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REPORT OF THE INTERIM CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE ON PARTNERSHIP-FOR-DEVELOPMENT POLICIES, MINISTER-COUNSELOR LAURA RAQUEL PIZARRO VIALES, ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE OF COSTA RICA TO THE OAS, ON THE NEW MODEL FOR CIDI MINISTERIAL LEVEL OR HIGH-LEVEL AUTHORITIES MEETINGS

(Delivered to the regular meeting held on September 28, 2021)

Madam Chair, distinguished Representatives, Secretary Osborne:

Good afternoon. In my capacity as Acting Chair of the Committee on Partnership-for-Development Policies, I am pleased to deliver the report on the work undertaken by the Committee based on the new format proposed by the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development for ministerial-level sectoral meetings of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI).

I would like to acknowledge the excellent work done by Mr. Jovan Reid, Alternate Representative of Barbados, who wrapped up his assignment to the OAS a few days ago. Thanks to the expert way in which he presided over the Committee’s work, we now have in hand an agreement on this issue. We wish Mr. Reid every success in his new assignment.

Madam Chair:

The Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI) on March 17, 2021 gave the Committee its evaluation of the current format for CIDI ministerial-level sectoral meetings.

On that note, let me remind the delegations that in the context of development, 13 specialized high-level sectoral meetings are held. CIDI covers nine sectors: labor, education, science and technology, culture, tourism, sustainable development, social development, cooperation, and ports. As well, SEDI serves as technical secretariat to three sectors: competitiveness; micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises; and energy.

The SEDI evaluation identified three immediate areas in which the current CIDI ministerial meetings process needs improving:

1. Greater participation of ministers and/or high-ranking authorities;
2. Harnessing the full potential of the meetings to foster sectoral cooperation in the region; and
3. Greater alignment of the ministerial-level meetings with the Summit of the Americas, the General Assembly, or other high-level forums in which the member states participate – such as the United Nations or regional groupings (CARICOM, SICA, etc.).

Noting that it agreed with SEDI’s assessment, the Committee set up an informal working group to consider the proposal that was put forward. That working group met on April 15 and July 22, 2021. Besides exchanging e-mails among the participating member states, the group discussed the points raised and reviewed what was presented, with the ongoing cooperation and advice from SEDI.

Further to the deliberations the member states have held, SEDI presented the proposed model for updating the format for ministerial meetings, with the following key elements:

* CIDI's identification and discussion of sectoral priorities and the list of potential lines of action.
* Commitment of strategic partners from early on in the process.
* Engagement of the Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development to bring in cooperation authorities.
* Crafting of the Ministerial preparation guide by the Steering Committee.

Excellency:

The update model presented here proposes an 11-step sequence towards building an efficient and integrated process, as follows:

1. **Start of the theme selection process**, holding technical discussions and consultations and getting input from strategic partners and institutions with similar mandates.
2. **Adoption of the theme** by the Steering Committee comprising the Troika and the chairs or vice chairs of the existing Inter-American Committees.
3. **Presentation of the “White Paper”** by the Secretariat, based on discussions with the Steering Committee
4. **Definition of the list of concrete proposals/projects** by CIDI and enlisting the support of the member states.
5. **Identification of potential cooperation** by the IACD Management Board.
6. **The Secretariat shares the list of proposals with strategic partners** in order to identify partnership opportunities.
7. **Presentation of the ministerial agenda** by the Steering Committee.
8. **The Secretariat prepares a draft final document** for review by the member states at the virtual preparatory meeting.
9. **Holding the ministerial meeting (2-day in-person):** ministers and strategic partners meet to establish contacts, register policy, and announce cooperation offers.
10. **Development of the Work Plan** to implement the proposals.
11. **Execution of the decisions**, by member states, the Secretariat, and partners.

This update is intended to encourage member state commitment and participation at the highest level by providing a forum for member states to engage in substantive dialogue to identify regional priorities of interest and cooperation opportunities to share experiences and best practices in policy development and implementation.

The aim is also to establish the OAS work program to help member states pursue those priorities, aligning the IACD with the ministerial processes; and to get CIDI engaged in substantive sector-specific discussion, action, and cooperation.

At the September 2, 2021 meeting, the Committee on Partnership for Development Policies agreed to the proposed update model presented by SEDI, for referral to CIDI for consideration and adoption.

Madam Chair:

I am pleased to be here presenting, on behalf of the Committee on Partnership-for-Development Policies, the model agreed upon, as reflected in document CIDI/CPD/doc.208/21 rev. 1, with the recommendation that it be approved by CIDI.

Let me add that, if this recommendation is adopted, the current processes, procedures, and rules would have to be updated to bring them in line with the model agreed on. I am therefore respectfully suggesting that SEDI be instructed to conduct the necessary review and submit its proposals for consideration by the member states.

To conclude, Madam Chair, we would suggest that the Policy Committee consider these reviews by the first four months of 2022 and to that end include the observations made by Brazil and Panama, and to submit its conclusions for a decision by CIDI.

Madam Chair, on that note I conclude my report. Once again, thank you for granting me the opportunity to address this Council.

Let me take this opportunity to thank all my colleagues from the member states that have taken an active part in discussions of this issue; and Ms. Kim Osborne and her team for this initiative and for their collaboration.

Thank you very much, Madam Chair.

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