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**Second Semester of the**

**Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI)**

**July- December 2021**

**INTRODUCTION**

Jamaica will serve as Chair of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) for the period July to December 2021 and will also preside over the Sixth Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of Science and Technology (VI REMCYT) which will take place virtually on December 7, 2021.

All member states of the Organization of American States (OAS) have been significantly affected by the social, economic, and environmental impacts of the pandemic. There is a need for OAS member states to urgently design and implement policies, strategies, and pragmatic solutions to reduce their vulnerability to exogenous shocks and build resilience. Science, innovation and technology can provide much needed opportunities and solutions to address the diverse needs of member states as part of the COVID recovery.

In December 2021, member states will gather for the VI REMCYT, which will be Chaired by the Government of Jamaica. The VI REMCYT will engage member states on some strategic areas for action to leverage the potential of science, technology, and innovation to address development imperatives in the Americas, including those arising as a consequence of COVID-19.

To this end the Chair proposes to align the discussions in the CIDI meetings with the VI REMCYT to allow member states the opportunity to closely examine needs as well as opportunities for cooperation and partnerships which can be solidified at the Ministerial Meeting. This process also provides a test case for the proposed updated model for ministerial meetings currently under discussion by member states.

The intent of the proposed work plan for this cycle of the CIDI, July–December 2021, is to engage member states in a series of discussions with actionable proposals focused on concrete hemispheric priorities that are impactful and can be realized through partnerships and regional cooperation. The range of issues for consideration span all the areas of integral development under the umbrella of CIDI. The sessions will focus on how science and technology can be used to improve decision-making and accelerate post-COVID recovery. Emphasis will be placed on actionable priorities, good practices and solutions which can be adopted by member states in their recovery process.

CIDI will schedule meetings on the five sub-topics proposed by the members the Inter-American Committee on Science and Technology (COMCYT) under the main theme of the VI REMCYT: “Harnessing the Power of Transformative Science and Technologies to Drive our Communities Forward.” Ahead of each session, a concept note will serve to highlight the main issues for consideration of member states and the specific initiative, actionable proposal and/or good practice to be put forward for discussion. Member states will be invited to provide ideas for implementation and specific contributions, such as steps and measures to advance hemispheric engagement, and secure commitments for cooperation and partnerships by the VI REMCYT. Among the guiding questions for each session are: 1) What are the key gaps or challenges for your country? 2) What specific inputs or approaches can your country suggest to advance action in this area? 3) What offers of cooperation/experience can your country bring to the table to implement this proposal?

Meetings will include presentations on the specific proposals with interactive dialogue guided by the Chair with invited experts and member states focused on the challenges as well as opportunities to deploy or replicate available solutions. The discussions will be guided by the concept note and every effort will be made to share presentations and materials for each session in advance.

The work achieved during the CIDI cycle will feed concrete, impactful proposals to drive results into the Ministerial Declaration/Action Plan of the VI REMCYT, in three priority areas for regional cooperation.

**Structure of the Second Semester of the CIDI**

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

**Proposed CIDI meetings schedule for July-December 2021**

**July 27, 2021: Subtheme “Science and Technology to Build Resiliency in the framework of Sustainable Development.”**

* **National Energy Transitions as Engines for Recovery**

Energy transitions in Latin America and the Caribbean have made major strides over the past decade, surpassing expectations. However, there is still a long way to go transform the regional energy sector from fossil-based to net-zero. The Americas will require new technologies and staggering amounts of capital over the next 20 years to meet demand growth, strengthen energy security, and meet climate commitments under the Paris Agreement.

Private sector capital and technology are critical ingredients to help turn the region’s energy transitions into climate-smart infrastructure investments. Enabling policies, laws, and regulations are pivotal to leveraging capital and technology. The meeting on energy will focus on the critical steps to support national energy transitions across the Americas, and examples of innovative technologies that can help advance this objective.

Some of the specific issues for consideration include the necessary steps for energy transitions in the short, medium and long term. What kind of partnerships, policies and investments are needed? What clean energy sources may provide paths for energy transitions?

Questions for member states will feature: a) What are the innovation and technology solutions available in your country to achieve clean energy transitions? Can you share resources, technologies, good practices to achieve energy transitions? b) What are the gaps or needs of your country on energy transitions? c) What offer of cooperation be put forward from your country? Are there any innovations or technology solutions deployed successfully in your country to support clean energy transitions?

A**ugust 31, 2021: Subtheme: “Youth: Improving Skills and Readiness for Industry 4.0”**

* **Critical Skills for Industry 4.0 (Education-Youth)**

This meeting will address the need to develop critical skills for youth in the Americas to access the digital economy and to enable them to pursue job and entrepreneurship opportunities in the science and innovation-driven economy. Presentations and questions will address specific resources and proposals to develop an **Americas Youth Academy on Transformative Technologies.**

The goal is to combine existing resources and partnerships to provide online training, dynamic learning opportunities, remote learning labs, mentoring and hands-on experiences for youth in the Americas. Outcomes include options to provide certifications, training and other qualifications to equip youth with the necessary skills and credentials to operate in the jobs of the future and an environment spurred by transformative technologies.

The meeting will build on the work that OAS/SEDI is advancing with a regional network of experts and partners in two programs: i) Prospecta Americas on technology foresight of the top 10 transformative technologies, and ii) The OAS HUB of Commercialization and Transfer of Technology for the Americas, with a collaborative methodology to accelerate solutions to solve everyday challenges “from idea to market.” The focus will be on developing the workforce and entrepreneurs for Industry 4.0 and strategic niches for OAS Member States to diversify their economies and build resilience.

Expected Results:

* Target 10,000+ youth for training in transformative technologies by 2024.
* Increase the number of Women actively participating in and benefiting from the digital and innovation economy.
* Create a youth group of excellence to map technological trends and lead regional research projects on Transformative Technologies.

**September 28, 2021: Subtheme: “Science, Technology, Innovation and Entrepreneurship to promote the inclusion of women, girls and other populations in vulnerable situations**”

Advancing concrete, actionable initiatives to improve access and leadership of women and communities with limited opportunities to pursue STEM education, science and innovation careers is one of the priorities identified in the context of the COMCYT. There is also a need to address some of the existing workforce inequalities affecting economic mobility and gender equality in fields of Science and Technology in the Americas. These gaps have been deepened by the pandemic as reflected in several recent studies and surveys.

The session will look at initiatives which can provide for specific actions to increase awareness, support the design of policies and undertake programs to empower women and improve access to science, innovation and technology driven opportunities, careers and entrepreneurial paths to improve the economic and social situation of population in vulnerable situations.

Presentations will feature initiatives focused on women economic empowerment (access, skills, policy advancement, pragmatic approaches) to leverage science, innovation and technology for development and inclusion. Member states will share good practices, concrete programs to advance women’s and vulnerable population’s empowerment and opportunities in STEM education, entrepreneurial and science-tech-innovation driven economic opportunities, identify gaps and needs in these areas and share offers of collaboration to improve the regional outcomes.

**October 19, 2021: Subtheme: “Science for Decision Making”**

This meeting will present options for building a coalition to support Data Driven Decision Making in the Americas and highlight the importance of Research and Development (R&D) in addressing challenges for integral development.

At the subregional and national level, there are mechanisms and experiences in Member States to engage universities, experts, private sector, think tanks, research centers, and other institutions supporting science for decision making. The meeting will offer the opportunity to share some of the models and results of initiatives in member states to advance science for decision making, identify which are the gaps or needs in different areas of development where member states would benefit from science and data driven inputs for decision making. Additionally, the meeting will explore a proposal to pursue a regional effort within the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI) to engage stakeholders and partners advancing efforts to support science and data driven approaches for decision making to collaborate with the OAS to apply these tools to promote inclusion and integral development priorities.

The proposal will consider ongoing support from partners and institutions in COMCYT and other SEDI ministerial processes to provide science and data driven inputs, stewardship, knowledge, ideas, as inputs for OAS bodies on science and technology and possible information and solutions relevant to address the main imperatives and challenges concerning integral development in the Americas. The meeting will consider contributions and commitments to build a consortium of R&D partners to do research to address critical areas of need of OAS member states (to solve pressing problems for the region) and find mechanisms to recognize important contributions of science for development in the Americas.

**October 26, 2021: Procedural matters in preparation for the fifty-first regular session of the General Assembly**

**November 30, 2021: Subtheme: “Effective public-private-academia collaboration to enhance competitiveness and quality of life”**

* **Financing Innovation**

The challenges of the COVID pandemic and the ensuing budgetary constraints will require increased creativity and resourceful approaches to respond to the needs to develop, adopt and deploy science and technology driven solutions to address development imperatives and pursue post-COVID recovery efforts in all member states. Aligning efforts from governments, private sector, universities, SMEs and entrepreneurial ecosystems to aggregate endeavors and resources will make a significant difference.

There is an incipient and innovative entrepreneurial capital industry developing throughout the Americas. Some new actors, in collaboration with existing investors or innovative government-led programs, have resulted in the successful creation of new financing mechanisms and opportunities for partnership. The availability of diverse, inclusive and accessible sources of funding is critical for start-up companies, SMEs as well as large companies, to develop innovation-driven solutions and businesses that can complement governmental efforts to solve critical challenges.

The meeting will be a space for member states to share experiences, good practices and offers of collaboration on innovative mechanisms to finance innovation and business development to enhance inclusion and diversity of sources and beneficiaries. The meeting will feature examples of creative systems to expand financial inclusion for innovation; technology driven approaches to expand the availability of capital and reach across different regions within a country. Moreover, it will be an opportunity to identify the gaps and needs of member states and from the perspective of private sector, entrepreneurs and financial institutions. The focus will be on offers of collaboration and initiatives of cooperation to support OAS member states.

**December 14, 2021: Technology Solutions for Disaster Risk Management**

This meeting will explore a range of technologies and data-driven that can be deployed to address the existing challenges faced by the region as it relates to disaster mitigation, adaptation and response. Existing technologies and approaches will be showcased for member states to consider their implementation, depending on their national realities and priorities. Member States will have the opportunity to share good practices, identify the main needs and explore the viability of a number of solutions and offers of cooperation from partners and other member states.

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