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**INTER-AMERICAN CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN 2023-2030[[1]](#footnote-1)/**

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

subject to review by the Style Committee)

**I**. **Introduction**

The Inter-American Climate Change Action Plan is a strategic framework designed to address the pressing challenges posed by climate change in the Americas. It aims to promote sustainable development while mitigating greenhouse gas emissions, adapting to climate change impacts, and transitioning to a low-greenhouse gas, climate-resilient economy.

This Action Plan replaces the former Inter-American Program for Sustainable Development (PIDS 2016-2021). It responds to the changing regional context characterized by the climate crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic. It seeks to develop concrete and responsive measures to be coordinated by the Organization of American States (OAS) Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI) through its Department of Sustainable Development (DSD), working with national governments, international organizations, and other relevant stakeholders. The Action Plan proposes a comprehensive and integrated approach to sustainable development, promotes human rights, promotes environmental justice, protection and conservation in our communities, in accordance with national legislation, tackling the complex and interconnected challenges of climate change, under the “One-SEDI” approach. A “One-SEDI” approach draws on the diverse capabilities and resources of all the departments within the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development, to achieve the desired outcomes in collaboration with member states and other partners.

Aligned with the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, the Action Plan focuses on four key pillars: Accelerating Clean, Sustainable, Renewable and Just Energy Transitions in the Americas; Integrated Water Resources Management; Disaster Risk Management and Building Resilience; and Climate Change. It is hoped that by addressing these interconnected areas collaboratively, the Americas can advance toward achieving the attainment of the 2030 Agenda and its corresponding goals. The Inter-American Climate Change Action Plan serves as the Plan of Action for the Declaration of Nassau, adopted on October 4, 2023, and, in line with the objective of the UNFCCC and goals of the Paris Agreement, it serves to assist OAS member states in their efforts to address climate change and to achieve sustainable, equitable, and prosperous development, highlighting the importance of ambitious action on all pillars of the Paris Agreement taking into account the best available science.

As a hemispheric organization, the OAS is uniquely positioned to drive and facilitate broad international cooperation in support of member states to effectively address sustainable development and climate change. The main objectives of the Inter-American Climate Change Action Plan, are, as follows:

1. Strengthening cooperation for the benefit of the region: Actively promote collective action by enabling bilateral and multilateral cooperation through constructive dialogue, capacity building, targeted technical assistance, information and experience sharing, and strategic joint initiatives, in accordance with national policies.
2. Advancing sustainable development: Prioritize sustainability through a holistic approach that carefully considers the economic, social, and environmental dimensions of development.
3. Supporting adaptation to climate change and climate resilience: Bolster climate adaptation and resilience efforts by promoting development and strengthening of robust early warning systems, resilient health systems, sustainable agriculture, among others, and advocating for nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based approaches.
4. Accelerating the clean, sustainable, renewable energy transition: Promote our just transitions by supporting member states’ efforts to formulate policies and incentives that encourage investment in environmentally sound technologies, thus accelerating the shift toward low greenhouse gas economies, driving sustainable economic growth and contributing to the global fight against climate change.
5. Responding to the impacts of climate change: In view of the significant impact of climate change, including in various communities in the Americas, and the importance of averting, minimizing, and addressing loss and damage, especially for developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.
6. Strengthening multilateral climate efforts: Strengthen multilateralism and foster robust climate efforts at regional and national levels.
7. Promoting environmental education, access to information, citizen and community participation, as well as environmental justice, in accordance with the national legislation of each State, in actions on climate change: propel initiatives to raise awareness of the challenges and make visible the adverse effects of climate change and to promote climate action.
8. Promoting gender equality: Integrate gender-responsiveness in all objectives by addressing the disproportionate impacts of the effects of climate change on women and girls; and empowering women and girls as leaders in addressing climate change.
9. Enhancing the means of implementation for climate action: Strive to increase finance, technology development and transfer, and capacity-building for climate action, in particular in developing countries.

Given the scale and urgency of climate change, this Action Plan outlines concrete actions with a three-year timeframe and a longer-term horizon of 2030. This time frame enables the development, implementation, and evaluation of long-term strategies for low greenhouse gas emissions and climate resilient development. Such a plan aims to contribute to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions - economic, social, and environmental and addressing global challenges. It should promote sustainable, inclusive, and equitable climate action.

**II. Key Activities of the Action Plan**

1. **Accelerating clean, sustainable, renewable and just energy transitions in the Americas**

Clean, sustainable and renewable energy transitions play a pivotal role in development, driving socio-economic development. However, the reliance on unabated fossil fuel-based energy sources has been the primary driver of human-caused climate change through greenhouse gas emissions, and has led to significant environmental challenges, including air pollution. The Action Plan envisions prioritizing initiatives through the Energy Climate Partnership of the Americas (ECPA), through continued collaboration and cooperation among member states.

The following actions are therefore proposed for the energy pillar:

* Promote comprehensive planning and national policy frameworks that encompass incentives, including inter alia through the development of carbon markets under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, promoting comprehensive planning and national policy frameworks to accelerate the clean, sustainable, renewable, and just energy transition and sustainable industrial practices;
* Promote sustainable transport, e-mobility, sustainable fuels including low-carbon hydrogen and other technologies by proactively identifying and effectively addressing the barriers hindering their deployment;
* Facilitate technical assistance to member states and actively advocate for the adoption of best practices, aiming to significantly increase the share of clean, sustainable and renewable energy in the energy mix;
* Support member states in formulating and implementing national energy efficiency policies and programs, and adopting energy efficient technologies that are tailored to their unique needs and capacities, envisioning the opportunities for energy integration;
* Enhance technical cooperation and integration, in accordance with national legislation in the energy sector, to foster effective and harmonized approaches to energy governance;
* Facilitate collaboration among member states with the aim to drive innovative solutions across the Americas. Foster an environment conducive to dialogue to spur clean, sustainable and renewable energy sector initiatives; formulate and carry out new activities and programs to promote the widespread adoption of energy efficiency policies, and empower countries to meet their national energy ambitions, while addressing social and environmental national commitments they have made, also including the safety, reliability, and affordability of energy services;
* Encourage member states, in pursuing the actions proposed in this section, to promote just energy transitions in their societies in accordance with national legislation.

1. **Integrated Water Resources Management**

Water resources are essential for human dignity and development and for maintaining life and sustaining ecosystems. For that reason, they are crucial to the well-being of our respective populations. The Action Plan recognizes the fundamental role of the ocean and other bodies of water in achieving the sustainable development goals. The proposed actions are aimed at promoting the integrated and sustainable use and management of oceans, basins, water resources and other water masses in liquid and solid states, especially tropical glaciers in the Andes and high mountain water ecosystems, paying special attention to prioritizing the use and conservation of water resources and promoting access to clean drinking water and sanitation for all, while reducing the effects of climate change on these valuable resources, taking into account the special circumstances, needs, priorities and legislation of each State.

The following actions are proposed for the water pillar:

* Provide technical assistance to member states including the sharing of knowledge regarding adaptation, climate resilience and effective water management, aiding in the development and implementation of integrated water resource management plans tailored to the specific challenges and needs of each state;
* Prioritize and take concrete actions to support increased access to safe drinking water and improved and resilient sanitation facilities in underserved communities of each state, considering climate risks that take gender equality into consideration, and in partnership with local organizations and governments;
* Encourage member states to conduct water assessments integrating the climate variable and/or water-related climate change scenarios by identifying users, needs, drivers, and potential conflicts, to identify adaptation actions and promote equitable water allocation and usage across all sectors as appropriate;
* Promote bilateral and multilateral cooperation, including the development of joint frameworks and mechanisms for integrated water resources management in basins, consistent with national laws and policies and with international obligations, as appropriate;
* Support the formulation of national policies and the integrated management of water resources in basins, with the purpose of encouraging their sustainable use in the face of the effects of climate change and climate variability, in order to promote sustainable development, observe compliance with these policies and standards and provide guidance in areas requiring improvement, where appropriate.

1. **Disaster Risk Management and Building Resilience**

The increasing velocity, frequency and urgency of disasters continues to threaten the sustainable development of the region and therefore requires comprehensive strategies and intervention models that address disaster risk management at multiple levels. Emphasizing the importance of building resilient and sustainable communities, this Action Plan embraces policies aimed at building resilient communities that can withstand disasters. Through collective efforts, the Americas can forge a path toward a more resilient and sustainable future.

The following actions are proposed for the disaster risk management and building resilience pillar:

* Enhance national and local capacities for resilience by incorporating nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches implementing Multi-Hazard Risk management strategies;
* Foster regional cooperation and knowledge-sharing on national disaster risk management planning and policies, emphasizing aspects such as human rights, justice, infrastructure, and gender issues;
* Explore the need to establish a collaborative initiative focused on science for decision-making, disaster risk management, and building resilience, comprised of dialogues, protocols, and frameworks to help member states improve responses to natural phenomena;
* Provide technical assistance to member states on strategies for disaster risk reduction and disaster recovery capabilities from natural hazards;
* Explore the need and utility of developing a resilient database repository, including confirmation of relevant, existing databases and repositories from regional risk management agencies. Provide guidance to member states in strengthening building codes and standards, implementing evidence-based policies, and improving communication of climate impacts. Partner with academia and centers of excellence to support data analysis and provide regional context for policymakers.

1. **Climate Change: Addressing Climate Change in the Americas**

The Action Plan highlights the importance of taking concrete actions to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change. The Plan emphasizes the need for a coordinated, multi-stakeholder approach that involves all segments of society.

The following actions are proposed for the climate change pillar:

* Prepare for the consideration of member states and upon approval of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development, a proposal for the establishment of a Regional Hub on Climate Finance to provide technical assistance to developing member states. The Hub will focus on capacity development for climate finance, assisting states in devising effective financing strategies, and supporting the design of bankable projects to leverage and attract funding from multiple sources;
* 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);
* Support the Climate Smart Skills Training Programme by adopting methodologies from the OAS Scholarships and Training Programs and the Youth Academy for Science and Technology. This approach will provide capacity-building opportunities and training in climate-smart skills, covering areas like agriculture, efficient water use, aquaculture, clean energy, climate data science, construction, and land use;
* Promote understanding of the Circular Economy (CE) concepts as one of the means available, among others, to promote sustainable consumption and production patterns in the region by working towards the adoption of CE approaches among member states;
* Support the exchange of knowledge among member states on resource mobilization and access, with special emphasis on strategies to reduce the cost of financing;
* Foster regional dialogue to understand the scope and impact of the Sargassum problem among member states to explore the need for substantive information exchange. Facilitate access to technical and financial resources, aiding affected countries develop and implement effective Sargassum mitigation strategies.

**III. Inter-American Climate Change Action Plan Financial Strategy**

The financial strategy aims to identify potential funding sources, prioritize actions, develop project proposals, build partnerships with potential sources of finance, including bilateral aid agencies and development banks, and promote effective implementation of the Action Plan, in line with the relevant multilateral agreements and in coordination with national initiatives.

The financial strategy to implement the Inter-American Climate Change Action Plan is as follows:

1. Identify potential funding sources:

* Conduct a thorough review of potential funding sources and instruments, from national and international organizations.
* Assess the eligibility criteria, application process, and timelines for each funding source and their appropriateness for potentially supporting the Inter-American Climate Change Action Plan.

2. Prioritize actions:

* Conduct an assessment of the most critical actions, including identifying the associated costs to be taken to achieve the goals of the Inter-American Climate Change Action Plan.
* Prioritize actions based on their potential impact on climate change mitigation and adaptation, as well as their alignment with the priorities of the OAS member states.
* Develop a clear plan for how each action will be funded and implemented, taking into account debt sustainability, including timelines, budgets, and performance indicators.

3. Develop project proposals:

* Based on the prioritized actions, develop a project proposal that outlines the objectives, scope, and expected outcomes of the project.
* The proposal should include a detailed budget, a timeline for implementation, gender responsive evaluations, and a plan for monitoring and evaluation (including ex-post evaluations) of the project's progress.

4. Build partnerships:

* Reach out to relevant potential sources of financing including bilateral aid agencies, development banks, and other organizations to build partnerships for the implementation of the Inter-American Climate Change Action Plan.
* Collaborate with partners to leverage resources and expertise in support of the Inter-American Climate Change Action Plan.
* Collaborate with development banks to identify potential funding sources and opportunities for technical assistance and capacity building.

**IV. Conclusion**

Recognizing the urgency of an integrated approach to tackle the effects of climate change and promote sustainable development in its three dimensions - social, economic and environmental - in a balanced and integrated manner and build resilience and reduce climate risks in the Americas, this Inter-American Climate Change Action Plan requires the support of all member states for effective and timely implementation. Member states will continue to rely on the OAS Secretariat to provide the requisite technical assistance essential for their own sustainable development.

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1. The Plurinational State of Bolivia places a reservation on the implementation of the Inter-American Climate Change Action Plan 2023-2030. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)