



Sistema Económico
Latinoamericano y del Caribe

Latin American and Caribbean
Economic System

Sistema Econômico
Latino-Americano e do Caribe

Système Economique
Latinoaméricain et Caraïbéen

Project INT/03/K14/A/95/99 “Strengthening South-South Cooperation: Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean for economic and social integration”

Perez-Guerrero Trust Fund (PGTF)

***Final Report (Execution and Financing)
Rescheduled 2007***

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INT/03/K14/A/95/99**

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**FINAL REPORT (EXECUTION AND FINANCING)
OF PROJECT INT/03/K14/A/95/99 "STRENGTHENING SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION:
AFRICA, ASIA AND LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN
FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL INTEGRATION"**

In the following pages, the Permanent Secretariat of SELA submits the compliance report on the two activities encompassed within the framework of the project for Strengthening South-South Cooperation: Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean, sponsored by the Perez-Guerrero Trust Fund (PGTF). The rescheduling of this project was approved during the last Meeting of the Committee of Experts and was subsequently ratified during the Meeting of Ministers of the G-77.

This final document is made up of the Execution report of both initiatives and also contains the pertinent Financial Report as at 30 October 2007.

As a result of the approval for rescheduling the Project, the following activities were carried out: the **XVIII Meeting of International Cooperation Directors for Latin American and the Caribbean** and the second **Updating Workshop for Focal Points in charge of International Cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa and Asia**. The African and Asian Member countries of the Group of 77 were invited to participate in both events.

I. RESOURCES ASSIGNED TO THE PEREZ-GUERRERO TRUST FUND (PGTF)

The total contribution approved by the PGTF for the Project INT/03/K14/A/95/99 was US\$ 40,000.00. Hence, the Permanent Secretariat of SELA received two partial disbursements.

The first disbursement was credited in June 2003 for the amount of US\$ 18,000.00 and the second one in August 2007, for the same amount.

SELA requested the approval for rescheduling the project and using the balance of this amount for those activities in 2006. This petition was accepted.¹

The total amount of the resources to be charged against the PGTF to execute the rescheduling of the project INT/03/K14/A/95/99 will be estimated at US\$ 31,142.72, and amount which can be broken down as follows: US\$ 9,142.72 from the balance as at December 2005, plus US\$ 18,000.00 from the second tranche that was approved and the US\$ 4,000.00 of the 10% reserved for that purpose by the UNDP.

For accounting purposes, the enclosed Financial Report only lists the resources that have been actually received by SELA, corresponding to the second disbursement (August 2007) plus the balance (December 2005) for the total amount of US\$ 27,142.72.

It is worth noting that the US\$ 4,000.00 (10% reserve) are not included in this compliance report due to the fact that they are still in the UNDP accounts in Venezuela.

¹ Approved during the Meeting of the Committee of Experts held in New York on 31 July - 13 August 2006 and the Annual Meeting of Ministers of the Group of 77 held on 22 September 2006. Notice was given to SELA by means of communication No. L-137/2006, dated 26 September 2006.

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In this rescheduling stage, the resources contributed by the PGTF, as well as those derived from the budget of SELA, were reallocated to the items and amounts that were required for the XVIII Meeting of Directors and for the second Updating Workshop.

These items also cover air tickets, airport taxes, terminal expenses and transportation, hotel accommodations and per diem of the participants from Africa and Asia, together with expenses incurred upon for simultaneous interpretation, translation, audiovisual equipment and document publishing, as well as other communication expenses (telephone, mail and courier), procurement of the necessary inputs for effectively executing the two activities of project INT/03/K14/A/95/99 and printing the support materials that are required for disseminating information about both events.

Special mention should be made of the fact that the Financial Report that supplements this compliance report contains detailed information on the actions of the above mentioned project that have been financed with funds from the PGTF. These expenses are backed by their corresponding administrative support documents.

SELA also contributed the resources charged to its regular budget for the two (2) meeting rooms and the physical spaces for the technicians and support staff who were directly involved in the project. Likewise, SELA assigned secretarial staff, assistants and technicians, as well as the staff of professionals of the Permanent Secretariat who were in charge of preparing the regional meeting and the workshop.

Furthermore, both in the XVIII Meeting of Directors and in the second Updating Workshop offers were made for sponsorship, consultants and publications by the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) of the United Nations, by the European Commission Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO), by the Program for the Prevention of Disasters of the World Health Organization/Pan American Health Organization (WHO/PAHO), by the Office for Risk Reduction of Natural Disasters of the Organization of American States (OAS); by the Project Management Unit of the Program Planning and Operations Division of ECLAC; by the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation of the United Nations Development Program (SU-SSC-UNDP), by the Association of Caribbean States (ACS) and by the National Division for Civil Protection and Disaster Management of the People's Ministry for Domestic Affairs and Justice of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

Similarly, the experts of the Latin American School for Cooperation and Development (ELACID), of the Spanish International Cooperation Agency (ACSI) and of the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) trained those responsible for international cooperation during the Updating Workshop.

It is worth acknowledging the effective support of the international cooperation government agencies and bureaus of the Member States of SELA, besides that of the subregional entities that are responsible for disaster mitigation and civil protection, specifically those of Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa and Asia. In fact, despite the tsunamis and storms that ravaged those regions during the days when those two activities were held in SELA, they were able to participate.

II. PROJECT PROGRESS AND RESULTS

Upon implementing the project for Strengthening South-South Cooperation: Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean and in agreement with the objectives proposed, the process for analyzing the issue of international cooperation for ensuring the development of the region was enhanced.

By means of both initiatives, SELA strengthened its role as regional focal point that fosters international cooperation, preferably among developing countries. In this respect, the organization will continue to be an exceptional forum for regional consultation and coordination on the subject.

These activities also encouraged the exchange of experiences and information on South-South Cooperation opportunities among the participating countries of Latin America and the Caribbean and the African and Asian nations that attended. Similarly, they were supported by the updating and training of the international cooperation experts from the Member States of SELA.

Analysis and reflection on the different prospects for international cooperation and development were also encouraged during both the annual meeting of international cooperation directors for LAC and the updating workshop. Both meetings also fostered links with multilateral organizations and development cooperation agencies along with the criteria and procedures that determine the allotment of international cooperation resources. They also addressed the new players in the field of international cooperation, their trends and scopes of action and participation, as well as the priority projects that should be undertaken in our region.

As an added product to the indispensable identification of national focal points for international cooperation, the Permanent Secretariat of SELA updated the databases of the addresses and agencies responsible for the management thereof. A similar effort was conducted on the information on Africa and Asia and on the specialized disaster relief agencies.

The process of dissemination of publications, written documents, interventions, final reports and results – as is usual at SELA – complied with the previous and final deadlines established, both for the XVIII Meeting of Directors, and for the second Updating Workshop.

In order to contribute to the deliberations of the XVIII Meeting of International Cooperation Directors, the Permanent Secretariat of SELA drafted the document "Evolution of international cooperation and regional institutional framework for disaster prevention and assistance" (SP/XVIII.RDCIALC/DI N° 1- 07), which was sent by mail to the Member States with copy to the embassies accredited to the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and was later distributed at the regional meeting. It was also published on SELA's Web portal together with the 21 support informative documents which were contributed by the various participating regional and international delegations and agencies.

The Conclusions and Recommendations of the XVIII Meeting of International Cooperation Directors and the Updating Workshop were reviewed and harmonized into a preliminary version sent to the Member States of SELA for suggestions and approval. Having included the pertinent remarks, the final reports on the Regional Meeting (SP/XVIII.RDCIALC/IF-07)

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and the Workshop (SP/TAPENCIALC/IF-07), approved by the Member States on 19 October 2007, were sent out and also posted on <http://www.sela.org>

Some of the suggestions and recommendations contained in these reports were included in the Draft Work Programme for 2008 which shall be submitted for approval at the Latin American Council that will take place in November 2007.

The details on the rescheduled activities of project INT/03/K14/A/95/99 are stated below:

Activity 1: XVIII Meeting of International Cooperation Directors for Latin America and the Caribbean, with participation of Africa and Asia.

On 17 and 18 of September, 2007 the Permanent Secretariat of SELA held this meeting of International Cooperation Directors for Latin America and the Caribbean in Caracas. It was initially scheduled to take place in the Republic of Guatemala.

The core issue of this regional meeting was geared towards the analysis of "Cooperation for countries with a high degree of vulnerability to natural disasters" as had been agreed upon and approved by the previous Latin American Council. The final version of the Provisional Agenda of the Meeting (SP/XVIII.RDCIALC/DT N° 1-07) is attached hereto.

Transport and hotel accommodations expenses (per diem) in Caracas were financed with the resources of project INT/03/K14/A/95/99 for the Administrator of the Civil Defence Office (ODC) and Executive Officer of the National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC) of the Philippines, Glenn J. Rabonza, and the representatives of the Republic of Mozambique, Higinio Atanásio Longamane, National Director of Planning and Institutional Development; and Amâncio Lucio Nhantumbo, Province Delegate of the National Disaster Management Institute.

The XVIII Meeting of International Cooperation Directors was attended by Ambassador Floria Caricote Lovera, Permanent Secretary of SELA; the Chairman of the Bureau of the Latin American Council and Ambassador of the Eastern Republic of Uruguay in Venezuela, Mr. Gerónimo Cardozo; and Mr. Jorge Calvo Drago, Chairman of the Meeting and Deputy Secretary for Territorial Policies of the Ministry of General Planning of the Presidency of the Republic of Guatemala (SEGEPLAN).

Besides the participants of the Member States of SELA and of the extra-regional countries that had been invited, representatives of regional and international organizations accredited to Venezuela also attended the opening session, including the OAS, CAF, IDB, IICA, IOM, UNDP and PAHO/WHO, as well as some TV, radio and written press media representatives.

Specialists from the following international agencies participated: Sálvano Briceño, Director, International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) of the United Nations, who focused on the general trends in the reduction of disaster risks and their connection to the ISDR Secretariat; Sergio Lacambra, in charge of the European Commission Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO), who presented the perspective of European donors and reiterated that the reduction of disasters is the responsibility of all and is an investment rather than an expense. He mentioned the possibility of expanding the DIPECHO programme towards the member countries of MERCOSUR and Chile; Jean-Luc Poncelet, Director of the Disaster Prevention Program of the World Health Organization/Pan American Health Organization (WHO/PAHO), for whom the reduction of risks has ceased to be limited to a health problem and on the contrary involves all the sectors; Luis Carpio, the Director of

Transportation and Natural Disasters of the Association of Caribbean States (ACS), who was the moderator of Session II; Pablo González, the head of Risk Reduction of Natural Hazards of the Organization of American States(OAS), who presented the objectives, approach and scope of the Natural Hazards Reduction Program (DDS-RRPN) and the Inter-American Disaster Mitigation Network (IADMN); Rudolf Buitelaar, the head of the Project management unit of the Programs and Operations Planning Division of ECLAC, who focused on disaster trends per type of event and the impact thereof on the economic and social growth of Latin America and the Caribbean and also addressed the methodology applied by ECLAC to calculate the economic and social cost of disasters and Mr. Francisco Simplicio, Head of the Department of Knowledge and the Operations Program of the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation of the United Nations Development Program (SU-SSC-UNDP), who highlighted the role of South-South Cooperation in the management of disasters and the valuable experience accumulated in this area in developing countries. He also indicated that bilateral and multilateral development agencies must continue to include the disaster risk reduction variable in their technical and financial cooperation programs and projects.

The President Elect for 2008 of the Ibero-American Association of Defence and Civil Protection Government Entities, Brigadier General (Army) Antonio Rivero, National Civil Protection and Disaster Management Director of the People's Ministry for Domestic Affairs and Justice of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, made an intervention. Brigadier General (army) Rivero stressed the importance of favouring protection of the population over goods and the need to continue fostering cooperation from the perspective of solidarity and complementation.

In the case of the subregional agencies specialized in disasters, only Ms. Leticia Álvarez, the Director of Cooperation and Projects of the Centre for the Prevention of Natural Disasters in Central America (CEPRENAC) intervened, since due to reasons of force majeure, the Coordinator of the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA) and the Pro Tempore Chairperson of the Andean Committee for Disaster Prevention and Attention (CAPRADE), Luz Amanda Pulido, the Director of Disaster Prevention and Attention de Disasters (E) of the Ministry of Domestic Affairs and Justice of the Republic of Colombia, were not present. However, their interventions were distributed and posted on SELA's Web page.

Mr. Hugo Hernández Ramírez, the Executive Secretary of the National Disaster Reduction Coordinating Office of Guatemala (CONRED), coincided as to the need to include the issue of risk management in development programs and projects, enhance regional and municipal coordination, improve disaster management information systems and update the existing laws, whereas Mr. Rafael Bonilla Cáceres, the International Technical Cooperation Director of the National Civil Protection System of Panama, summarized the mission, goals and activities carried out in his country, in particular regarding the initiatives on action manuals and protocols in case of disasters in schools.

In turn, Mr. Glenn Rabonza, the Administrator of the Civil Defence Office (CDO) and the Executive Officer of the National Disaster Coordination Council (NDCC) of the Philippines, gave a general vision on disaster risks in the Philippines, as well as the disaster management system, its legal bases, the NDCC's disaster preparedness plan and future action plans on this subject.

The presentation by the Republic of Mozambique was delivered by Mr. Higinio Atanasio Longamane, National Director for Institutional Planning and Development, accompanied by Mr. Amâncio Lucio Nhantumbo, the province delegate of the National Disaster

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Management Institute of the Ministry for State Administration. Both referred to their country's more relevant vulnerabilities and experience in the past 10 years, as well as the structure of the disaster management system in Mozambique.

The approaches contained in those presentations highlighted the importance of risk reduction within the framework of Central American, Andean and Caribbean integration schemes. They also reflect the advances made in complying with the mandates received on the adaptation of national rules, the reduction of vulnerabilities in the various subregions, due to the current conviction and awareness on the impact these disasters have on the development of this part of the world.

In general, the various interventions on the topic of "Cooperation for countries with a high degree of vulnerability to natural disasters" emphasized the importance of disaster risk reduction for the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

An example in this respect were the presentations by the participants of the Member States of SELA, such as Ambassador Norah Salvarte, Consultant Director for International Cooperation of the Peruvian International Cooperation Agency (APCI) attached to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Peru, who underscored the solidarity and the role of international cooperation and humanitarian aid offered by the Latin American and Caribbean countries; Ms. Nancy López Quevedo, General Director of International Technical Cooperation of the People's Ministry for Planning and Development of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, who focused on the cooperation projects and the experience of Venezuela in the subject of disaster prevention, as well as on the main agreements and activities enacted throughout the country; Jorge Alvarado Rivas, the Ad Interim Business Attaché of the Embassy of Bolivia in Venezuela, who referred to the socio-economic and demographic indicators of the Andean Community (CAN), the structure, mandates and the Andean Strategy for Disaster Prevention and Attention (EAPAD) 2004-2015 of CAPRADE, emphasizing the significance of the Andean institutional scheme and the notions of solidarity and supplementary efforts aimed at cooperation in case of disasters, and the Head of Project Analysis of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development of Barbados, Mr. Fabian Griffin who presented the socio-economic data for his country, together with the main vulnerabilities and policies that must be adopted in order to reduce them.

The XVIII Meeting of International Cooperation Directors was attended by representatives of the focal points in charge of cooperation and the national civil protection agencies of Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Haiti, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Dominican Republic, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay and Venezuela, as well as the representatives of the following extra-regional countries: Algeria, the Philippines, Indonesia, Kuwait and Mozambique.

This XVIII Meeting of International Cooperation Directors fulfilled the main objective of the activity both as related to fostering a forum where the focal points of international cooperation may exchange ideas and experiences on the different priorities of a shared thematic agenda. Thus, it had an effect on the development of the institutional scheme for international cooperation between the LAC countries.

In turn, the XVIII Meeting of International Cooperation Directors helped encourage a productive dialogue and synergies among between the international cooperation focal points of the region and those of Africa and Asia. This regional meeting enabled the participants to identify areas and issues of common interest that would be open to

coordination and to the adoption of joint positions for effectively addressing the mandates as may be required in the field of international cooperation.

Although there is awareness of these common areas and subject matters, the challenge of harmonizing a shared agenda as part of the process for identifying and building development from the perspective of Latin America and the Caribbean still prevails. This challenge must address the priorities of the different governments and take into account the socio-political criteria and perspectives of the different countries, especially as related to issues bearing on social aspects, preserving the environment and a sustainable economic growth.

Emphasis was made during the sessions of the fact that natural phenomena mostly affect poor countries that have less opportunities and resources for prevention efforts. There is no doubt that economic difficulties – most specifically, poverty – are further worsened by the consequences brought about by disasters. From an economic point of view, there is growing evidence that disasters are unpredictable events that entail considerable investments and disbursements that had not been foreseen in the national budgets. Hence, they take away the funds that are required for the development of the Latin American and Caribbean countries, specially the smaller economies.

In short, the different factors that shape the complex dynamics of poverty and inequity coupled to vulnerability in cases of disasters are a volatile combination when a disaster occurs, thus leading to considerable losses in terms property and lives, which in turn ruins the achievements and efforts of many years of hard work and private investment.

The trends pointing at the relative increase in the number of threats, mostly the growingly stronger social and urban vulnerability facing disasters, as well as the increase in the frequency, intensity and diversification towards new geographic areas of natural phenomena, favour the compliance with Hyogo Framework for Action and the follow up of the initiative of the Global Platform, among other actions.

Recommendations were also issued to address the series of problems that revolve around risk reduction from the perspective of a multi-sectorial vision where the threat is made up of multiple factors. Participants also recognized the need to continue improving and sharing methodologies, criteria, indicators and procedures that the regional and international institutions are pursuing and developing in order to generate better models for quantifying and assessing economic the social cost of disasters.

Within this framework, it was absolutely necessary to make an in-depth assessment of the causes that lead to those disasters, along with the impact that have on the degradation of the environment, generated by the different models of economic and social development that are applied in Latin America and the Caribbean. This implies a multidimensional analysis of the issue which also takes into account the causes. In keeping with this approach, it is necessary to modify the patterns of international cooperation so that it favours inclusion and participation, while aiming its efforts at the areas that have the strongest social impact.

It was emphasized the disaster risk reduction is growingly a more global problem that involves all the sectors. Hence, international cooperation must play a key role. In this respect, the need to continue with the efforts for raising awareness in the population on the importance of reducing the risks of disasters was also highlighted.

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Participants of the XVIII Regional Meeting of International Cooperation Directors acknowledged the progress made in the field of the institutional and financial strengthening of the Latin American and Caribbean agencies that are specialized in disaster risk reduction. This is specifically the case of CDERA, CEPREDENAC and CAPRADE. They also reaffirmed the advisability of fostering similar mechanisms within the framework of MERCOSUR, ALBA and UNASUR.

After an exchange of ideas and the pertinent analysis, the document that contains the enclosed Conclusions and Recommendations (SP/XVIII.RDCIALC/CR-07) was approved. This document stresses that the Permanent Secretariat of SELA could open a forum for those regional and subregional instances that make up the group of regional institutions that work on the reduction of the risk of disasters, so that they can exchange ideas and experiences so as to work for their progressive convergence. Similarly, it urges the Permanent Secretariat to continue including the countries of Asia and Africa in the activities aimed at ensuring international cooperation and South-South Cooperation initiatives implemented by the organization.

Activity 2: Updating Workshop for Focal Points in charge of international cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean, with Africa and Asia

This second Updating Workshop was held on 19 and 20 September 2007, counting on the participation of those officials who are locally responsible for international cooperation, as well as other government officials that coordinate these issues and that are related to other sectors.

The organizers of this Updating Workshop also counted on the resources of the INT/03/K14/A/95/99 project, specifically as related to expenses for covering the airplane tickets from their countries of origin of the Administrator of the Office of Civil Defence (OCD) and Official Executive of the National Disaster Coordination Council (NDCC) of the Philippines – Glenn J. Rabonza – as well as the representatives of the Republic of Mozambique: Higinio Atanásio Longamane, National Director of Planning and Institutional Development and Amâncio Lucio Nhantumbo, Provincial Delegate of the National Institute for Disaster Management. They also covered their hotel accommodations (per diem), terminal expenses and transportation from the airport to Caracas.

Furthermore, the resources of the project were also used for paying the simultaneous interpretation and translation services for the Workshop.

Likewise, other contributions were received. They were offered by the Latin American School for Cooperation and Development (ELACID), the International Cooperation Agency of Spain (ACSI), as well as the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) that trained the participants with the help of their experts. The workshop also counted on the professional support of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

Representatives from the following Member States of SELA participated in the workshop: Barbados, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Haiti, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, and Venezuela. Representatives of extra-regional countries also attended the workshop, namely: the Philippines, Indonesia and Mozambique.

On this occasion, the Updating Workshop was aimed at promoting closer relations between the national focal points of international cooperation of the Member States of SELA, as well as at supporting their technical and professional strengthening and fostering activities and actions that encourage the development of South-South Cooperation, with the purpose of enhancing and optimizing their management capabilities.

Countries from Africa and Asia – members of the Group of 77 – were invited to participate in an attempt to foster the exchange of information and the generation of synergies, derived from the proactive participation of the different focal points.

The first session revolved around "Cooperation towards Latin America and the Caribbean: relevant topics and selected initiatives: ACSI and JICA".

The Project Director of the AECI-OTC for Venezuela, Renny Fajardo, focused on the guidelines related to the current stage of Spanish cooperation, which implies strengthening quality and increasing the scope of the aid. Mr. Fajardo referred to the strategic framework of AECI activities the contents of which are reflected in the II Guiding Plan 2005-2008. Likewise, he set forth the sectoral and geographic priorities of the AECI, as well as the different types and instruments of Spanish cooperation.

The Resident Representative of JICA in Venezuela – Umeo Koganemaru – mentioned that international cooperation was highly significant, especially South-South Cooperation. Furthermore, he informed that Japan is willing to continue supporting cooperation actions in both Latin America and the Caribbean. On the other hand, the JICA expert in Venezuela – Ryuji Seno – emphasized the mission and the objectives of that cooperation agency, as well as the human safety perspective, which is the premise on which Japanese cooperation is currently based. He also referred to the aid pillars in South America and the different technical cooperation modalities offered by JICA. Finally, he presented several examples of cooperation efforts in the region and, specially, those related to cooperation in cases of disasters and South-South Cooperation.

During the subsequent exchange of ideas, the following topics were addressed: the eligibility and conditionalities for Official Development Assistance as set forth by some donors and that the recipients have to comply with in order to have access to international cooperation.

The session on the "Needs and Challenges of Cooperation from the perspective of those responsible for international cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean. Extra-regional experiences: Africa and Asia" was chaired by the Director of ELACID – Jairo Agudelo. Agudelo set forth the general aspects related to this issue and referred to the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats that are evidenced in the field of international cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean. Likewise, he made a presentation about the general trends in international cooperation for development that included the academic approach. During the introduction, mention was made of the most recent changes that have been evidenced in the way of perceiving cooperation for development when compared to the initial stages of these efforts. He also referred to the vision and historical evolution of the concepts of development and cooperation. This set forth the context of the problems that are addressed with respect to the type of cooperation and the characteristics of the development that the region requires. He also emphasized the political nature of international cooperation and the need of resorting to more adequate eligibility criteria that are more in tune with the current situation evidenced in the countries and their cooperation needs.

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During this discussion session, participants addressed the following topics: i) the conditional nature of ODA, South-South Cooperation and triangular cooperation; ii) the dilemma regarding the transfer of powers to the international community and its impact on sovereignty; iii) the concepts related to solidarity and the complementary nature of international cooperation, as well as the significance of effectiveness, efficiency and coordination of the ODA; iv) the humanist quality of cooperation and the need to ensure that it has a higher degree of social content; v) the shared responsibility of the players involved in international cooperation; vi) strengthening the capacity of the negotiators of international cooperation; vii) the need to improve mechanisms for exchanging information and, above all, the exchange of supply and demand for cooperation among the LAC countries; viii) the limitations faced by most of the countries in the region when trying to access the ODA because they are classified as countries with an average income; ix) the lack of consistency evidenced in the indicators for selecting aid (the potential of the Human Development Index is not used); x) the trend pointing at bilateralism in cooperation; xi) cooperation as an instrument for strengthening national and regional institution; xii) the professionalization of cooperation; and xiii) other issues.

Rudolf Buitelaar, Head of the Project Management Unit of ECLAC, submitted a summary of the ideas and statements that were posed during this debate and also summarized the main strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of international cooperation in the region. The summary is available on the following Web page: (http://www.sela.org/sela/puntos_focales_e.asp).

SELA, in its capacity as regional focal point for international cooperation, compiled the Conclusions and Recommendations that had been debated as well as those that were the result of a consensus in a document that is enclosed. The most salient ones were as follows:

- The need to strengthen an auto critical thought when addressing international cooperation from a perspective based on solidarity, complementary efforts and integration in Latin America and the Caribbean, specially emphasizing social aspects.
- The concern for the frequent cases of international cooperation being submitted to political and economic conditions, thus affecting efficiency and access to cooperation funds in the case of developing countries.
- The importance of both encouraging and strengthening South-South cooperation and triangulated cooperation as a means for ensuring a successful international cooperation for the region where bilateral donors participate together with the countries of the region.
- The preponderance of bilateral cooperation (70% of the total current flows of international cooperation) over multilateral cooperation (30%), together with the recent changes evidenced in this cooperation aimed at ensuring support of the regional and subregional integration processes.
- The importance of ensuring the continuous evolution and progress in the change approach to intra-regional cooperation, so as to enable a wider use of the potentials and strengths of the intra-Latin American and Caribbean cooperation.

Among the several needs evidenced in the field of international cooperation, special mention must be made of the following: shared strategic frameworks; coordinating cooperation in the receiving and donor countries and between both groups; a higher degree of inter-institutional coordination in the countries of the region; greater efficiency

and effectiveness in the field of international cooperation; favouring the principles of transparency and regulation in accordance with national priorities for development; problems related to technical negotiation capabilities in the area of international cooperation; defining development indicators and instruments for measuring both the quality and the efficacy of cooperation; new criteria for allotting international cooperation funds in tune with the economic and social realities of the countries and in the field of international cooperation and improving the exchange of information on the opportunities for intra-regional cooperation based on the supply and demand for cooperation in each country.

Participants in the Workshop agreed that the current challenges faced by the region in the area of international cooperation, are, among others, the following: the conditions set forth by the donors before allotting resources and in order to have access to international cooperation, besides the implications that this has on national sovereignty; the political inequality that prevails in international economic negotiations; the relative weakening of the regional Institutional scheme, which would affect the negotiating and management capacity of international cooperation; the limitations as related to Institutional capacity faced by the countries that have a relatively smaller size as related to international cooperation; and, including the elements and issues related to international migration – including intra-Latin American and Caribbean migration – in the agenda of cooperation for the development of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Participants agreed that it is absolutely necessary to strengthen the role played by SELA as a regional focal point in charge of international cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean. To this end, the Permanent Secretariat must continue carrying out all the annual activities that are pertinent for updating and training its experts, counting on the support of the remaining subregional and regional entities.

Likewise, SELA must continue fostering the systematization of those issues that are considered to be priorities by the cooperation instances and agencies of the region and that are identified as elements of common interest. Among them, mention can be made of the following: strengthening the negotiating capacity is relevant. The process for negotiating the strategies for international cooperation must also include the social players with inclusive and participative criteria.

Within this same context, the countries that are part of innovating integration initiatives as is the case of UNASUR, ALBA and CSME acknowledge these experiences as an efficient modality for fostering regional cooperation based on solidarity, complementary efforts and the search for social inclusion.

The recommendation to continue supporting South-South Cooperation and, specifically, including in this type of activities the main players in the field of cooperation in the case of Asia and Africa was highly emphasized.

The expectations as to the results of this second Updating Workshop were widely met. This is specifically the case of those related to the exchange of regional experiences and perspectives. As a result of this, the participants recommended SELA to implement and set up "pilot" instruments and mechanisms for enhancing this interaction and the exchange of intra-regional cooperation opportunities.

The participants identified new tasks and assignments that must be addressed in the near future. Among these significant challenges, mention was made of designing a strategic consensus plan based on an in-depth reflection on the series of common problems

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evidenced in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa and Asia – as is the case of poverty, social equity, the preservation of the environment, economic growth and their relation with integration, together with the process for building a sustained and sustainable development that includes the whole of the population.

A N N E X E S

**XVIII Meeting of International Cooperation
Directors for Latin America and the Caribbean,
with participation of Africa and Asia**



Sistema Económico
Latinoamericano y del Caribe

Latin American and Caribbean
Economic System

Sistema Económico
Latino-Americano e do Caribe

Système Economique
Latinoaméricain et Caribéen

Conclusions and Recommendations

*XVIII Meeting of International Cooperation Directors of Latin American and the Caribbean
Caracas, Venezuela
17 and 18 September 2007
SP/XVIII.RDCIALC/CR-07*

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CONCLUSIONS

General aspects

1. Participants in the meeting stressed that not all natural phenomena are potentially destructive; rather, poverty conditions and environmental degradation are the factors that increase both vulnerability and disasters risks.
2. The meeting stated that disasters tend to become more intense and frequent. In addition, natural phenomena are occurring in new human settlements and have a greater impact on developing countries and communities with scarce economic resources, which are most vulnerable ones. Therefore, a suggestion was made to continue and strengthen the efforts underway aimed at preparing those communities to face such situations.
3. In their presentations, participants underscored that disasters have a negative effect on the prospects for economic and social development of Latin American and Caribbean countries.
4. The delegates pointed out that it is important to keep observance of the commitments assumed in the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, held from 18 to 22 January 2005 in Kobe, Hyogo, particularly those contained in the "Hyogo Declaration" and the "Hyogo Framework of Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters".

Cooperation

5. During the debates, participants underscored that bilateral and multilateral cooperation development agencies should continue to promote the issue of disaster risk reduction, and therefore give priority, among other things, to the allocation of technical and financial resources for projects and programmes in this area. In this regard, delegates stressed that duplication of efforts and deviation of resources must be avoided.
6. Participants agreed that continued support must be given to the coordination and cooperation actions undertaken by the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) as well as the implementation of programmes in accordance with the legislations of each country in this area, while ensuring the participation of all national actors.
7. Participants stressed that the exchange of experiences with the countries of Africa and Asia must be strengthened.
8. The meeting took note with satisfaction of the mechanisms and actions for solidarity developed by Latin American and Caribbean countries as regards emergency assistance.

Prevention

9. Participants stressed that the main objective of disaster risk reduction is to safeguard the lives of people and to protect the environment.
10. They underscored that disaster risk reduction is not an exclusive task of governments, but rather a responsibility that must be shared by all the social actors involved. In doing so, the communities must play a key role in order to minimize the

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impact of disasters on the economic and social development and on the environment. They also said that it is necessary to take into consideration the gender perspective in all the plans and actions related to disaster risk reduction.

11. In their debates, participants said that the impacts of natural disasters provoke major changes in the environment, and communities need time and knowledge to adapt themselves to such changes. For this reason, it is important to build action capacity for communities to face disasters.

12. The meeting made special emphasis on the importance of disaster risk reduction in the areas of health and education, and consequently, on the need to build schools and hospitals with safe structures.

Policies

13. Participants indicated that efforts must continue in order to increase awareness of communities on the importance of disaster risk reduction.

14. The Member States recognized the progress made towards the institutional and financial strengthening of Latin American and Caribbean agencies specialized in disaster risk reduction – particularly the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA), the Coordination Center for the Prevention of Natural Disasters in Central America (CEPRENAC), and the Andean Committee for Disaster Prevention and Assistance (CAPRADE). They also said it is convenient to promote any mechanisms that might be created within the frameworks of MERCOSUR, ALBA and UNASUR by their Member States.

15. Participants recognized that it is necessary to continue to improve and share the methodologies, criteria, indicators and procedures that are being developed by regional and international institutions, in order to establish better models for measuring and evaluating the economic and social costs of disasters. They also said it is urgent to conduct an in-depth analysis of the causes and impacts of the environmental degradation resulting from the different social and economic development models applied in Latin America and the Caribbean.

16. Participants agreed that it is necessary to promote integral and multidimensional instruments for development planning in accordance with the particular conditions of each country, while taking into consideration disaster risk reduction and promoting an active participation of communities.

RECOMMENDATIONS

a. The Permanent Secretariat could create an electronic magazine on International Cooperation so that officials in charge of cooperation in the Member States of SELA can spread information on relevant issues in this area.

b. It is possible to take advantage of the Documentation and Information Centre of SELA (CEDIC-SELA) as a tool to the service of officials responsible for cooperation and disaster risk reduction, so that they can exchange ideas and successful experiences on this matter.

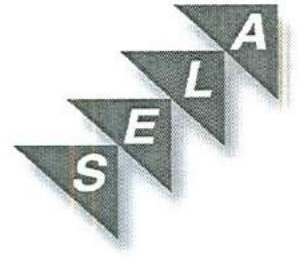
c. The Permanent Secretariat should undertake actions for training and facilitation that allow the directions and agencies in charge of cooperation in the region

to incorporate the variable of disaster risk reduction into those projects and programmes that are financed with international cooperation resources.

d. The Permanent Secretariat could create a meeting space for regional and subregional bodies that form part of the regional institutions for disaster risk reduction, so that they can exchange ideas and experiences with a view to achieving their gradual convergence.

e. The Permanent Secretariat of SELA should continue to call upon countries in Asia and Africa to participate in the activities that it might conduct in the areas of international cooperation and South-South cooperation

All these activities to be conducted by the Permanent Secretariat would be subject to the approval of the Latin American Council of SELA and to the budget resources available to the organization.



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Latinoamericano y del Caribe

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Agenda

*XVIII Meeting of International Cooperation Directors for Latin America and the Caribbean
Caracas, Venezuela
September 17 – 18, 2007
SP/XVIII.RDCIALC/DT N° 1 -07*

17 September 2007

Morning

8:00 – 8:30

REGISTRATION

8:30

OPENING SESSION

Speech by the Permanent Secretary of the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA), Ambassador Floria Caricote Lovera

Speech by the Chairman of the Bureau of the Latin American Council, Ambassador Gerónimo Cardozo

Speech by the Chairperson of the XVIII Meeting of International Cooperation Directors, Representative of the Republic of Guatemala, Jorge Calvo Drago

9:00 – 9:15

Break

9:15

SESSION I

Countries' vulnerability to disasters and their impact on cooperation and development: Views of multilateral organizations

Moderator / Rapporteur:

Jorge Calvo Drago, Chairman of the XVIII Meeting of Cooperation Directors and Representative of the Republic of Guatemala

PRESENTATIONS:

- **Disaster risk reduction within the context of Post-Hyogo: Its relevance for development processes in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.**
Sálvano Briceño, Director, International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR)
- **Disaster risk reduction in Latin America and the Caribbean from donors' perspective: a European approach**
Sergio Lacambra, European Commission's Humanitarian Aid Department (ECHO)
- **Challenges as regards vulnerability reduction in the health sector for 2015.**
Jean-Luc Poncelet, Director of the Programme for Disaster Prevention, Pan American Health Organization / World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO)

12:00 – 01:00

Debate

01:00 – 2:30

Lunch break

Afternoon

2:30

SESSION II**ROUND TABLE: "Vulnerability to disasters: Reduction plans. Subregional prospects"**

Moderator / Rapporteur:

Luis Carpio, Director for Transport and Natural Disasters of the Association of Caribbean States (ACS)

PRESENTATIONS:

- **Vulnerability to disasters. Plans for its reduction.**
Subregional Perspective.
Leticia Alvarez, Director of Cooperation and Projects. Coordination Centre for the Prevention of Natural Disasters in Central America (CEPREDENAC)
- **Role of international cooperation in risk management and development plans and policies in the region**
Pablo González, Chief for Natural Hazard Risk Reduction Organization of American States (OAS)
- **Ibero-American Commitments to Risk Reduction**
Brigadier General (Army) Antonio Rivero. National Director of Civil Protection and Disaster Management of Venezuela. President of the Ibero-American Association of Governmental Civil Defence and Protection Agencies (2008)
- **South-South Cooperation and Risk Management**
Francisco Simplicio, Information Management Specialist, Special Unit for South-South Cooperation of the United Nations Development Programme (SU-SSC-UNDP)
- **The strategic framework for non-refundable international cooperation in Peru**
Norah Nalvarte, Adviser, Peruvian Agency for International Cooperation (APCI)

Break

5:30 – 6:30

Debate

18 September 2007

Morning

08:30

SESSION III

ROUND TABLE: "Vulnerability to disasters. Economic and social impact, and the role of international cooperation: Experiences of Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and Africa"

Moderator / Rapporteur:

Jorge Calvo Drago. Chairperson of the XVIII Meeting of International Cooperation Directors, Representative of the Republic of Guatemala

PRESENTATIONS:

- **Economic and social costs of natural disasters for developing countries.**
Rudolf Buitelaar, Head of the Project Management Unit, Division of Programme Planning and Operations of ECLAC, Chile
- **Vulnerability to disasters in Guatemala.**
Hugo Hernández Ramírez, Executive Secretary of the National Coordination Unit for Disaster Reduction (CONRED- Guatemala)
- **Actions conducted in the area of disaster risk reduction. Achievements in Panama.**
Rafael Bonilla Cáceres, Director of International Technical Cooperation, National System for Civil Protection – Panama
- **Vulnerability to Natural Disasters.**
Fabian Griffin, Chief Project Analyst, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Development, Barbados

Break

- **Prospects of International Technical Cooperation and Prevention of Natural Disasters.**
Nancy López Quevedo, Director-General of International Technical Cooperation, People's Ministry for Planning and Development – Venezuela
- **Cooperation for countries with a high degree of vulnerability to natural disasters.**
Jorge Alvarado Rivas, Chargé d'Affaires, a.i., of the Embassy of Bolivia in Venezuela

- **Vulnerability to Natural Disasters: The Philippine Experience.**
Glenn Rabonza, Administrator, Office of Civil Defense (OCD) and Executive Officer of the National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC), Philippines
- **The Social and economic impact of calamity in the community: The Mozambican Experience.**
Higinio Atanásio Longamane, National Director for Planning and Institutional Development and Amâncio Lucio Nhantumbo, Local Officer, National Institute for Disasters Management, Ministry of State Administration, Republic of Mozambique

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11:00 – 01:00

Debate

01:00 – 2:30

Lunch break

Afternoon

2:30

SESSION IV
Reflections on guidelines for a possible regional cooperation programme

Moderator / Rapporteur:

Carmen Gabriela Menéndez, Coordinator of Relations with Member States, Permanent Secretariat of SELA

4:30 – 5:00

Break

5:00

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Antonio Romero, Director of Relations for Integration and Cooperation, Permanent Secretariat of SELA

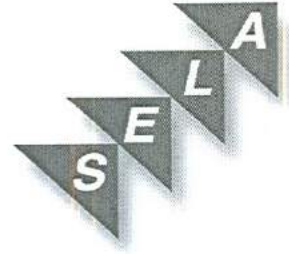
6:30

CLOSING SESSION

Speech by the Chairperson of the XVIII Meeting of International Cooperation Directors, Representative of the Republic of Guatemala, Jorge Calvo Drago

7:00

COCKTAIL



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**Speech by Ambassador Floria Caricote Lovera,
Permanent Secretary of SELA, during the opening
session of the XVIII Meeting of International
Cooperation Directors for Latin America
and the Caribbean**

I am pleased to warmly welcome you all to this Latin American and Caribbean forum, on the occasion of the Eighteenth Meeting of International Cooperation Directors for Latin America and the Caribbean.

This meeting has a central topic which is particularly important and urgent in order to promote the economic and social development of our region: "Cooperation for Countries with a High Degree of Vulnerability to Natural Disasters", since such disasters have frequently battered many of our nations.

Mostly, these natural phenomena have affected poor countries, which have less opportunities and resources to implement disaster prevention and early alert mechanisms to efficiently prepare themselves to face the ravages of nature.

Furthermore, the impacts of natural disasters aggravate economic difficulties and poverty. Economically, it is increasingly evident that these unpredictable events result in huge investments and disbursements which are not foreseen in national budgets. This has a negative impact on the countries' economies, as they have to deviate resources which are necessary for their normal economic growth and social development.

In view of the magnitude and frequency of these tragedies that our countries have gone through, disaster prevention, risk reduction, assistance and disaster relief have become shared responsibilities for governments, State institutions, international organizations and civil society bodies.

This is the reason why SELA, in its capacity as regional focal point for international cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean, wishes to make the issue of natural disaster prevention and reduction a fundamental element of the international cooperation strategies that are being designed and implemented by the countries of the region – particularly in those countries with the most developed economies – in order to benefit smaller economies.

As widely known, SELA has accumulated experience in the creation of spaces for coordination and cooperation that can be shared by its Member States, from a unique Latin American and Caribbean perspective, in order to face the most serious problems affecting economic growth and development in our countries, particularly in the smaller economies of the region. In this connection, it is advisable and necessary to exchange creative ideas and experiences with other regions and countries – such as those in Africa and Asia – as a South-South Cooperation mechanism.

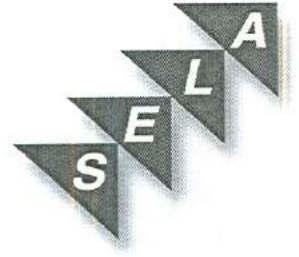
This meeting and the subsequent Updating Workshop for National Focal Points in charge of International Cooperation are being held in compliance with the mandate given by the Latin American Council, to support the Directions for International Cooperation of Member States and to contribute to all their activities aimed at promoting economic and social development in our countries, particularly as regards reduction of poverty, social exclusion and cultural backwardness – problems which are aggravated by natural disasters. Hence, as the main result of this meeting, we expect participants to consider some guidelines for a possible regional cooperation programme. With the support of SELA, in collaboration with other subregional and regional organizations, such programme could contribute to strengthen current mechanisms for effective solidarity in our region for the benefit of those countries facing the consequences of natural disasters.

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We wish to express our gratitude for the participation and collaboration of all the representatives of the agencies and organizations participating in this meeting of International Cooperation Directors at SELA, particularly the United Nations, through the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, the ECLAC, the Pan-American Health Organization, the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation of the United Nations Development Programme, the European Commission, through its Humanitarian Aid Office, and the Direction for Civil Defence of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

I wish you the greatest success in the debates, and I assure you that you can count on the support of the work team of the Permanent Secretariat as well as my personal support, so as to accomplish the objectives of this Eighteenth Meeting of International Cooperation Directors for Latin America and the Caribbean.

Thank you very much.



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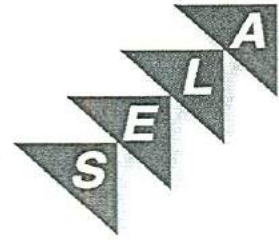
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**Updating Workshop for Focal Points
in charge of international cooperation
in Latin America and the Caribbean,
with Africa and Asia**



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Latinoamericano y del Caribe
Latin American and Caribbean
Economic System

Sistema Económico
Latino-Americano e do Caribe
Système Economique
Latinoaméricain et Caribéen

Conclusions and Recommendations

Updating Workshop for National Focal Points in charge of International Cooperation
Caracas, Venezuela
19 and 20 September 2007
SP/TAPFNCIALC/CR - 07

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CONCLUSIONS

Within the framework of the "Updating Workshop for National Focal Points in charge of International Cooperation for Latin America and the Caribbean", participants held debates on a series of relevant issues for international cooperation at present. Following are the main issues dealt with:

1. The need to strengthen self-criticism capacity in order to approach international cooperation from a perspective based on solidarity, complementarities and integration in Latin America and the Caribbean, with an emphasis on social aspects.
2. The concerns about the increasingly frequent cases of political and economic conditionalities for the provision of international cooperation, which affect its efficiency as well as the access to cooperation funds for developing countries.
3. The importance of promoting and strengthening South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation as a successful form of international cooperation for the region, in which bilateral, multilateral donors and the countries of the region can participate.
4. The prevalence of bilateral cooperation (70% of the total international cooperation flows at present) over multilateral cooperation (30%), and its recent changes aimed at supporting the regional and subregional integration processes.
5. The importance of making further strides as regards the changes in the approach to intra-regional cooperation, which would allow for a better use of potentials and strengths of cooperation within Latin American and Caribbean.

The debate allowed for identifying a series of NEEDS faced by international cooperation, from the Latin American and Caribbean perspective, including the following:

- a. To share strategic frameworks in the area of regional cooperation.
- b. To strengthen coordination of cooperation within recipient countries, with cooperating countries, and between recipient and cooperating countries, in order to achieve greater effectiveness and efficiency of international cooperation, while observing the principles of transparency and the regulations in accordance with the national priorities as regards development.
- c. To achieve greater inter-institutional coordination within the countries of the region.
- d. To strengthen technical capacities for negotiations on international cooperation.
- e. To define indicators and develop instruments to measure the quality and effectiveness of cooperation.
- f. To develop new criteria for the allocation of international cooperation funds, which go beyond that of the per capita GDP. To this end, it is important to convince the donor community to use qualification criteria for the countries which are in accordance with the new economic and social realities faced by the countries and international cooperation.

g. To update the supply and demand for international cooperation in each country and to exchange information on the opportunities for intra-regional cooperation.

h. To strengthen the role of SELA as regional focal point for international cooperation.

In addition, participants identified a series of CHALLENGES that should be dealt with by the experts in international cooperation of the region, including:

a. The conditionalities imposed by donors to grant access to international cooperation and their implications in terms of national sovereignty.

b. The political inequality currently affecting international negotiations.

c. The relative weakening of regional institutions, which could affect their capacity for negotiation and management of international cooperation.

d. The institutional capacity limitations faced by relatively smaller countries as regards international cooperation.

e. To incorporate the considerations referred to international migrations, including intra-Latin American and Caribbean migrations, into the agenda of cooperation for development in Latin America and the Caribbean.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Participants agreed on the need for the Permanent Secretariat to continue with its annual activities for training and updating of national focal points in charge of international cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean, with the support of other subregional and regional organizations, and to systematize those issues that the directions and agencies for cooperation in the region might identify as having top-priority and being of common interest.

2. To design training programmes in order to improve the negotiating power of specialists in international cooperation in the region, and to take into account the experiences of the ECLAC and SELA, as well as other regional and international organizations and agencies.

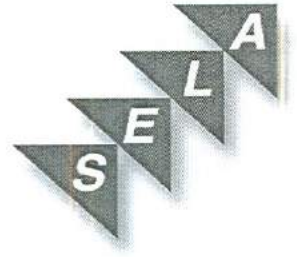
3. To continue to promote the incorporation of social actors into the process to negotiate international cooperation strategies.

4. The Member States which form part of innovative initiatives for integration such as UNASUR, ALBA and the CSME recognize that these experiences are an efficient way to promote regional cooperation on the basis of solidarity, complementarities and the search for social cohesion.

5. In this regard, there was recognition of the progresses that have been made within the Andean Community, SICA and MERCOSUR to strengthen integration and cooperation in the region.

6. The continued development of initiatives for South-South Cooperation – particularly by incorporating officials in charge of cooperation in Asia and Africa into these activities, was also considered to be important.

The Permanent Secretariat took note of the debates held within the framework of the workshop, in order to prepare an economic and technical cooperation programme that will be included in its Draft Work Programme for the year 2008, which will be submitted for approval of the Latin American Council.



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