**FOURTH SPECIALIZED CIDI MEETING OF HIGH-**  OEA/Ser.W/XII.4.4

**LEVEL AUTHORITIES ON COOPERATION** CIDI/RECOOP-IV/doc.5/24

April 18-19, 2024 15 April 2024

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DRAFT ANNOTATED AGENDA

FOURTH SPECIALIZED CIDI MEETING OF

HIGH-LEVEL COOPERATION AUTHORITIES

Theme**:** Optimizing cooperation and partnerships for development in the Americas

Washington D.C, April 18 and 19, 2024

1. **INTRODUCTION**

This document outlines the proposed topics for discussion at the Fourth Specialized Meeting of High-Level Cooperation Authorities, to be held on April 18 and 19, 2024, within the framework of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) of the Organization of American States (OAS). The proposed goal is to convene Ministers and High-Level Authorities on Cooperation to reflect on the theme *“Optimizing cooperation and partnerships for development in the Americas”* and define strategies to address ongoing national and regional challenges in cooperation for development.

1. **BACKGROUND**

The countries of Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) face a diverse set of development challenges and competing priorities, but recognize the need to unite in the fight against common and global challenges. As far back as 1978, with the Buenos Aires Action Plan (BAPA), the region has sought to establish a comprehensive framework to promote cooperation among countries of the South. In 2015, with the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), countries resolved to pursue a new sustainable development model by strengthening global and multi-actor collaboration and partnerships, specifically underlining the role of cooperation among countries of the Global South through South-South Cooperation (SSC) and Triangular (TC).

Member states have increasingly committed to and strengthened their participation in cooperation modalities such as South-South and Triangular cooperation, recognizing their own value and the value that traditional modalities such as North-South or multilateral cooperation provide. In response, the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean are increasingly adopting a dual role, acting as recipients of Official Development Assistance (ODA) and technical assistance and as contributors of expertise and good cooperation practices to other nations.

Significantly, as countries in the Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) region transition to greater levels of development, they are experiencing dwindling flows of financial resources through ODA and concessionary loans, creating funding gaps in a context of fiscal constraint and persistent social, economic, and environmental challenges[[1]](#footnote-2). Member states continue to face profound structural gaps, and although national development plans align with the SDGs, only 25% of the global goals are on course to meet the 2030 deadline[[2]](#footnote-3). In this context, South-South and Triangular cooperation are a vehicle for greater participation and partnership between countries and development partners, while enabling access to expertise to support countries’ efforts to move towards more sustainable development models.

Latin American and Caribbean countries, despite their different levels of development and adverse realities, face common problems, inequities, vulnerabilities and challenges, which make it necessary to adopt comprehensive and multidimensional approaches and proposals for solutions (and not only criteria such as per capita income), adapted to each national and local context. In this regard, international cooperation focused on the region continues to be fundamental. ECLAC proposes a new cooperation approach for middle-income countries including tailored instruments to address the economic, productive, and social heterogeneity of the region. This approach emphasizes people-centered policies[[3]](#footnote-4) to align cooperation initiatives with local priorities, promoting ownership at the local level, and addressing inequality and other disparities[[4]](#footnote-5).

The thrust to build a more inclusive and coherent cooperation system can help bridge the gap between discourse, theory, and practice in the Americas. Together, countries can move towards a stronger governance structure for cooperation that can enhance the effectiveness of development programs, avoid duplication of efforts, improve the alignment of cooperation offers and local needs, unlock financing for development, and promote strategic partnerships. These efforts can translate into actionable strategies to complement countries’ efforts to fulfill their national development plans and meet the SDGs by 2030.

1. **THE ROLE OF THE OAS**

OAS member states have long recognized the importance of establishing mutually beneficial relationships rooted in solidarity to address the region’s development challenges. In this context, the OAS through CIDI and its Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI), by convening within its framework of action the different States of the American continent, has the potential to play a pivotal role in facilitating cooperation and building partnerships that deliver solutions to address some of the core social, economic, and environmental issues affecting the hemisphere. The time is ripe for member states to use existing Development Cooperation mechanisms within the organization to facilitate this process, specifically its Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development (IACD).

Over the last decade, the region’s cooperation authorities have laid a foundation to foster development cooperation among member states through the organization. The OAS General Assembly resolution AG/RES. 2881 (XLIV-O/16): "Advancing Hemispheric Initiatives on Integral Development" established the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs as the overall framework for the work of CIDI. In response, through the Meetings of High-Level Cooperation Authorities member states have sought to reposition the IACD to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda through south-south and triangular cooperation. As a cooperation Agency built on the principles of solidarity and equality among member states, the IACD can act as a strategic facilitator to optimize development cooperation actions, while capitalizing on its unique power to convene hemispheric policy dialogue between countries and relevant stakeholders.

The IACD, due to its capacity to convene and lead hemispheric political dialogue, is called upon to play a strategic role in Member States development processes by enhancing spaces for political-technical dialogue and discussion on cooperation and development. This ongoing dialogue supports Member States processes for strengthening their international cooperation institutions and their national cooperation systems, while ensuring the alignment of the Agency’s cooperation strategy with the priorities and interests of Member States. Additionally, the IACD facilitates the coordination and channeling of both the needs and demands for cooperation with the good practices and strengths of Member States, and between Member States and the collaboration and assistance strategies of other key actors such as Permanent Observer States and other international organizations.

To coordinate these efforts, Member state cooperation authorities established three Working Groups within the IACD at their last meeting in 2021, ensuring a more strategic approach to the work of the Agency, enhancing engagement among member states, and repositioning it in the international development cooperation landscape. As a direct result of the Working Groups, cooperation authorities approved a set of recommendations in 2023, seeking to strengthen the IACD as the backbone for promoting, coordinating, managing, and facilitating the planning and execution of programs, projects, and "partnership for development activities" within the scope of the OAS/CIDI (refer to the note below and the text boxes included throughout the document for additional information). These efforts are also guided by mandates from the General Assembly, and focus on aligning cooperation with CIDI Ministerial processes, fundraising to support partnership for development activities, and repositioning the IACD to be more responsive to the needs of the region.

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| Note: For further reference and consideration of Member State Cooperation Authorities as they engage in dialogue at the Ministerial meeting, the Secretariat revised this preliminary draft annotated agenda to include a set of text summarizing key recommendations emanating from the IACD Working Groups. To access the full set of recommendations from each Working Group please refer to the links in each of the boxes. |

1. **PROPOSED THEME AND TOPICS FOR THE MINISTERIAL MEETING**

The overarching theme of the Fourth Meeting of High-Level Cooperation Authorities, “*Optimizing cooperation and partnerships for development in the Americas”* presents an opportunity to leverage the solutions, capabilities, and capacities of member states to confront ongoing barriers to harness cooperation for development. These challenges encompass critical issues such as: 1) enhancing governance structures for effective cooperation; 2) Capturing, compiling, and communicating emerging cooperation needs for attention and action; 3) Promoting coherence between national, regional, and international reporting systems; 4) Leveraging effective national approaches for the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a means for Cooperation, and 5) bridging the financing/funding gap for development cooperation. Member state cooperation authorities will address these topics and open the dialogue to representatives from Permanent Observer States, Development Financial Institutions (DFIs), foundations, the private sector, and other relevant actors.

1. **Enhancing governance structures for effective cooperation**

Situation analysis: The existing international cooperation landscape is highly fragmented, both within government agencies and between state and non-state entities, leading to redundant efforts and constraining the capacity of countries to effectively leverage cooperation for development.

Currently, and despite the progress made in several countries in the region, institutional fragilities persist in the entities that govern international cooperation. These fragilities lead to difficulties in several areas, including identifying and linking cooperation needs and demands with funding and assistance opportunities; coordinating among the various donors and cooperation partners; leading dialogue and coordination among institutions at the different levels of government; generating complementarities and synergies; ensuring alignment between political/strategic and technical aspects; among others. In this regard, one of the key roles of the IACD would be to support the building and strengthening of the capacities of the institutions coordinating international cooperation in each country, regardless of the type of institutional structure adopted by each State.

Potential strategies: A robust governance structure for cooperation will allow member states to better coordinate national and regional cooperation efforts. Considering that cooperation from the local and municipal level often represents the ‘heart’ of cooperation, this structure should recognize that cooperation takes place at all levels of government, across all sectors, and between different actors that often take on roles as both offerors and recipients of cooperation. This complexity requires mechanisms that facilitate the identification, interaction, and ongoing coordination of cooperation partners. Realizing this strategy involves strengthening human and institutional capacities by sharing good practices related to governance structures. Additionally, technical cooperation within and among countries in the region, and collaboration with donor countries’ development agencies can serve to strengthen capabilities and ensure a more harmonized, coherent, and effective approach.

To this end, the aim of the dialogue is to identify good practices in the governance of cooperation in the region and build on the analysis that other regional organizations have been carrying out in this regard. Likewise, the dialogue seeks to share experiences, progress, and challenges, and to present general recommendations on cooperation governance structures, systems or frameworks that participating countries can apply, according to their needs, contexts and capacities.

Guiding questions for discussion:

* What types of governance structures are in place in member states to promote and secure cooperation? What lessons can we learn as a region from existing structures?
* What mechanisms are in place to identify, systematize and analyze cooperation needs and interests, as well as the good practices and strengths of each country, so that both supply and demand are aligned with development priorities?
* What mechanisms are in place to coordinate cooperation at the national, state, and municipal levels to ensure that interventions are effective and responsive to their needs?
* What is the role of cooperation authorities in strengthening the governance structures required to identify, on the one hand, national and local development priorities and, on the other hand, cooperation opportunities that can respond to these priorities?
* How can the IACD facilitate the connections between various national cooperation entities, structures, and mechanisms within the region to promote coordination and the exchange of knowledge and technical expertise?

1. **Capturing, compiling, and communicating emerging cooperation needs for attention and action.**

Situation analysis: The international cooperation system is aiming to become more locally-led, inclusive, and responsive to the challenges identified by countries and communities, while continuing to align with broader global and national development goals. The national governments of OAS member states play an essential role in coordinating international development cooperation in their countries through their national cooperation systems. A central element of this work is a better understanding of local development needs. Increasingly, governments in Latin America and the Caribbean and other regions are conducting community needs assessments to inform the design of public policies and programs. These efforts are often duplicated by the donor community and other development actors, leading to consultation fatigue and an ineffective use of resources.

Potential strategies: The IACD can support the strengthening of government focal points for coordinating international cooperation in their countries to help them become more efficient in defining their own priorities, interacting with external partners, and coordinating and monitoring programs and projects. Improved strategies and mechanisms for capturing, compiling, and communicating needs will help address the misalignment of cooperation offers and local demands, avoid duplication of efforts, enhance coherence, signal partnership opportunities, and improve the overall effectiveness of cooperation. Potential actions include raising awareness of the importance of effective communication in the management of cooperation, conducting joint community consultations and assessments; creating periodic reports on countries' development needs; facilitating exchanges between donor and recipient countries; and providing clearer guidance on local priorities to inform the design of development assistance. Existing national cooperation agencies or offices responsible for cooperation issues play a pivotal role as intermediaries with donors and other funders.

Similarly, the IACD can promote and lead periodic dialogues at the political and technical levels between traditional donors/cooperating partners and the countries of LAC, to find complementarities and synergies between the national and local development priorities of member states and donors’ cooperation opportunities and agendas. This can help ensure that cooperation opportunities are aligned with and respond to the demands of the countries of the region.

During the dialogue, the tools available at the OAS, such as CooperaNet, will be presented and made available so that the countries can share their strengths, good practices, and technical knowledge on development issues for mutual exchange and learning. On the other hand, the meeting will promote the exchange of experiences among countries in areas such as coordination with subnational governments and their national cooperation systems, with the intention of identifying needs and opportunities to share through South-South Cooperation.

Guiding question for discussion:

* How can member states effectively support the implementation of locally-led, community-driven approaches to international cooperation programming?
* How can member states better collect and communicate their development gaps and needs in the international arena?
* How can the IACD assist in capturing, centralizing, and communicating member state needs to match with available and new cooperation offers?
* What national and regional mechanisms and/or platforms exist to help tailor cooperation instruments to local development needs?

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| **Box 1**  **ABSTRACT OF RECOMMENDATIONS OF WORKING GROUP 1**  Updated Model for the CIDI Ministerial Process and the Role of the Region’s Cooperation Authorities  *(Approved at the Formal Meeting of the Working Groups of the IACD held on November 2, 2023)*  Key Recommendations at the level of Ministerial Processes:   * Instruct the sectorial authorities to invite the cooperation bodies from OAS member states to actively participate in the CIDI Ministerial Processes. * Entrust the MB/IACD to prepare an annual report on the alignment between agency projects and ministerial priorities, and a bi-annual report to CIDI on the results of cooperation projects and activities. * Enhance dissemination of cooperation activities through CooperaNet.   Key Recommendations at the level of the MB/IACD:   * Enhance synchronized efforts between CIDI and the Permanent Council to develop triennial Work Plans that promote the IACD's central role in aligning sectoral priorities and facilitating cooperation actions. * Establish mechanisms for facilitating dialogue between cooperation and sectoral meeting focal points to maximize synergy and resource utilization.   Key Recommendations at the level of the IACD:   * Conduct a mission to identify financing opportunities, develop a manual of procedures for project management, and centralize capacity-building efforts within the IACD. * Prepare a Planning Document to align project portfolios with Ministerial priorities, including mapping cooperation demands, available financial sources, and human resource training plans.   For the complete set of recommendations refer to [Document: AICD/JD/doc-219/23 rev.1](https://scm.oas.org/IDMS/Redirectpage.aspx?class=AICD/JD%20XX.2.18/doc.&classNum=219&lang=e) |

1. **Promoting coherence between national, regional, and international reporting systems**

Situation analysis: The inconsistency between national, regional, and international reporting systems is one of the factors that contribute to the fragmentation of international cooperation. Mechanisms that accurately measure development cooperation flows to/from the region can drive complementarity and coordination of international development actions. These mechanisms rely on countries’ commitment to ensuring that the information provided is transparent, accessible, consensual, and standardized, and ensures traceability of impact. One such mechanism is UNCTAD's Common Framework for Measuring and Enhancing the Visibility of South-South Cooperation, in which several OAS Member States and partners from other regions participate.

Potential strategies: Effective cooperation requires systematized, decentralized repositories that integrate indicators to assess the contribution of projects and programs to national development goals and the 2030 Agenda[[5]](#footnote-6). Access to information on cooperation priorities and actions at the local, national, and regional levels would strengthen efforts to drive impact by generating data, enabling monitoring and evaluation, informing continuous adaptations, and facilitating coordination among the different actors participating in technical and financial cooperation efforts.

Progress has been made and is ongoing as many countries in the region engage in different international reporting efforts. In 2023, at the Regional Conference on South-South Cooperation in LAC convened by ECLAC[[6]](#footnote-7), cooperation authorities recognized the work of the Ibero-American General Secretariat (SEGIB), the platform of the Ibero-American Integrated Data System on South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SIDICSS) in this area and urged countries to draw upon the insights offered by the OECD’s International Total Official Support for Sustainable Development Task Force (TOSSD).

Central to strengthening the regional dialogue and work of cooperation authorities is facilitating the participation and engagement of all OAS member states in such efforts. A hemispheric approach is needed to harmonize reporting, evaluation criteria, align methodologies and standards, and foster greater transparency, accountability, and mutual learning within the realm of South-South and triangular cooperation in LAC. This process includes the exchange of experiences on current national reporting mechanisms/frameworks, best practices, and challenges on the management of information systems linked to international cooperation, identification of opportunities for improvement, and collaboration and capacity building, among others.

In this regard, to ensure consistency and complementarity among the systems, it is recommended to conduct a comparative identification and analysis of the available national and/or regional information and registry systems. This analysis should determine which mechanisms are most widely accepted within the inter-American, Ibero-American, and similar systems. It is also important to understand the specific objectives of each system and the type of information and data they provide. This knowledge should be shared among all Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) countries, enabling them to consider adopting tools and/or systems relevant to their needs. Additionally, it is crucial to identify and address any difficulties that may arise in the implementation of these systems, among other relevant considerations.

Guiding questions for discussion:

* How can the region move forward in harmonizing and streamlining the reporting and assessment of cooperation?
* What steps can be taken to establish coherent mechanisms for accessing data and enabling more informed decision-making?
* How to effectively coordinate the exchange of information with donor countries to prevent double counting and ensure the efficient allocation and spending of resources?
* How to facilitate the reporting process at the local and regional level to reduce the burden associated with reporting exercises? What types of capacity building efforts are required?

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| **Box 2**  **ABSTRACT OF RECOMMENDATIONS OF WORKING GROUP 3**  Role of the IACD in international development cooperation  *(Approved at the Formal Meeting of the Working Groups of the IACD held on November 2, 2023)*   * Review IACD statutes to ensure alignment and coordination with the international agenda on Multilateral, South-South, and Triangular Cooperation and the promotion of the IACD’s cooperation agenda in high-level for a and technical meetings on development cooperation. * Explore opportunities to centralize OAS cooperation actions within the IACD to strengthen its role in coordinating, channeling, and facilitating cooperation in alignment with national priorities and ministerial processes. * Define communication and engagement channels with Cooperation Agencies of Permanent Observer States and the private sectors in these countries to identify collaboration opportunities and complement SEDI's programs, including CooperaNet and DCF. * Entrust Cooperation Authorities to: (1) disseminate the IACD's cooperation agenda and initiatives with Cooperation Agencies of Permanent Observer States, and (2) effectively highlight SEDI’s initiatives on regional development, such as its participation on the TOSSD/OECD report and the 2023 OECD Latin American Outlook. * Develop guidelines for coordinating IACD's work with Cooperation Authorities of Member States, institutions with similar mandates, and other cooperation actors, including international organizations and financial institutions.   For the complete set of recommendations refer to Document: [AICD/JD/doc-221/23 rev.1](https://scm.oas.org/IDMS/Redirectpage.aspx?class=AICD/JD%20XX.2.18/doc.&classNum=221&lang=e) |

1. **Leveraging effective national approaches for the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a means for Cooperation.**

Situation analysis: Despite global efforts towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), progress to date has been insufficient to meet the 2030 deadline. Globally, around 50% of the targets recently assessed by the UN[[7]](#footnote-8) have shown moderate to severe deviations from the targeted path, and for over 30% of the targets there is no progress or indicators have regressed from the 2015 baseline, indicating a significant hurdle in meeting the SDGs. In Latin America and the Caribbean, ECLAC's 2023 regional report[[8]](#footnote-9) reveals that while some progress has been made towards meeting the 2030 Agenda, significant challenges and misalignments exist across various goals, including SDGs 6, 7, 9, 11, and 17. Consequently, it is important for governments to strengthen policy and programmatic actions pursuant to the commitments made. This requires increasing partnerships with international organizations and other relevant partners to amplify their efforts. It is equally important that countries share their strategies, knowledge, good practices and successes, so that others may adopt and adapt as necessary to accelerate progress towards the attainment of the SDGs.

Potential strategies: Cooperation is vital for speeding up progress toward the SDGs in the region. Cooperation can increase funding and enable effective development by sharing of knowledge, building capacity, and pooling financial resources and expertise through partnerships. The OAS is well-positioned to facilitate this exchange of good practices between and among its member states as well as with Observer Member, tailored to specific needs, thereby strengthening national efforts towards SDG achievement.

Guiding questions for discussion:

* How can the OAS best serve member states with the knowledge sharing and cooperation and multi-stakeholder partnerships they need to expedite progress towards accomplishing the SDGs?
* How can member states better connect to support each other to augment national efforts aimed at achieving the SDG?
* What are some of the innovative solutions that can be utilized to assist member states in their efforts to overcome the challenges they face in achieving the targets set in the SDGs within the remaining six years?
* How can the OAS cooperation programs and projects be better tailored towards addressing gaps in SDG attainment and how can cooperation authorities prioritize actions and resources to complement donor resources in order to amplify their reach and impact.

1. **Bridging the financing/funding gap for development cooperation**

Situation analysis: The region continues to grapple with the socioeconomic impact of the pandemic and the devastation caused by increasingly frequent natural disasters resulting from climate change. The widening gap between needs and available resources for LAC countries poses significant financing challenges and hinders their ability to meet their national development plans and the SDGs. Countries in the region face insufficient levels of funding through national financial resources, national investment and programs, ODA, and other funding flows, as well as a high level and perception of risk to drive private sector investment.

Potential strategies: Addressing these challenges involves mobilizing additional resources through ODA and other avenues, making flexible funding available to developing countries, and mitigating the real and perceived risk associated with investing in the region. In addition, countries can adopt innovative approaches to programming and delivering development cooperation, including further leveraging local capacity, minimizing duplication, and increasing investments in prevention and preparedness to build resiliency and mitigate future risks.

In the framework of the OAS, it is imperative to explore innovative approaches to attract additional funding. The OAS Development Cooperation Fund (OAS/DCF), established to complement regional ODA, is currently entirely financed by voluntary contributions from member states. Dwindling contributions and the lack of participation of some member states, has led to severe underfunding, limiting the Fund’s capacity to implement projects at scale. New mechanisms for attracting funds to the OAS/DCF—securing funding commitments from member states, activating sectoral accounts to receive funds for specific projects, attracting new sources of funding, among others—are needed to effectively scale up partnerships for development through the organization and support its efforts to advance regional and global development goals, particularly for our most vulnerable and under-served countries and communities.

The meeting will also address how the OAS and the IACD can develop guidelines and/or guidance for private sector engagement in the field of international cooperation, including: (1) the parameters and principles for the participation of the private sector, (2) the definition of incentives and opportunities to partner with the private sector, and (3) mechanisms for measuring private sector participation in international cooperation, among other matters.

Platforms such as CooperaNet enable and promote the exchange of information and experiences on management, regulatory frameworks, policies, tools, and other areas. This exchange is valuable to attract multi-stakeholder partnerships as a new cooperation scheme involving the participation of the private sector, academia, civil society, and other actors.

Guiding questions for discussion:

* How to foster broader, equitable, and transparent participation by the region’s development stakeholders towards bridging the development financing gap?
* How can existing development finance be optimized to achieve tangible outcomes, considering factors such as leveraging local capacity and minimizing duplication?
* What new mechanisms can be prioritized to attract additional funding and enhance partnerships for development?
* How can member states work with the OAS/SEDI to attract additional sources of funding from other partners? which of the mechanisms could be re-activated or implemented to attract additional funding in the short term?

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| **Box 3**  **ABSTRACT OF RECOMMENDATIONS OF WORKING GROUP 2**  Fundraising to support partnership for development activities within OAS/SEDI  *(Approved at the Formal Meeting of the Working Groups of the IACD held on November 2, 2023)*   * Develop a questionnaire to determine: (1) the reasons why member states are not currently contributing to the DCF to promote participation of all OAS member states in the DCF, and (2) actions aimed at achieving the DCF’s long-term sustainability. * Create thematic accounts within the DCF, allowing tailored funding for critical regional programs aligned with CIDI Ministerial priorities. * Restructure DCF statutes to allow for the implementation of programs outside the regular programming cycle and include a specific line to finance initiatives of South-South and Triangular Cooperation through the mobilization of external resources such as the private sector and multi-stakeholder partnerships in the region. * Develop a framework for the creation and implementation of a 501(c)(3) Organization to determine whether member states should establish a 501(c)(3) to support the IACD in channeling U.S. Private Sector Funding. * Develop guidelines for private sector involvement, outlining parameters, incentives, and partnership opportunities to address development needs. * Implement strategies to enhance awareness and member state participation in the DCF, including exhibitions, webinars, special CIDI meetings, and promotion through member state champions and OAS departments. * Strengthen SEDI staffing dedicated to fundraising within budgetary constraints to support development projects.   For the complete set of recommendations refer to Document [AICD/JD/doc-220/23 rev.1](https://scm.oas.org/IDMS/Redirectpage.aspx?class=AICD/JD%20XX.2.18/doc.&classNum=220&lang=e) |

1. **Dialogue with Relevant Stakeholders**
2. **Dialogue with Permanent Observer States**

OAS Permanent Observer States[[9]](#footnote-10) are also navigating the evolving development landscape, while shifting to more collaborative approaches to tackle intricate global challenges. New models of cooperation are moving away from an 'aid' and 'assistance' mindset to a 'partnership' model that presents opportunities for more inclusive and impactful development strategies. Observer States can work with the OAS to catalyze triangular cooperation, which requires adapted systems and leadership support[[10]](#footnote-11) for the design and delivery of technical diplomacy.[[11]](#footnote-12) Common triangular cooperation strategies involve joint actions and partnerships at the technical level that lay the groundwork for and reinforce political dialogue and diplomacy with the hemisphere.

The dialogue also seeks to further disseminate the cooperation strategies of numerous traditional partners of triangular cooperation, including cooperation agencies such as the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), the European Union, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), among others. This dialogue would serve as the basis to identify synergies, foster complementarities, and avoid overlaps between the cooperation agendas that donors promote in their bilateral relations with LAC countries, and those that they prioritize in their relationship with the OAS.

Guiding questions for discussion:

* What are the strategic cooperation priorities for OAS Permanent Observer States to support the achievement of the SDGs? How can this collaboration be strategically aligned with national and regional development needs?
* How can the OAS better support Permanent Observers to actively move towards a more collaborative 'partnership' approach to cooperation?
* How can Permanent Observers leverage existing cooperation mechanisms within the OAS/SEDI framework to promote and strengthen cooperation with the region?
* How can the OAS/SEDI better support Permanent Observers in engaging member states through triangular cooperation?

1. **Dialogue with Development Financial Institutions (DFIs), foundations, and the private sector.**

Development Financial Institutions (DFIs) and foundations play an important role in promoting development by providing access to financing and programming. DFIs offer a combination of sovereign-guaranteed loans, grants, and concessional loans that allow developing and emerging countries in the region to finance their development needs, while leveraging government resources to raise additional funds through capital markets[[12]](#footnote-13). DFIs also provide other high-value non-financial services including technical assistance, monitoring and evaluation, research and knowledge generation, and evidence-based policy recommendations. Increased coordination and collaboration between DFIs and international organizations like the OAS can help drive policy coherence, avoid duplication of efforts, and generate synergies to amplify impact.

Foundations also offer a diverse range of development programs, generating an evidence base of viable interventions that governments can scale or replicate to amplify their impact and reach in the region. To leverage their unique contributions and support development efforts, it is necessary to improve coordination and create opportunities to learn from actionable insights provided by foundation-driven scalable social programs, and work together to mobilize additional resources for joint action.

In turn, the private sector -- as a pivotal force steering investment and innovation -- bears a significant responsibility in advancing productivity, fostering inclusive economic growth, and generating employment opportunities[[13]](#footnote-14). The private sector has a significant impact in the level of progress towards sustainable production, promoting the decarbonization of the economy, and reshaping consumption patterns across various industries. In this regard, it is important to raise awareness to the fact that the transition to greener economies demands close collaboration between the private sector, public sector, civil society, and academia to strengthen local capacities and collectively address the region's high vulnerability to climate change.

In LAC, extreme inequality raises the potential to tap into pockets of wealth from a private sector that increasingly recognizes the alignment of social and private interests such as education and labor force development. Social impact investments, philanthropy, blended finance, and corporate social responsibility represent growing opportunities in the region. The private sector can also play a proactive role in providing data and monitoring mechanisms to track progress on their contributions to the implementation of the SDGs [[14]](#footnote-15).

Growing social and environmental consumer and corporate awareness is driving change. The private sector is increasingly responsive to engaging in global, regional, and national public-private social development initiatives, such as the UN Global Compact to advance the SDGs and the US-led Partnership for Central America. Despite this progress, governments and international organizations must work together to continue to mobilize the private sector to leverage their economic power for sustainable development.

Guiding questions for discussion:

* How can international organizations like the OAS effectively collaborate with DFIs and foundations to leverage resources and capabilities in addressing the region’s complex development challenges?
* What mechanisms have helped align private sector incentives to increase collaboration with the public sector, civil society, and academia to promote sustainability and social impact?
* How can international organizations like the OAS support engagement of the private sector with development cooperation stakeholders at the local, national, and regional levels?
* What valuable experiences are leveraging the private sector to strengthen human capital, finance development programs, and provide data and monitoring mechanisms to track progress on the implementation of the SDGs?

1. **PURPOSE OF THE MEETING**

The objective of the IV Meeting of Cooperation Authorities is to bring together Member States, Permanent Observer States, and international organizations to help realize the potential of cooperation for development. The high-level meeting seeks to take advantage of the main mechanisms and tools available at the OAS to facilitate the exchange of ideas, experiences, and good practices in key areas such as strengthening governance, improving coherence in reporting and assessing development cooperation actions; managing and financing international cooperation in the inter-American space, and promoting strategic alliances with actors such as the private sector, Development Finance Institutions, foundations, among others.

1. **STRUCTURE OF THE MEETING**

The meeting will consist of plenary sessions on the substantive topics of discussion. During these sessions, member state high-level cooperation authorities will discuss existing challenges and share best practices and opportunities to address those challenges. The dialogue will welcome multi-stakeholder perspectives shared by representatives from permanent observes, development financial institutions, cooperation experts and academics, international organizations, and civil society organizations. Finally, authorities will discuss how they can continue to work with the OAS to catalyze change through existing cooperation mechanisms, including the IACD, and identify next steps for concerted action.

1. **EXPECTED RESULTS OF THE MEETING**

The meeting will result in the drafting of an Action Plan for Cooperation 2024-2027. The plan, enriched by the in-depth discussions among member states and relevant stakeholders, will identify the different cooperation modalities that are taking place in the region, and delineate concrete actions to effectively tackle the cooperation challenges addressed during the meeting. The plan will specify the next steps and help coordinate short- and medium-term actions for the Management Board of the IACD, strategically positioning the OAS/SEDI to effectively bolster development cooperation in the region.

1. **PROPOSED SCHEDULE:**

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| ***Day 1: Thursday, April 18, 2024*** | | |
| Morning session | 9:00 -13:00 | Inaugural Session  Welcoming remarks  Plenary 1:   * Procedural Election of the Chair of the meeting and adoption of the Agenda and schedule of the meeting. * Presentation of the OAS/SEDI report on cooperation for development.   Plenary 2: DIALOGUE OF HIGH-LEVEL AUTHORITIES  *Optimizing cooperation and partnerships for development in the Americas*  1. Enhancing Governance structures for effective cooperation.  2. Capturing, compiling, and communicating emerging cooperation needs for attention and action |
| *Lunch break* | *13:00 - 14:00* |  |
| Afternoon session | 14:00 - 17:30 | Plenary 3:  3. Promoting coherence between national, regional, and international reporting systems.  4. Leveraging effective national approaches for the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a means for Cooperation.   * Plenary 4:   5. Bridging the financing/funding gap for development cooperation. |
| ***Day 2: Friday, April 19, 2024*** | | |
| Morning session | 9:00- 13:00 | Plenary 5:   * Dialogue between OAS member states and permanent observer states. * Dialogue between OAS member states, the private sector, development finance institutions, and other development actors. |
| *Lunch break* | *13:00 -14:00* |  |
| Afternoon session | 14:00-17:30 | Plenary 6:   * The way forward: Next steps and coordinated actions through the Management Board of the IACD. * Establishment of the host country of the Fifth Specialized CIDI Meeting of High Cooperation Authorities, 2027 * Closing remarks |

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6. United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). 2023. *First session of the Regional Conference on South-South Cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean*. Resolution 1(I). <https://conferenciacss.cepal.org/1/sites/css1/files/23-00498_ccss.1_resolution_adopted.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
7. The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2023, United Nations, accessed April 12, 2024, <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2023/The-Sustainable-Development-Goals-Report-2023.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
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9. The OAS currently has 73 Permanent Observers including the European Union and the Holy See.

   [OAS 2023 Programming Report to Permanent Observers](https://www.oas.org/en/ser/dia/perm_observers/Documents/OAS%202023%20Programming%20Report%20to%20Permanent%20Observers.pdf.) [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
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12. The Regional Conference on South-South Cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean was held on May 30/31, 2023, in Santiago de Chile, Chile. [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
13. United Nations Global Compact, “Engage Locally: Latin America and the Caribbean,” accessed January 29, 2024,

    <https://unglobalcompact.org/engage-locally/latin-america> [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
14. Further information on the Sustainable Development Goals, alongside Agenda 2030 for Latin America and the Caribbean, can be found [here](https://agenda2030lac.org/en). [↑](#footnote-ref-15)