the Americas, and leading or co-leading one session in one key water sector event globally.

**OBJECTIVE 2.1**

Enhance member states’ capacities in disaster risk management in line with the goals and strategic actions outlined in section 3.1 of the PIDS.

**Disaster Risk Management**

* Held discussions with the University of West Indies and the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency to co-host an annual training for Caribbean countries for quick recovery post disaster using the guidance tool and crisis communications guidelines developed for Small Tourism Enterprises in the Caribbean.
* Developed a questionnaire for National Coordination Authorities on the provision and coordination of assistance in OAS member states, for a one-stop disaster response database.
* Launched desk study of inventories of the science/data activities on critical data and capacity gaps for risk mitigation and transdisciplinary training in the Caribbean.
* Hosted a panel of experts on how robust science and data can help member states improve the design and implementation of effective and adaptive policies and strategies to overcome social, economic, and environmental challenges to resilient and sustainable development.

**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.

**Climate Change**

* Drafted and submitted an assessment report on Climate Finance to the Government of The Bahamas in support of the preparatory activities for the upcoming inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities on Sustainable Development scheduled to be held in Octobere 2023.
* Supported activities related to the natural disaster response database project.
* Organized 2 panels of experts on the topics of Climate Finance and Climate Change and Poverty as part of the Ministerial process.
* Drafted and submitted a *White Paper on Climate Change* to member states in preparation for the above mentioned ministerial meeting.

**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 Resource Management**

* Participated in ECLAC Conference in February – OAS DSD led the panel ‘*Water and Sustainable Development’* and coordinated the panel ‘*Water and Territorial and Regional Cooperation’* with the IDB.
* Participated in 2 side events at UN Water Conference in March: ‘*Financial Solutions to tackle the challenges of SDO 6*,’ and ‘*Multistakeholder Commitments to the Water Action Agenda - Integrated Water and Climate Solutions* – *From Science to Decisions to Actions*.*’*
* Started preparations for the project document *“Integrated water resources management in the transboundary Bermejo River Basin*.*”*
* Met with CIC Plata in Buenos Aires for a closure and evaluation meeting for the project “*Preparing the ground for the implementation of the Strategic Action Program of the La Plata Basin.*”
* Continued project implementation *for Fostering Water Security in the Trifinio Region: Promoting the formulation of a TDA/SAP for the transboundary basin of the Lempa River* (2023-2027).
* Continued the PRODOC design for the *Climate Resilient Management Project of The High Andean Ecosystems*.
* Continued project preparation to implement *Project Preparing for the Implementation of the Strategic Action Program of the La Plata Basin*.
* Started talks with the Global Environment Facility (GEF) for a new GEF project in La Plata Basin.
* Hosted a workshop in Antigua, Guatemala, in May to implement the first edition of the Capacity Building Program “*Climate Action for Development in Latin America and the Caribbean.*”

**OBJECTIVE 2.4**

Enhance member states’ capacities in 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.

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

* 28 member states participated in an exercise to define the new programmatic pillars and provided inputs for a regional needs assessment.
* Developed an outline of a clean energy matchmaking platform to deliver technical assistance and facilitate technical exchanges among all member states.
* Expanded partnerships – U.S. Department of Energy, the Caribbean Development Bank, IDB, U.S. Department of Education, U.S. Department of State, and the German Agency for International Cooperation are among a growing list of non-government stakeholders who are working alongside the OAS to advance clean energy.
* Preparations ongoing for upcoming High-Level Dialogues on Clean Energy in the Americas: *Regional Clean Energy Integration for a Sustainable Future* (June), *Building Climate-Resilient Energy Systems* (September), *Driving Investment in Energy Transitions* (November), and *Pathway to Zero: Decarbonizing Key Sectors in the Americas* (February 2024).

**STRATEGIC LINE 3**

PROMOTING EDUCATION AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT IN THE AMERICAS

A December 2022 World Bank Policy Research Working Paper highlighted a frightful reality for Latin America: owing to the equivalent of 1.42 years of school closures during the Covid-19 pandemic, the “process of human capital accumulation of children and youths was severely affected…[which] may imply a substantial increase in income poverty in the future for the shocked cohort: between 8.4% and 20.7%.” The Department of Human Development, Education, and Employment (DHDEE), under the 2022-2027 Inter-American Education Agenda, and, noting the importance of reducing learning deficits across the Hemisphere, has in 2023 accordingly brought into sharper focus programs addressing the need for more quality, inclusive, and equitable education institutions in the Americas.

Between January-May 2023, under *Strategic Line 3*, DHDEE has made significant progress towards achieving a number of benchmarks as outlined in its 2023 Work Plan. Launching an *Interactive Map of Over 100 Best Practices in Digital Education of the Americas* fulfilled the objective of providing Member states with an interactive repository of good practices. Additionally, 285 Caribbean teachers (out of 1200 projected for 2023) have already been trained on Innovation in the classroom, and 26 civil society organizations (out of 20 projected for 2023) attended an online course on fundraising. Finally, the Partnerships Program for Education and Training has already awarded 1497 scholarships (out of 3,500 projected for 2023).

**OBJECTIVE 3.1**

Promote regional discussion and policy dialogue on current issues in education policy and practices under the framework for the Ministerial processes.

 **Inter-American Committee on Education (CIE)**

* Held Planning Meeting of the Authorities in February to present the 2022-2025 Draft Workplan of the CIE.
* Hosted Biweekly working meetings between February and April with the Authorities of the CIE its Working Groups with the support of the Ministries of Education of Chile, Costa Rica, United States, Jamaica, Peru, and Paraguay to draft the 4 Hemispheric Programs included in the CIE Draft Work Plan 2022-2025.
* Drafted and presented 4 Hemispheric Programs based on the priority areas of the Inter American Education Agenda 2022-2027 at the Committee on Policies in April.

**OAS Alliance with ProFuturo Foundation**

* Launched Interactive Map of over 100 Best Practices in Digital Education of The Americas from schools, teachers, and civil society organizations in April.
* Published [“Digital Education in the Americas - Best practices to inspire”](https://bit.ly/41Fzi2S) in April.
* Registered 4 Civil Society Organizations working on education in the Registry of Civil Society Organizations of the OAS.

**OBJECTIVE 3.3**

Enhance member states’ institutional capacities to provide quality, inclusive, and equitable education through the programmatic initiatives on strengthening the teaching profession, comprehensive early childhood care, and the integration of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) in Education.

**OAS Alliance with ProFuturo Foundation**

* Trained 285 Caribbean teachers on Innovation in the classroom, teaching of mathematics, and ICT integration in education.
* 47 citizens from 26 Civil Society Organizations working on education attended an online course on fundraising offered by PENT FLACSO Argentina in March.
* Met with government authorities of Peru (Presidency of the Council of Ministers and National Program of Scholarships and Educational Credit), ProFuturo, and Fundación Telefónica Perú to provide professional development courses to 1,000 teachers and teachers trainees on “*Methodologies for learning in virtual environments*” and “*Assessment of learning in digital environments*.”

**OBJECTIVE 3.4**

Expand and improve access in member states to quality, inclusive, equitable, and relevant educational opportunities, and promote lifelong learning and workforce development.

**OAS Scholarship and Training Programs**

* The *Partnerships Program for Education and Training*, between January-May, has:
	+ Issued 26 calls for scholarship opportunities,
	+ Awarded 1497 scholarships with 9 partners,
	+ 926 programs offered which fall under the priority areas of Sustainable Development and the Environment,
	+ 118 scholarship recipients currently studying outside of the US and Canada, and
	+ Renewed and amended 6 partnership agreements.
* The *2023 Academic Program*, between January-May, has:
	+ Received 41 nominations from Member states to be evaluated in the upcoming May 30 selection committee, and
	+ Reviewed and evaluated completion of 2nd year scholarship recipients for the 2022 Academic Program.
* The *Professional Development Scholarships Program*, between January-May, has:
	+ Reviewed preselected candidates received from OAS member states,
	+ Organized the final selection process, and
	+ Awarded 153 scholarships from 6 courses to citizens representing 17 OAS Member states.

**Educational Portal of the Americas**

* Trained 1,458 citizens in gender equity, human rights, migration, and STEAM Education.
* Developed 3 new MOOC virtual classrooms – Human Mobility, Biosecurity, and Bio Custody.

**Leo S. Rowe Pan American Fund**

* Reviewed, evaluated, and awarded 47 applications for financial aid.
* Drafted a report on activities to the Rowe Fund Committee.
* Collected over 30 testimonials from current beneficiaries.
* Received donations to continue offering supplementary scholarships for 5 additional years.

**STRATEGIC LINE 4**

PROMOTING DECENT, DIGNIFIED, AND PRODUCTIVE WORK FOR ALL

Under SEDI, DHDEE strengthens the capacity of member states to improve labor conditions, promote labor rights, and create jobs – in turn, working to promote productive employment and decent work for all. Additionally, DHDEE works to fulfill the mandates of the Inter-American Conference of Labor Ministers—chief among them building a more resilient working world and achieving a sustainable, fair, and people-centered employment recovery—and thus far in 2023 has engaged more closely with regional Ministries of Labor, deepening cooperation among Member states ahead of the OAS General Assembly. Given that the *International Labor Organization* forecasted this year’s labor market to be “highly complex and uncertain,” such engagement is timely, relevant, and critical to addressing the persistent challenges of informal employment, limited fiscal growth, and insufficient labor income.

Between January-May 2023, under *Strategic Line 4*, DHDEE has made significant progress towards achieving a number of benchmarks as outlined in its 2023 Work Plan. Five technical cooperation activities among regional Ministries of Labor (out of ten projected for 2023) are already underway. Additionally, Ministries of Labor and/or Education from 27 member states (out of 15 projected for 2023) engaged in collaboration activities to improve education-labor coordination strategies.

**OBJECTIVE 4.1**

Strengthen the institutional capacities of member states to improve compliance with labor legislation and fundamental principles and rights at work, and promote institutionalized social dialogue among governments, workers, and employers.

**Inter-American Network for Labor Administration (RIAL)**

* Began 5 technical cooperation activities among Ministries of Labor of Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, St. Kitts and Nevis, and Uruguay.
* Sent 10 newsletters to member states informing them of strategies on labor law compliance.

**Business Technical Advisory Committee on Labor Matters**

* Received input from Workers and employers’ representatives on hemispheric discussions relating to gender equality and labor-education coordination.

**OBJECTIVE 4.2**

Increase cooperation among member states and promote institutional strengthening to address emerging or priority issues for labor markets in post-pandemic recovery, such as gender equality, labor inclusion of vulnerable populations, informality and coordination between education and employment.

**Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor (IACML)**

* Ministries of Labor and/or Education from 27 member states analyzed education-labor coordination strategies and exchanged experiences at a Hemispheric Workshop in Buenos Aires.
* Ministries of Labor from 27 Member states engaged in technical cooperation and dialogue on gender equality and paid domestic work, organized jointly with CIM in March.

**Inter-American Network for Labor Administration (RIAL)**

* Sent 10 newsletters to member states informing them of professional training and gender equality.

**STRATEGIC LINE 6**

FOSTERING DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AND ESTABLISHING PARTNERSHIPS

The OAS/DCF leverages multi-sectoral partnerships and alliances to provide targeted technical cooperation initiatives that are community based, locally delivered, and responsive to the specific capacity building needs of member states. In a year thus far contextualized by accelerating development needs—owing to, among others, ongoing Covid-19 recovery efforts and increasing climate threats to vulnerable populations—such initiatives focus squarely on those who need them most. In its current 2021-2024 programming cycle, the DCF has been allocated US$1.8 million [(AICD/JD/DE-131/21)](http://scm.oas.org/IDMS/Redirectpage.aspx?class=AICD/JD/DE&classNum=131&lang=e) to support the implementation of eighteen regional programs, highlighting education, science, and technology as crosscutting subjects connecting four thematic areas: retooling MSMEs through innovation and technology; innovative reskilling for Tourism sector recovery and regional economies; scientific and technological innovation for building resilience; and science for decision making in disaster risk planning. Additionally, to further develop cooperation and establish deeper partnerships across the Americas, SEDI is developing a Language Cooperation Program to promote the use of English, Spanish, and French, with the goal of fostering communication, integration, and collaboration between Caribbean countries.

Between January-May 2023, under *Strategic Line 6*, DCF and CooperaNet have made significant progress towards achieving a number of benchmarks as outlined in its 2023 Work Plan. A mid-term evaluation report of the DCF 2021-2014 programming cycle has been presented to the MB/IACD. Additionally, six new CooperaNet accounts (out of 15 benchmarked for 2023) have been created by member states. Moreover, one CooperaNet webinar (out of four benchmarked for 2023) to share active offers and needs in the areas of climate change has been hosted.

**OBJECTIVE 6.1**

Foster bilateral, South-South, triangular, and international cooperation in the Hemisphere.

**Development Cooperation Fund (DCF)**

* MB/IACD extended the deadline for member states to make pledges to the 2022 DCF from October 2022 to April 2023.
* MB/IACD approved payment for the external audit of DCF accounts for fiscal years 2022-2024.
* Presented an update on its project implementation at the March MB/IACD meeting.
* Developed Mid-Term Evaluation report of DCF 2021-2024 Programming Cycle and presented to MB/IACD in May.

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

* Presented eligibility criteria for first call for experts to member states at May MB/IACD meeting.
* Created 6 new accounts (Belize, Grenada, Jamaica, Suriname, Saint Kitts and Nevis, and Mexico).
* 15 focal points from cooperation authorities (Belize, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Grenada, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Paraguay, St. Kitts and Nevis, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago) received training on platform use. 2 development partners (Geek Girls Latam and Makaia) also received training.
* Hosted first webinar with presentations from El Salvador and Peru in Q1 2023. During the webinar, cooperation opportunities from both countries were shared with 120 technical cooperation experts and regional cooperation managers. El Salvador presented the “*Nacer con Cariño*” law initiative, and Peru presented on the institutional organization of the Peruvian Agency for International Cooperation, as well as the country’s cooperation offers and good practices in the areas of climate change, health, and foreign trade with a decentralized approach aligned with the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs.

**Language Cooperation Program**

* Presented concept of language cooperation program at May MB/IACD meeting.
* Proposal to position program in an online format in the framework of CooperaNet currently under development and will be circulated no later than June 15. The Language Cooperation Program is set to be launched in September.

**OBJECTIVE 6.2**

Foster effective multisector partnerships to assist member states in meeting the SDGs.

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

* Highlighted Structuralia’s AI course as part of OAS Youth Academy, which will be available by late June and subsequently advertised on CooperaNet.
* Worked closely with DED on 5 technical tests conducted in English, Spanish, and Portuguese to test access/enrollment.

**SEDI Executive Office**

* Created partnership matrix of 80+ organizations to explore collaboration opportunities. List to be further refined to prioritize partnerships relating to the OAS Youth Academy, women’s economic empowerment and workforce development, and science and data for decision-making.

**OBJECTIVE 6.3**

Support member states in strengthening the Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development (and the OAS Development Cooperation Fund to fulfill their purpose as central development cooperation mechanisms within the OAS.

**Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development (IACD)**

* MB/IACD extended IACD working group deadlines in March.
* Working groups currently orienting their work towards developing proposals to advance their Work Plans and objectives, and towards organizing the in-person meeting scheduled for November.

**STRATEGIC LINE 7**

FOSTERING THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMPETITIVE, SECURE, SUSTAINABLE, AND INCLUSIVE PORTS IN MEMBER STATES

The Inter-American Committee on Ports (CIP) plays a crucial role within the OAS in promoting the development and efficient operation of ports throughout the Americas. As a specialized forum—the only permanent forum that brings together the National Port Authorities of the 34 member states of the OAS and leaders of the maritime-port industry—CIP focuses on fostering collaboration and exchanging best practices among its Members, Associate Members, and Strategic Partners to enhance maritime trade, port infrastructure, and logistics. By facilitating dialogue and cooperation among port authorities, private sector stakeholders, and government agencies, CIP aims to improve the competitiveness and sustainability of ports across the Hemisphere. Through its technical assistance programs, training initiatives, and information sharing platforms, CIP contributes to the advancement of port management practices, enabling countries to maximize the economic potential of their maritime gateways and strengthen regional integration.

Between January-May 2023, under *Strategic Line 7*, CIP has made significant progress towards achieving a number of benchmarks as outlined in its 2023 Work Plan. 178 scholarships (out of 300 targeted for 2023) worth $179,730 have already been awarded to port officials from fifteen OAS member states. Additionally, eight certified professional online courses (out of ten targeted for 2023) have thus far been offered through CIP’s Strategic Partners. Finally, four webinars (out of nine slated for 2023) have already been held, sharing best practices with 668 port personnel (out of 3,000 targeted for 2023).

**OBJECTIVE 7.1**

Strengthen the efficiency and sustainability of the institutional port management capabilities of the National Port Authorities of the member states, including associate members and strategic partners of the CIP.

**CIP Secretariat**

* Provided 178 scholarships ($179,730) to port officials from 15 OAS member states.
* Offered 8 professionally certified online courses through Strategic Partners (National Port Authority of Peru and National Port Training Center of Argentina).
* Carried out 4 webinars from March-May, sharing best practices with 668 port personnel.
* Disseminated the call for applications for the 36th Advanced Course on Port Management and Operations.
* Held the IV Hemispheric Seminar on Public Policy, Legislation and Regulation in Montevideo, Uruguay in March – 202 port officials from 23 OAS-CIP Member states participated (157 online, 45 on-site).
* Held the V Hemispheric Conference on Logistics, Innovation and Competitiveness in Panama City, Panama in April – 130 port officials from 12 OAS-CIP member states participated.
* Closed call for applications for the Maritime Award of the Americas and announced winners (private institutions from Peru, Barbados, United States, Brazil, and Mexico were awarded in the four categories, and Belize was awarded for Outstanding Women of the Maritime and Port Sector).

**OBJECTIVE 7.2**

Foster regional debate and policy dialogue for inter-American port development, including supply chains, with the participation of the private sector at the highest level.

**CIP Secretariat**

* 20 countries have thus far confirmed their participation in the XIII CIP Regular Meeting.
* The 8 State Members of the Executive Board of the CIP (CECIP) confirmed their participation in the XXIII CECIP Meeting.
* Awaiting approval of activity and financial reports at XXIII CECIP Meeting.
* Received and disseminated candidacies for CECIP’s authorities.
* Disseminated the draft Plan of Action and draft Resolution of Roatán and 2024-2026 Budget, awaiting approval for both during XIII Regular Meeting of CIP.

**OBJECTIVE 7.3**

Foster effective bilateral, south-south, triangular, international, and multisector partnerships to assist National Port Authorities in meeting digitalization and sustainable goals through technical assistance projects and public-private partnerships.

**CIP Secretariat**

* Held the IV Regional Workshop and I Tabletop Exercise on Improved Disaster Risk Management in Caribbean Ports in Kingston, Jamaica, in May, training 28 port officials from 12 OAS-CIP Member states.
* Produced an Implementation Roadmap with recommendations for a prioritized, phased implementation of Port Community System modules for the ‘*Project on the Establishment of a Barbados Port Community System*.’
* Began developing a Best Practices Report and Situational Analysis Report for the ‘*Project on Feasibility Study for the Establishment of an Electronic Single Window for Trade*’ in Belize.

**CIP Associate Members and Strategic Partners**

* Signed 2 MoU’s: Empresa Multimodal S.A.S., and Women in Maritime Association Caribbean.
* 2 institutions joined the CIP as Associate Members: MIS Marine (United Kingdom) and Port Services Administration (Bolivia).

**CONCLUSION**

SEDI’S EFFORTS FOR THE REMAINDER OF 2023 AND BEYOND

 The cultural zeitgeist for 2023 thus far includes spirited debate on Artificial Intelligence, cautious outlooks on global economic growth, and repeated calls for climate equity from those most at risk. The Secretariat for Integral Development has responded by convening High-Level Roundtable Dialogues on Artificial Intelligence public policy imperatives for the Americas and incorporating Artificial Intelligence learning modules into its Youth Academy; by promoting more competitive economies, industries, and ports through the sharing of best practices and meetings of government authorities; and by absorbing the thrust of climate change movements across the Hemisphere into its programming efforts. In turn, SEDI has continued to fulfill its mission of promoting sustainable, inclusive, and equitable development for the Americas.

 SEDI’s operational ethos, aligned with the OAS mandate of “*More rights for more people*,” has driven the translation of policy imperatives into concrete programs and activities. Ongoing collaboration with civil society organizations, regional and international institutions, the private sector, and the member states of the OAS has proven central to implementing these objectives, enabling effective coordination, collaboration, and engagement across its various departments. SEDI will continue leveraging political dialogue and technical cooperation among member states to prioritize climate action and sustainable development to meet the demands of a changing world.

 SEDI’s Work Plan for 2023, implemented within the framework of the OAS Comprehensive Strategic Plan, reflects its commitment to integrated programming and the elimination of silos between departments. This progress report has provided an update on SEDI’s initiatives and achievements between January-May 2023.

SEDI formally thanks its partners and stakeholders who have contributed to its work and service to the Hemisphere thus far in 2023. Together, we are continuing to advance towards a more sustainable, inclusive, and equitable future for the Americas.

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