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**LEVEL AUTHORITIES ON COOPERATION** CIDI/RECOOP-IV/doc.7/24 rev.1

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DRAFT ACTION PLAN FOR COOPERATION 2024-2027

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

Washington D.C, April 18 and 19, 2024

We, the High-Level Cooperation Authorities of the member states of the Organization of American States (OAS), gathered in Washington D.C., on April 18 and 19, 2024, at the Fourth Meeting of High-Level Authorities of Cooperation within the framework of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) and its Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development (IACD), endorse the following Action Plan for Cooperation 2024-2027. The Action Plan will guide the work of the IACD, focusing actions on key priority areas until the next High-level meeting scheduled for 2027, as part of our commitment to continue strengthening cooperation governance, policies, funding, and programs, given the instrumental role of Inter-American cooperation in all its modalities in promoting social, economic, and sustainable development in the Americas.

1. **Background**

This Action Plan for Cooperation, pursuant to CIDI’s role in fostering regional policy dialogue and in keeping with the established process of Meetings of High-Level Authorities of Cooperation requiring dialogue accompanied by an Action Plan, is guided by the Meeting’s theme: “*Optimizing cooperation and partnerships for development in the Americas*.” The Action Plan outlines actionable solutions to the challenges discussed at the meeting and encompasses the following regional imperatives:

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 to the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a means for cooperation; and
5. Bridging the financing/funding gap for development cooperation.

This Action Plan represents the mandate given to the IACD to effect its work over the next three years, providing member states the opportunity to leverage their varied capacities and solutions towards optimizing cooperation and partnerships for development.

The Plan draws heavily on the recommendations of the three Working Groups established within the IACD at the last High-level Meeting in 2021. Together, the Working Groups defined a set of concrete and actionable recommendations seeking to strengthen the IACD as the cornerstone for promoting, coordinating, managing, and facilitating the planning and execution of programs, projects, and "partnership for development activities" within the scope of OAS/CIDI. The focus of the Working Groups and the emerging recommendations ensure a more strategic approach to the IACD’s work, enhancing engagement among member states and repositioning it in the international development landscape, bearing in mind that Member States retain the option to continue current or new voluntary contributions to comply with their internal policy and legal mandates in prioritizing certain areas of cooperation and partnerships.

* Working Group 1: Updated Model for the CIDI Ministerial Process and the Role of the Region’s Authorities of Cooperation ([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))
* Working Group 2: Fundraising to support partnership for development activities within OAS/SEDI ([AICD/JD/doc-220/23 rev.1](https://outlook.office.com/mail/id/AQMkADI1ZmE5M2U0LWNmZGUtNDNkOS04NjQzLTNjMTQ4ZjVmZGIxZQBGAAAD%2FQSEaEhF1U6AiTS%2BGjkiRAcA6tQ592%2FGeU6fyMTd6Y%2FKSAAAAgEMAAAAb6pHOkuxXUK7%2Fu4HhukKWgABBxzKmwAAAA%3D%3D#:~:text=1)%20%2DEspa%C3%B1ol%20%2D-,English,-Working%20Group%20%233))
* Working Group 3: Role of the IACD in international development cooperation ([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)

The Plan has been also guided by the mandates of the 2022 General Assembly Omnibus Declaration *Advancing Hemispheric Initiatives on Integral Development: Promoting Resilience*, [AG/RES. 2988 (LII-O/22)](https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fscm.oas.org%2Fdoc_public%2FENGLISH%2FHIST_23%2FAG08750E09.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK),[[1]](#footnote-2),[[2]](#footnote-3) and the *Program-Budget of the Organization for 2023*, AG/RES. 2955 (LII-O/22).[[3]](#footnote-4),[[4]](#footnote-5) The Action Plan has been further guided by deliberations at meetings of the Agency’s Management Board (MB/IACD) and consultations with Cooperation Authorities on relevant regional imperatives.

1. **Introduction**

This Action Plan outlines strategic objectives and priority actions towards the goal of optimizing cooperation and partnerships for development in the Americas, guiding development cooperation within the context of the OAS in conjunction with member states.

The Action Plan has five overarching objectives:

Objective 1: Enhance governance structure for effective cooperation.

Objective 2: Capturing, compiling, and communicating emerging cooperation needs for attention and action.

Objective 3: Promoting coherence between national, regional, and international reporting systems.

Objective 4: Leveraging effective national approaches to the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a means for cooperation.

Objective 5: Bridging the financing/funding gap for development cooperation.

The expectation is that by pursuing these objectives and working together on actionable strategies, the Action Plan for Cooperation 2024-2027 will complement the efforts of member states towards fulfilling their national development plans and their attainment of the sustainable development goals.

1. **Objectives and Priority Actions**

**Objective 1: Enhance governance structures for effective cooperation.**

Assist in building institutional capacities to enhance development cooperation within the context of member states, including through the exchange of experiences, good practices, lessons learned, and challenges related to coordinating and managing international cooperation at the national and regional level; and the identification of opportunities for improvement and collaboration between cooperation authorities.

The following actions are proposed to achieve this objective:

* 1. Develop and implement a model for governance structures, adaptable as needed to the varied contexts of member states, by working with similarly mandated institutions and by sharing experiences, progress, and challenges, and drawing recommendations from existing cooperation governance structures, systems, or frameworks.
  2. Conduct a compilation of good practices on effective governance structures through dialogue between and among member states, documented on CooperaNet.
  3. Publish and share experiences on governance structures and cooperation systems on CooperaNet to facilitate cooperation exchanges with and among member states and to provide member states and cooperation stakeholders a catalogue of good practices and tools.

**Objective 2: Capturing, compiling, and communicating emerging cooperation needs for attention and action.**

Promote effective mechanisms to achieve the identification and visibility of Member States’ needs, fostering coordination and complementarity to optimize resource allocation while ensuring impact. Implementing improved strategies for capturing, compiling, and communicating needs is crucial to align cooperation offers with local demands, prevent duplication, and enhance effectiveness.

The following actions are proposed to achieve this objective:

* 1. Facilitate the exchange of good practices and knowledge among member states for the identification and diagnosis of needs that reflect national development priorities and sectoral priorities defined in CIDI Ministerial processes.
  2. Promote complementarity of national programs through increased articulation with effective sustainable, and regionally relevant cooperation projects.
  3. Foster CooperaNet as a centralized platform to aggregate needs and provide visibility, enabling effective collaboration with stakeholders from diverse sectors.
  4. Enhancing visibility for the needs addressed by member states by publishing catalogues of cooperation priorities aligned with their national development plans in CooperaNet for centralized access and collaboration opportunities.

**Objective 3: Promoting coherence between national, regional, and international reporting systems**.

Support efforts to collect reliable data on technical cooperation and funding of sustainable development in the region and identify strategies for an effective and coherent reporting process to address the complexities associated with managing information systems to track official resources for development.

The following actions are proposed to achieve this objective:

* 1. Facilitate the exchange of current national reporting mechanisms/frameworks, good practices, and challenges on the management of information systems linked to international cooperation and mutual learning among Member States towards a hemispheric approach on data collection and coherent reporting processes.
  2. Encourage member states to engage in dialogue aimed at enhancing capacity building efforts necessary for improving data capture and collection to streamline the reporting process at local and regional levels, thereby alleviating the burden associated with reporting exercises and avoiding challenges in generating reports.

**Objective 4:** **Leveraging effective national approaches for the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a means for Cooperation.**

International cooperation plays a crucial role in addressing regional and global challenges and in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This includes financial and technical support, coherence and complementarity of policies of both offering and receiving partners, and the joint commitment and responsibility involved in sustainable development on the part of all countries and actors. By providing an avenue for countries to share their approaches in achieving the individual SDGs, their regional attainment can be accelerated given the impending deadline of 2030.

The following actions are proposed to achieve this objective:

* 1. Convene discussions for knowledge sharing among member states to understand individual progress being made on the various SDGs with a view towards identifying effective national approaches that can be harnessed.
  2. Promote and convene exchanges, dialogues and discussions between institutions, organizations, and key agencies on the international stage to find synergies and complementarities between the challenges involved in the fulfillment of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs with the public policies carried out by member states and those driven by international cooperation.
  3. Foster Cooperation among member states to connect them to good practices based on their specific needs to augment national efforts aimed at achieving the SDGs.
  4. Promote the exchange of knowledge on mechanisms, good practices, capacities, instruments and tools for coordination and articulation that allow for optimizing the use of resources (financial, human, technical, others) for the fulfillment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

**Objective 5: Bridging the financing gap for development cooperation.**

Reinforce collaboration, cooperation, and engagement among member states to scale development financing, considering declining Official Development Assistance (ODA) directed to the region[[5]](#footnote-6). This includes, but is not limited to, responding to Member States request for assistance, redefining criteria for accessing ODA and development cooperation funding, and the promotion of a multidimensional measurement of development that more adequately reflects the challenges faced by the countries of the hemisphere. It also involves actively pursuing more equitable and transparent partnerships, adopting innovative funding mechanisms, and securing concrete outcomes from partnerships with the private sector and Development Finance Institutions (DFIs).

* 1. Promote a dialogue among Member States aimed at defining multidimensional approaches to measuring development that will contribute to global development discussions.
  2. Promote the sharing of good practices and lessons learned among member states as it relates to results-oriented partnerships with the private sector and philanthropic foundations.
  3. Foster knowledge transfer for understanding and deploying innovative funding mechanisms to expand financing opportunities that complement national development efforts and the regional attainment of the SDGs.

**Recommendations for discussion, action, and decision by Cooperation Authorities, as proposed by the IACD Working Groups:**

1. The following actions are proposed based on the work carried out by the IACD Working Group #1 and its recommendations[[6]](#footnote-7):
2. Institutionalize the role of the IACD in generating and following up on development cooperation opportunities for Ministerial outcomes/mandates.
3. As intended, establish a mechanism so that all cooperation in SEDI is managed by the Management Board of the IACD with regular reporting to cooperation authorities.
4. Improve coordination within CIDI so that open channels of communication and consultation exist between CIDI ministerial meetings, the inter-American committees, and the Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development (IACD).
5. Update the statute of the IACD, approved in 2022, in the chapters related to its functions and attributions, to adjust it to the Ministerial cycle.
6. Entrust the MB/IACD to prepare an annual report on the degree of alignment between the Agency's projects and activities and the thematic priorities defined in the Ministerial processes.
7. Disseminate information through CooperaNet on the activities and projects resulting from each of the CIDI Ministerial Processes.
8. Prepare triennial Work Plans for the IACD.
9. Develop a Manual on OAS International Cooperation defining procedures related to planning, execution, monitoring and evaluation of projects, resource mobilization processes, and identification of partnerships for a more effective and efficient management of international cooperation within the OAS. Among others, the Manual of Procedures will help verify the degree of alignment between the IACD project portfolio and the priorities defined in the Ministerial processes.
10. The following actions are proposed based on the work carried out by the IACD Working Group #2[[7]](#footnote-8) and its recommendations:[[8]](#footnote-9)
    1. Develop a framework for establishing and executing a 501(c)(3) Organization collaboratively by the MB/IACD and the Executive Secretariat that would support the programs and objectives of the CIDI and the Development Pillar. This framework will encompass the procedural steps required to establish the 501(c)(3), articulate the organizational functioning, and outline the necessary human resources.
    2. Create thematic accounts for the DCF as a mechanism to allow member states and other entities to bring funding for specific programs or topics of critical importance for the development of the region that align with priority topics emanating from the ministerial process.
    3. Conduct a thorough evaluation to advise MB/IACD on establishing eligibility criteria for DCF funding, including as it relates to contributions. This evaluation aims to encourage broader engagement and participation from all OAS member states in the DCF, ensuring its sustainability.
    4. Develop and implement a comprehensive Visibility and Promotion Strategy for DCF with the objective of heightening awareness about its initiatives and fostering increased engagement and contributions from Member States and potential partners.
    5. Create comprehensive guidelines for engagement of the private sector, philanthropic foundations, among others, outlining clear parameters for their involvement. Define both incentives and opportunities for forging partnerships with the private sector to effectively address development needs.
    6. Revamp the Development Cooperation Fund (DCF) to integrate South-South and Triangular cooperation as key modalities for voluntary contributions. Additionally, institute a dedicated allocation within the DCF aimed at mobilizing external resources, encompassing private sector involvement, and fostering multi-actor alliances within the region.
11. The following actions are proposed based on the work carried out by the IACD Working Group #3 and its recommendations[[9]](#footnote-10):
12. Review statutes of the IACD, to ensure the solid articulation and coordination of its functions with the international agenda on Multilateral, South-South, and Triangular Cooperation.
13. Define channels for communication and engagement with the Cooperation Agencies of the Permanent Observer States and the private sector.
14. Increase representation of the IACD in other cooperation fora.
15. In consultation with Member States, develop guidelines for effectively coordinating the work of the IACD with the Cooperation Authorities of the Member States and with institutions with similar mandates for the purpose of avoiding duplication and maximizing when possible.
16. Task the Cooperation Authorities, through the IACD, to effectively highlight SEDI’s initiatives on regional development within the international cooperation and development agenda.
17. **Implementation Strategy**
18. Instruct the MB/IACD to appoint relevant Working Groups towards the implementation of the approved mandates and core issues outlined in the Action Plan for Cooperation 2024-2027.
19. Instruct the MB/IACD and the Technical Secretariat to develop a Work Plan for Cooperation 2024-2027, determining how to strategically address the key issues emanating from the Fourth Meeting of High-Level Cooperation Authorities over the next three years.
    1. Determine and communicate the financial requirements for the implementation of the Work Plan for Cooperation 2024-2027.
    2. Maintain close collaboration with similarly mandated entities to ensure coherence with our work, and to explore strategic partnerships towards the more effective implementation of the Work Plan.
20. Develop and implement a comprehensive visibility and promotion strategy for the IACD with the objective of generating increased awareness of its mandates and initiatives, and fostering sustained and increased engagements and contributions from member states and other potential partners through its Development Cooperation Fund (DCF).
21. **Conclusion**

Leveraging the potential of cooperation in all its modalities will support member states in transitioning from dialogue to action through partnerships and collaborations focused on strengthening capacities and linkages between authorities of cooperation. The implementation of this Action Plan requires a coordinated approach among all member state cooperation bodies, in collaboration with the IACD of the OAS and their ongoing political commitment and financial support.

As the implementation of the activities proposed in this Action Plan will depend upon the availability of the appropriate technical and financial resources, we encourage member states, Permanent Observer States, and other donors to contribute to the implementation of this plan and to the strengthening of cooperation as one of the central missions of the OAS in the area of integral development.

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1. Fifty-Second Regular Session. AG/RES. 2988 (LII-O/22) Page 89. [Advancing Hemispheric Initiatives on Integral Development: Promoting Resilience](https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fscm.oas.org%2Fdoc_public%2FENGLISH%2FHIST_23%2FAG08750E09.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK) (Adopted at the fourth plenary session, held on October 7, 2022). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. Particularly paragraphs 60-68. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. Fifty-Second Regular Session. AG/RES. 2955 (LII-O/22) Page 27. [Program-Budget of the Organization for 2023](https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fscm.oas.org%2Fdoc_public%2FENGLISH%2FHIST_23%2FAG08750E09.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK) (Adopted at the first plenary session, held on October 6, 2022). [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. Particularly Section 3: Provisions of an Administrative and Budgetary Nature, Sub-Section 3, paragraph D. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. The United States is pleased to note that its official development assistance (ODA) to Latin America and the Caribbean has increased from $2.2 billion in 2018 to $2.9 billion in 2022 and will be happy to provide an update for 2023 when such data is available. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
6. Working Group 1: Updated Model for the CIDI Ministerial Process and the Role of the Region’s Authorities of Cooperation ([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)) [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
7. Mapping of potential funding mechanisms for the Development Cooperation Fund (DCF): ([AICD/JD/doc-215/23](http://scm.oas.org/IDMS/Redirectpage.aspx?class=AICD/JD%20XX.2.18/doc.&classNum=215&lang=e)) [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
8. IACD Working Group #2 recommendations (Approved on November 2, 2023): Fundraising to support partnership for development activities within OAS/SEDI: [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) [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
9. Working Group 3: Role of the IACD in international development cooperation ([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)  [↑](#footnote-ref-10)