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DECLARATION OF ASUNCIÓN

“INTEGRATION AND SECURITY FOR SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT IN THE REGION”

(Adopted at the first plenary session, held on June 27, 2024)

# THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES (OAS), meeting in Asunción, Paraguay, from June 26 to 28, 2024, at its fifty-fourth regular session,

REAFFIRMING the importance of the four fundamental pillars of the Organization: democracy, human rights, multidimensional security, and integral development;

CONSIDERING that the theme of this regular session of the General Assembly is “Integration and security for sustainable development in the region”;

REAFFIRMING that the Charter of the OAS provides that “Member States, inspired by the principles of Inter-American solidarity and cooperation, pledge themselves to a united effort to ensure international social justice in their relations and integral development for their peoples, as conditions essential to peace and security”;

REAFFIRMING our commitment to promoting and strengthening peace in the Hemisphere, with full respect for the sovereignty of each state and for international law, and in accordance with the domestic laws of each country, the principles, shared values, and common approaches and commitments, and cooperation measures articulated in the Declaration on Security in the Americas;

BEARING IN MIND ALSO that the Declaration on Security in the Americas recognizes that “our new concept of security in the Hemisphere is multidimensional in scope, includes traditional and new threats, concerns, and other challenges to the security of the States of the Hemisphere, incorporates the priorities of each State, contributes to the consolidation of peace, integral development, and social justice, and is based on democratic values, respect for and promotion and defense of human rights, solidarity, cooperation, and respect for national sovereignty”;

CONSIDERING that the Inter-American Democratic Charter recognizes that the elimination of all forms of discrimination especially gender, ethnic and race discrimination, as well as diverse forms of intolerance, and respect for ethnic, cultural and religious diversity in the Americas contribute to strengthening democracy and citizen participation”;

REAFFIRMING the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which outlines that there can be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development;

AWARE that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted on October 21, 2015, recognizes that the eradication of poverty, in all its forms and dimensions, in particular extreme poverty, remains the greatest global challenge and is an indispensable requirement for the sustainable development and further notes its importance to the full democratic development of the Hemisphere's peoples;

EMPHASIZING that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement are the primary international intergovernmental fora for negotiating the global response to Climate Change;

COGNIZANT that climate change poses a substantial threat to the enjoyment of human rights, the environment and sustainable development of the hemisphere and can exacerbate security challenges;

RECALLING the Declaration of Nassau for Sustainable Development in the Americas: “Climate Action: Building a Hemispheric Agenda to Secure Our Future”, adopted at the Fourth Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities on Sustainable Development in October 2023, which reaffirms the commitment of Member States to effectively implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, emphasizing the balanced integration of its economic, social, and environmental dimensions and the Inter-American Climate Change Action Plan 2023-2030 establishing a comprehensive framework to address the urgent climate challenges faced in the Americas;

EMPHASIZING that in order to comprehensively address multidimensional security challenges, including the fight against transnational organized crime, it is important to incorporate an approach based on respect for human rights and human security; and

EMPHASIZING the value of regional integration and Inter-American cooperation in complementing the efforts of member states to achieve the consolidation of democracy, the rule of law, stability, security in the Hemisphere, and prosperity for all the peoples of the Americas,economic well-being, care for the environment,gender equality**,** and the comprehensive development of individuals, to eliminate poverty, discrimination, social exclusion, and inequity, to establish linkages in the fields of education, science, technology, and culture,

DECLARES:

1. To promote regional cooperation in economic, technical, political, legal, environmental, social, educational, cultural, scientific, and technological, security, and defense fields for the stability and security of the States and the Hemisphere as a whole.

2. To strengthen democratic governance and institutions in the countries of the region as a factor of social cohesion, promoting conditions that bring about equal, fair, and prosperous societies, ensuring respect for democratic processes and the rights of all persons**,** especially including members ofminority groups and groups in situations of vulnerability.

3. To condemn transnational organized crime, its different manifestations, and its financing, which put at risk the security of the States and threatens its institutions producing a negative impact on societies, and putting at risk security, democracy, the rule of law, and integral and inclusive development.

4. To strengthen efforts to tackle illicit trafficking in firearms and ammunition in the region and its effects on human rights, taking into account the role of businesses and the relevance of their involvement in the prevention of this problem as well as of the States’ cooperation with industry and the private sector, as appropriate, in addressing this problem.

5. To reaffirm respect for the rule of law and complying with international law as fundamental pillars for maintaining friendly relations, as well as for ensuring regional peace and security.

6. To strengthen institutional capacities to prevent and comprehensively address transnational organized crime, especially illicitdrug trafficking, human trafficking, smuggling of migrants, the illicit trafficking in firearms, ammunition and explosives and money laundering, crimes that affect the environment, together with other threats such as terrorism, cyber-attacks, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, corruption and illegal mining, among others which constitute elements for the development and sustenance of illegal economies.

7. To promote international cooperation, the implementation of best practices, and the timely analysis and exchange of information in the prevention, investigation, prosecution, and fight against transnational organized crime.

8. To strengthen cooperation in mine action**,** especially for humanitarian demining as an enabling factor for sustainable development in the region.

9. To respect, protect, and promote human rights, and defend, promote, and consolidate democracyin the region, strengthen democratic governance and institutions, as well as the rule of law and citizen security, and eliminate all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls, and groups in situations of vulnerability, creating the conditions to achieve egalitarian, just, and prosperous societies.

10. To continue to promote, through cooperation and multilateral activities, in compliance and in adherence of national development priorities of each Member State, the strengthening of democratic institutions, values, practices, and governance, the prevention and fight against corruption, the consolidation of the rule of law, the achievement of the full enjoyment and effective exercise of human rights, and the reduction of poverty, inequality, racism, and social, political, or economic exclusion.

11. To urge member states, as appropriate, to implement the Inter-American Convention Against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials (CIFTA), and to comply with the measures outlined in United Nations Security Council Resolutions 2645 and 2653 concerning the trafficking of arms and ammunition and the implementation of sanctions measures, respectively.

12.To prioritize the implementation of public policies to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions, in particular extreme poverty and enhance overall well-being by reducing inequality and social exclusion, increasingefforts towards achieving gender equality, environmental protection, and combating climate change as outlined in the Declaration of Nassau for Sustainable Development in the Americas.

13.  To call for hemispheric cooperation, integration, and partnerships for sustainable development in its three dimensions -economic, social, and environmental- including for the implementation of the Inter-American Climate Change Action Plan 2023-2030,recognizing the specific needs and circumstances of developing countries.

14. To reaffirm the commitment to continue promoting national and regional measures to respond to numerous security challenges, promoting greater integration among the Member States with a view to consolidating sustainable development in the Hemisphere.

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