**FOURTH INTER-AMERICAN MEETING OF MINISTERS AND** OEA/Ser.K/XLIII.4

**HIGH-LEVEL AUTHORITIES ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT** CIDI/RIMDS-IV/DEC.1/23

October 3 and 4, 2023 4 October 2023

Nassau, The Bahamas Original: English/Spanish

**DECLARATION OF NASSAU**

**FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE AMERICAS[[1]](#footnote-1)/**

**CLIMATE ACTION: BUILDING A HEMISPHERIC AGENDA TO SECURE OUR FUTURE**

(Adopted at the ninth plenary session held on October 4, 2023, and

subject to review by the Style Committee)

WE, THE MINISTERS AND HIGH-LEVEL AUTHORITIES ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE AMERICAS, gathered in the city of Nassau, Commonwealth of The Bahamas, on October 3 and 4, 2023, on the occasion of the Fourth Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities on Sustainable Development within the framework of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI), reaffirm our commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental in a balanced and integrated manner;

RECALLING:

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a plan of action for the people, the planet, and prosperity, in which the Heads of State and Government and High Representatives recognize that the eradication of poverty is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development and state their resolve to protect the planet from environmental degradation, including through sustainable consumption and production, sustainably managing its natural resources, the reduction in the use of fossil fuels and taking urgent action on climate change, and biodiversity loss so that it can support the needs of the present and future generations;

The Paris Agreement, adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change at COP21, which includes the goals to hold the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, recognizing that this would significantly reduce the risks and impacts of climate change, increase the ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change and foster climate resilience and low greenhouse gas emissions development in a manner that does not threaten food production, and make finance flows consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development; and which will be implemented to reflect equity and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in the light of different national circumstances;

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 – 2030, which outlines four priorities for action to prevent new and reduce existing disaster risks, which are understanding disaster risk; strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk; investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience; and enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response, and to “build back better” in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction; and noting the political declaration from the United Nations General Assembly High-Level Meeting on the Midterm Review of the Sendai Framework that recognizes the urgency to act and adopt a risk-informed approach to sustainable development;

The commitments set forth in “Our Sustainable Green Future” and “Accelerating the Clean, Sustainable, Renewable, and Just Energy Transitions,” adopted by the Heads of State and Government of the Western Hemisphere on the occasion of the Ninth Summit of the Americas held in Los Angeles, United States of America, in June 2022;

That the Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas (ECPA) contributes to the promotion of energy and climate cooperation and partnerships and provides a forum for participating states to discuss shared priorities on climate and energy;

The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, adopted at the 15th meeting of the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity in Montreal, Canada, in December 2022, which provides a strategic plan for actions taken at all levels to contribute to the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and those of its Protocols;

The adoption of the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction; including, in particular, the ability to establish marine protected areas on the high seas, in accordance with Document A/CONF.232/2023/4\*, dated 30 June 2023;

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

ACKNOWLEDGING the role of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) as a key hemispheric partner in promoting sustainable agriculture, food systems and agriculture in the Americas, and the importance of collaboration and coordination within the inter-American system to advance sustainable agricultural practices, including enhancing soil health and developing crop varieties adapted to climate change, achieving food security and improving nutrition, eradicating poverty as well as promoting rural well-being;

CONSIDERING the adoption by the member states of the Declaration of Santa Cruz+10, at the First Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities on Sustainable Development in the framework of CIDI, held in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, in 2006, and the Inter-American Program for Sustainable Development 2006-2009; the Declaration of Santo Domingo for the Sustainable Development of the Americas, at the Second Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities on Sustainable Development in the framework of CIDI, held in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic in 2010, the Inter-American Program for Sustainable Development 2010-2015; and the Declaration of Tela, at the Third Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities on Sustainable Development in the framework of CIDI, held in Tela, Honduras, in 2015, and the Inter-American Program for Sustainable Development 2016-2021;

NOTING the launch of the “Bridgetown Initiative 2.0” in Barbados, which calls for comprehensive reform of the global financial system to enable the mobilization of additional financing for climate transition and improved resilience in frontier countries; as well as other emerging initiatives relevant to member states in the regional and multilateral institutions of which they are members;

FURTHER NOTING resolution AG/RES. 3001 (LIII-O/23), “Towards Enhanced Access to Climate Financing”, adopted at the fifty-third regular session of the General Assembly, held in Washington, D.C., United States of America, in June 2023, which: calls on member states to take urgent action to address climate change and to continue to fulfill their commitments under the Paris Agreement and the UNFCCC; urges member states to continue working together to enhance the access to, availability and effectiveness of climate finance; and requests that the General Secretariat facilitate and advance discussions on the Bridgetown Initiative 2.0 and other innovative solutions on climate finance among member states, permanent observers, regional organizations, and international financial institutions;

UNDERSCORING the importance of supporting ambitious climate action, including through cooperation with developed countries related to climate financing, training and voluntary transfer and deployment of technology on mutually agreed terms, including the commitment of developed countries to the goal of jointly mobilizing US$100 billion per year in the context of meaningful mitigation action and transparency on implementation, and recalling the Glasgow Climate Pact’s urging of developed country Parties to fully deliver on the US$100 billion goal urgently and through to 2025 and emphasizing on the importance of transparency in the implementation of their pledges, as well as the Glasgow Climate Pact’s urging of developed country Parties to at least double their collective provision of climate finance for adaptation to developing country Parties from 2019 levels by 2025, in the context of achieving a balance between mitigation and adaptation in the provision of scaled-up financial resources, recalling Article 9, paragraph 4 of the Paris Agreement;

FURTHER NOTING the Climate Finance in the Americas Meeting celebrated in The Bahamas in October 2023, and the dialogue it facilitated between Ministers of Finance, Ministers of Environment, hemispheric multilateral development banks and other climate relevant partners to consider pathways to unlock climate finance in the Americas and deliver greater availability of, access to, and effectiveness of climate finance;

MINDFUL of the 28th UN Climate Change Conference (COP28) in Dubai, United Arab Emirates in November-December 2023, and the opportunity that it provides to the member states of the Organization of American States to continue to highlight the vulnerabilities of the region to climate change including its disproportionate impact on all women and girls, and to advocate for an increased balance between mitigation and adaptation climate financing, highlighting the need to redouble efforts on mitigation and adaptation as well as the operationalization of the new loss and damage funding arrangements, including a fund;

EMPHASIZING that the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development;

REAFFIRMING our efforts to fight against racism, all forms of discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, stigmatization, discriminatory speech, through cooperation, partnership, inclusion and respect for all racial and ethnic groups and respect for diversity;

CONCERNED by the fact that many of the countries of the Americas particularly Small Island Developing States are among those most vulnerable and most affected by the increased frequency and intensity of climate change-related extreme weather phenomena aggravated by climate change, which cause the loss of human lives, damage infrastructure, weaken economies, disrupt critical services, intensify sea level rise and acidification, exacerbate coastal zone erosion, intensify inequalities, including gender inequality and severely impair the lives and livelihoods of those in situations of vulnerability and lead to biodiversity, marine, terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems loss and livelihoods of people;

FURTHER CONCERNED over the adverse impacts of pollution, from all sources, particularly plastic pollution, on the environment and on the ocean, freshwater and marine ecosystems, biodiversity, and human health, as well as the contribution of greenhouse gas pollutants to climate change, and welcomes the development of an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment;

RECOGNIZING the necessity for concerted gender responsive efforts to achieve sustainable and resilient development and for a hemispheric, collective, and integrated approach to climate action in the Americas, in coordination with local communities, civil society, academia, vulnerable groups, the private sector, and other stakeholders;

RESOLVE TO:

1. Reaffirm our commitment to working tirelessly to effectively implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – in a balanced and integrated manner.
2. Reaffirm the Addis Ababa Action Agenda as an integral part of the 2030 Agenda. We are committed to its full implementation, which is critical for the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their targets.
3. Promote cooperation, integration, and hemispheric alliances on climate action and long-term sustainable development, emphasizing the intrinsic relationship that climate change actions, responses and impacts have with equitable access to sustainable development and eradication of poverty.
4. Reduce climate risks and climate vulnerability and improve resilience including for the prevention and response to disasters by considering climate change in policy development and other decision-making and support the individual actions of member states, recognizing the specific needs and special circumstances of developing countries, especially those that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.
5. Proactively conserve and sustainably manage and protect the ocean and other bodies of water, including through appropriate measures that promote responsible stewardship of the marine and freshwater ecosystems of each State, thus recognizing their vital role in climate change mitigation and adaptation.
6. Strengthen the implementation of mitigation action through the reduction, sequestration and elimination of greenhouse gas emissions, including accelerating our just transitions to clean and renewable energy technologies, affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy sources and away from emissions-intensive sources of energy such as unabated coal power, and promoting the widespread adoption of energy efficiency policies.
7. Align our sustainable development national policies, strategies, and action plans with the targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement, the Global Biodiversity Framework, Convention on Biological Diversity, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction among other regional scope agreements.
8. Promote the full, equal and meaningful participation in sustainable development decision-making of women, boys, girls and adolescents, Indigenous Peoples, local communities, people with disabilities, afro-descendants and people in situations of vulnerability.
9. Strengthen the protection of human rights defenders, particularly Indigenous Peoples, women and local communities working on environmental matters, and, in collaboration with stakeholders, continue to draw up and approve plans by the Tenth Summit of the Americas to: 1) respond to and collect information from environmental defenders about threats or incidences of violence, in keeping with domestic legislation; 2) enact, as appropriate, and enforce laws to protect human rights defenders working on environmental matters and the resources they defend; and 3) carry out and implement environmental assessments, according to existing domestic legislation, as recommended by our heads of state and government at the Ninth Summit of the Americas.

**Conservation, Restoration and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity and Forests and the Promotion of Nature-Based Solutions and Ecosystem-Based Approaches to Support Climate Mitigation and Adaptation.**

1. Emphasize the role of nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches, which are very broad in scope and encompass social, environmental and economic issues. Nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches can support actions related to mitigating and adapting to the impacts of climate change, enhancing resilience, and promoting sustainable development in the Americas while recognizing the critical importance of protecting, restoring and promoting the sustainable use of ecosystems, sustainably managing forests, combating desertification, halting and reversing land degradation, and halting biodiversity loss for the achievement of sustainable development goals and the preservation of ecosystem services, and strengthen efforts to combat deforestation and forest degradation, including through comprehensive strategies for forest conservation, restoration and sustainable management. In this regard, recognize efforts and call for further actions to effectively tackle deforestation.
2. Enhance hemispheric collaboration and cooperation to support ecosystems conservation and restoration initiatives, including through the exchange of knowledge, experiences, and best practices, capacity-building, and cooperative action on technology development and transfer on voluntary and mutually agreed terms, and integrate these into national climate change strategies, policies, and actions, including the development and implementation of ecosystem-based adaptation measures, nature conservation initiatives, and the restoration and sustainable management of ecosystems.
3. Acknowledge the importance of ecosystem services provided by forests at the global and local levels and the social, cultural, economic, and environmental benefits of forests to people.
4. Consider the traditional knowledge and experiences of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in the effective management and conservation of biodiversity. Recognize that the poorest and most marginalized are the most vulnerable to the impacts of biodiversity loss and climate change and therefore emphasize the importance of creating conditions for local communities and Indigenous Peoples to sustainably manage forests, including by fostering bioeconomy and payment for ecosystems services; in compliance with safeguards that minimize risks and promote potential benefits.
5. Promote the sustainable use, conservation and restoration of coastal and marine ecosystems, as well as their biodiversity such as mangroves, coral reefs, seagrass beds, peatlands and coastal and marine ecosystems in general, to enhance climate change resilience, reduce the risk of coastal hazards, protect biodiversity and foster a sustainable blue economy.
6. Promote development policies to build resilience and improve rural livelihoods, the development of sustainable agriculture, while recognizing the rights of Indigenous Peoples, as well as the important role of local communities, through the promotion and implementation of various efforts.
7. Facilitate access to information, public participation and promote environmental justice within our societies, in accordance with the national legislation of each State.

**Reducing Pollution**

1. Develop and implement measures, as appropriate, to combat marine litter that promote sustainable production and consumption of plastic, circularity of plastic, and environmentally sound management of plastic waste. Such measures may include extended producer responsibility schemes, and plastic waste reduction targets, the reuse and repair of plastic products, promoting the use of safe, sustainable alternatives and substitutes, as well as measures to combat marine litter and to remediate existing plastic pollution.
2. Pursue the development and expansion of recycling infrastructure, technologies, and innovation, including the establishment of collection systems, recycling facilities, and value chains for recycled materials, taking into account the role of waste pickers and with a focus on facilitating a just transition towards sustainable patterns of production and consumption, and promoting job creation and sustainable economic growth that leave no one behind with a focus on the conservation of the environment, and at the same time, influence the promotion of job creation and sustainable economic growth.

**Enhancing Financing for Climate Action**

1. Encourage member states of the Organization of American States (OAS) and permanent observers to scale up the provision and mobilization of climate finance from a wide variety of sources, which aims to strengthen the capacities of developing countries which are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.
2. Support efforts of the OAS, through its Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI), to facilitate, engage with, and as appropriate, implement and execute regional climate action projects with multilateral financing entities, including inter alia the Global Environment Facility (GEF), Green Climate Fund (GCF) and Adaptation Fund (AF).
3. Request the General Secretariat to continue facilitating and advancing discussions on the Bridgetown Initiative 2.0 and other innovative solutions on climate finance among member states, permanent observers, regional organizations, multilateral development banks, and other international financial institutions.
4. Urge member states and permanent observers to continue working together to enhance the access to, availability, and effectiveness of climate finance inter alia through the development and adoption of innovative financing instruments for climate action, that could include debt-for-climate swaps, when tailored to countries needs and circumstances.
5. Encourage member states to work together, acknowledging the need for substantive progress in the deliberations on the new collective quantified goal on climate finance, which will be in line with decision 14/CMA.1, and take into account the needs and priorities of developing countries.
6. Urge member states and permanent observers to support the work of the Transitional Committee established at COP27, in developing recommendations on the operationalization of new funding arrangements, including a fund for assisting developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, in responding to loss and damage, recognizing the increasing urgency of enhancing efforts to avert, minimize and address economic and non-economic loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change.

**Towards a Hemispheric Approach on Climate Action**

1. Recognize the intrinsic relationship between sustainable development and democracy, gender equality, multidimensional security, human health, agriculture and food production, human rights, the fight against climate change, the eradication of poverty, and urge member states to adopt a hemispheric approach to climate action to achieve long-term sustainable development.
2. Further urge member states to support ambitious mitigation and adaptation actions in developing-country member states at the necessary speed and scale, while fostering a systemic hemispheric approach to climate change.
3. Continue to implement leaders’ commitments emanating from the Ninth Summit of the Americas and to elevate the priority and urgency of continued action by our Heads of State and Government to alleviate the negative effects of climate change on our hemisphere in advance of the Tenth Summit of the Americas.
4. Entrust the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI), through its Department of Sustainable Development (DSD), and in close coordination and collaboration with the member states, to identify and mobilize the financial and technical resources to support the effective implementation of the Declaration of Nassau and the Inter-American Climate Change Action Plan; expand and consolidate strategic alliances and initiatives to promote hemispheric cooperation and integration for sustainable development in the Americas; develop a mechanism through the Inter-American Committee on Sustainable Development (CIDS) for collaboration between member states, permanent observers, multilateral development banks, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, civil society; and encourage member states, permanent observers and other multilateral partners to support, via CooperaNet, development assistance that is responsive to specific, demand-driven national and regional capacity building needs regarding climate action through cooperation offers for solutions, best practices and exchange of knowledge.
5. Urge the member states to strengthen the position of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) as the preeminent forum in the Americas where all member states can gather to deliberate on the pressing issues of sustainable development and climate action and build collective approaches to common solutions grounded in the shared values of democracy, human rights, and security.
6. Actively engage in all relevant international climate change discussions and negotiations, highlighting the specific vulnerabilities of the Americas, especially of developing countries, and the need for financial, technical, and institutional support to enhance adaptation, resilience, and sustainable development.
7. Request the Secretary General of the Organization of American States to disseminate this Declaration to all member states, permanent observers, and relevant international organizations, and other relevant actors to proactively support its implementation, as needed and appropriate.
8. Thank the Government and people of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas for their warm and generous hospitality, their commitment, and their contribution to the success of the Fourth Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities on Sustainable Development.

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1. The Plurinational State of Bolivia maintains that the following operative paragraph should have been included: “Promote a hemispheric approach that strengthens the implementation of climate actions in the framework of compliance with the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and the commitments assumed by the member states through the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Paris Agreement, prioritizing the provision of financing, technology transfer, and capacity-building for the implementation of the member states’ Nationally Determined Contributions, in accordance with their national regulations and circumstances.” [↑](#footnote-ref-1)