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Latino-Americano e do Caribe

Système Economique
Latinoaméricain et Caribéen



Final Report

Economic and Technical Cooperation

XXIV Meeting of International Cooperation Directors for Latin America and the Caribbean. Regional Cooperation in the Area of Border Integration

San Salvador, El Salvador

30 and 31 May 2013

SP/XXIV-RDCIALC/IF-13

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C O N T E N T S

RAPPOREUR'S REPORT	3
A. DEVELOPMENT OF WORKS	5
B. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	14
C. OTHER MATTERS	18
D. CLOSING SESSION	18
 ANNEXES:	
I. Agenda	21
II. Speech by Ambassador Carlos Bivero, Acting Director of Integration and Cooperation Affairs of the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA)	31
III. Speech by Ambassador Mourad Ahmia, Executive Secretary of the Group of 77 and Head of the Secretariat of the Pérez-Guerrero Trust Fund (FFPG)	35
IV. Speech by the Honourable Rodrigo Parot, Representative of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) in El Salvador	39
V. Speech by the Honourable Juan Pablo Rodríguez Gómez, Adviser to the Executive Presidency of CAF-Development Bank of Latin America	43
VI. Speech by His Excellency Salvador Sánchez Cerén, Vice-President of the Republic of El Salvador	47
VII. Statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Cuba	53
VIII. List of participants	57
IX. List of documents	69

RAPPOREUR'S REPORT

1. The "XXIV Meeting of International Cooperation Directors for Latin America and the Caribbean: Regional Cooperation in the Area of Border Integration," organized by the Permanent Secretariat of the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA) and the Government of El Salvador, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with the support of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), CAF-development bank of Latin America and the Pérez-Guerrero Trust Fund (PGTF) of the Group of 77, was held on 30 and 31 May 2013 in San Salvador, El Salvador.

2. This regional meeting was intended to: i) Provide an overview of those policies and initiatives being advanced by Latin American and Caribbean countries in the field of border integration and the role of national authorities and regional and subregional integration and cooperation mechanisms in strengthening such cooperation; (ii) Collect and systematize successful experiences and best practices in this area at the regional, bilateral and multilateral levels; (iii) Exchange information on opportunities for international cooperation, South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation that are now available to Latin American and Caribbean countries and the initiatives that have been undertaken in the region with the support of bilateral and multilateral development agencies; and iv) Promote a space for regional dialogue on the exchange of offers and demands for cooperation in the field of border integration. The agenda for this meeting is included in **Annex I**.

3. Delegations of the following Member States of the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA) participated in the event: Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Dominican Republic, Uruguay and Venezuela. In addition to co-sponsors, the meeting was attended by representatives of the following regional organizations: Association of Caribbean States (ACS); Inter-American Development Bank (IDB); CARICOM Development Fund; Autonomous Port Executive Commission (CEPA); TRIFINIO Plan Tri-national Commission; Andean Community (CAN), Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Panama-Costa Rica Border Agreement; FONPLATA - Plata Basin Financial Development Fund, Common Market of the South (MERCOSUR); Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO), Mesoamerican Project; General Secretariat of the Central American Integration System (SICA) - Regional Programme on Border Security of Central America (SEFRO); and representatives of the following international organizations and diplomatic representations: Association of European Border Regions (AEBR); KfW German Financial Cooperation; GIZ - El Salvador; International Labour Organization (ILO); Andean Parliament; Ibero-American General Secretariat (SEGIB); United Nations Population Fund in El Salvador (UNFPA); Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), and the Honourable Embassy of Italy in El Salvador. The list of participants is included in **Annex VIII**.

4. Speakers in the opening session included the following authorities:

- a) On behalf of the Permanent Secretariat of SELA, Ambassador Carlos Bivero, Acting Director of Integration and Cooperation Affairs, welcomed participants and conveyed the gratitude of the Permanent Secretary, Ambassador Roberto Guarnieri, to the Government of El Salvador, the Pérez-Guerrero Trust Fund of the Group of 77, CAF-development bank of Latin America and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) for their support as co-sponsors of the meeting. He underscored the importance of border integration as strategic issue for regional

4

integration, underlined by the founding Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) and proposed by the Honourable Government of El Salvador as the central topic of the XXIV Meeting of International Cooperation Directors for Latin America and the Caribbean. In addition, he highlighted the historical significance of this meeting, which gathered countries, regional organizations and experts to exchange experiences and views on a subject which is both complex and particularly sensitive in its multiple dimensions.

- b) The Executive Secretary of the Group of 77 and Head of the Secretariat of the Pérez-Guerrero Trust Fund (PGTF), Ambassador Mourad Ahmia, summarized the contribution of that international body in the field of cooperation among developing countries, emphasizing its long history of supporting projects of interest for Latin American and Caribbean countries. He also stressed the PGTF's readiness to continue to support the Meetings of International Cooperation Directors as a regional forum to promote South-South cooperation.
- c) The Representative of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) in El Salvador, the Honourable Rodrigo Parot, thanked the organizers of the event for their joint efforts and highlighted the IDB's long history of commitment and support to the integration of the countries in the region, stressing that this is one of the five strategic pillars of the IDB to be covered with a 15% increase of its loans. The areas of intervention are aimed at facilitating the design, implementation and monitoring of projects, as well as their financial support. He stressed the importance of regional cooperation for the countries that prioritize it, since it allows them to effectively address the common challenges they face and grasp, through public goods, the opportunities offered by regionalism and globalization.
- d) The Adviser to the Executive Presidency of CAF-development bank of Latin America, the Honourable Juan Pablo Rodríguez Gómez, said that border integration has been and remains a topic of fundamental interest to CAF-development bank of Latin America. He pointed out that Latin America needs to overcome significant structural challenges to secure its place in the global economy, considering that it is currently affected not only by a loss of position in world trade, but also by a lag in response to demands for investment to increase competitiveness. He said that among the most urgent challenges to be addressed by Latin America are the social inequalities affecting the region and the move towards physical integration and connectivity, which, along with technology, plays a fundamental role in the integration process. He wished participants every success in their deliberations during the meeting, which he considered a fast road towards the exchange of experiences and best practices developed in the region and to explore the potential of South-South cooperation to foster border integration.
- e) The Vice-President of the Republic of El Salvador, His Excellency Salvador Sánchez Cerén, welcomed participants on behalf of El Salvador as the host country and stressed the importance of regional cooperation in the field of border integration as a way to strengthen cooperation and friendship relations among the Member States of SELA gathering at this important meeting. He pointed out that border integration should be understood as a priority issue for the region that relies on the search for solutions to transnational problems affecting cross-border regions. He referred to best practices and experiences

that the TRIFINIO Plan has reached since 1986 within the framework of the dialogue for Central American integration among Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador. Finally, he stressed the special attention paid by El Salvador to regional cooperation within the framework of the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA) as a contribution to regional integration processes in all thematic areas, hoping they have an impact and are sustainable over time.

The speeches of the opening session are included in **Annexes II, III, IV, V and VI** of this report.

A. DEVELOPMENT OF WORKS

5. **Introductory session:** The Moderator, Ambassador Carlos Bivero, Acting Director of Integration and Cooperation Affairs of the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA), took the floor to present the Draft Agenda of the XXIV Meeting of the International Cooperation Directors for Latin America and the Caribbean, contained in the document identified by the acronym SP/XXIV-RDCIALC/DT N° 1-13, and start the working sessions. He drew the attention of the audience to the scope and range of analyses and experiences to be shared during the meeting and stressed the importance of complying with the programming. He informed the participants that the Agenda and all informative and support documents presented by the Permanent Secretariat, as well as the presentations of regional and international bodies and Member States, will be at the disposal of participants on SELA's Web site (<http://www.sela.org>).

6. To start discussions, two working papers commissioned by the Permanent Secretariat of SELA to well-known regional experts were presented. The first of these documents, "Regional cooperation in the area of Border Integration" (base document [SP/XXIV-RDCIALC/DT N° 2-13](#) and presentation [SP/XXIV-RDCIALC/Di N° 6-13](#)), was prepared by Dr. Luis Alberto Oliveros, and the second one, "Regional Cooperation in the area of Border Integration: A Caribbean perspective," (base document [SP/XXIV-RDCIALC/DT N° 3-13](#) and presentation [SP/XXIV-RDCIALC/Di N° 7-13](#)), was developed by Mr. Mark Raymond Kirton, Ph.D.

After a short coffee break, speakers continued with the presentations of the Agenda for the meeting.

7. **Session I: Perspectives of regional development banks and subregional border integration funds.** Mr. Oscar Edmundo Anaya Sánchez, Director of Economic and Fiscal Policy, Ministry of Finance of El Salvador, after making a brief introduction to the subject, gave the floor to speakers scheduled in this working session.

8. Ms. Kea Wallrad, Senior Specialist in the Sector of Integration and Trade, Vice Presidency for Sectors and Knowledge of the Inter-American Bank of development (IDB), made the presentation entitled "Regional Cooperation and Border Integration development. A perspective from the instruments of integration of the IDB" (SP/XXIIV-RDCIALC/Di N° 8-13), which emphasized the importance of value added and the multiplier effect of collective action through regional cooperation, particularly in those areas of intervention that make integration sustainable, such as infrastructure. Properly supported through targeted funds, they make it possible for actors involved in multinational projects to overcome difficulties. From this perspective, she explained the work programme of the IDB on cooperation in border integration, the collection of funds to address strategic issues and regional initiatives and facilitation efforts aimed at identifying options and harmonizing interests in the implementation of projects.

6

([http://www.sela.org/attach/258/EDOCS/SRed/2013/05/T023600005145-0-Cooperacion_regional_e_integracion_fronteriza - BID.pdf](http://www.sela.org/attach/258/EDOCS/SRed/2013/05/T023600005145-0-Cooperacion_regional_e_integracion_fronteriza_-_BID.pdf))

9. Mr. Juan Pablo Rodríguez Gómez, Adviser to the Executive Presidency of CAF-development bank of Latin America, stressed the value and importance of the strategic vision of development and border integration, which CAF develops through programmes on border crossings within the framework of IIRSA, the Programme to Support Border Integration and Development (PADIF) and the Border Cooperation and Integration Fund (COPIF), being carried out within the framework of CAF-development bank of Latin America. Their scope was detailed in the presentation on "Integration and Regional Funds: the contribution of CAF- development bank of Latin America" (SP/XXIV-RDCIALC/Di N° 9-13).

([http://www.sela.org/attach/258/EDOCS/SRed/2013/05/T023600005150-0-Integracion_y_Fondos_regionales - El aporte de CAF.pdf](http://www.sela.org/attach/258/EDOCS/SRed/2013/05/T023600005150-0-Integracion_y_Fondos_regionales_-_El_aporte_de_CAF.pdf))

10. Mr. Lenox Forte, Director of the Regional Development Division of the Development Fund to Disadvantaged Countries, Regions and Sectors in the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), made the presentation entitled "Regional Cooperation in the Area of Border Integration – A Perspective from the CARICOM Development Fund" (SP/XXIV-RDCIALC/Di N° 10-13), which explains in detail the link of border integration in the Caribbean with the broadest integration process being undertaken by CARICOM, the importance of the participation of Member States, relevant institutional arrangements and the availability of resources for the success of the effort.

(http://www.sela.org/attach/258/EDOCS/SRed/2013/06/T023600005193-0-REGIONAL_COOPERATION_IN_THE_AREA_OF_BORDER_INTEGRATION_The_Perspective_of_the_CARICOM_Development_Fund.pdf)

11. Mr. Ricardo Cronembold Bello, Principal Secretary of the Plata Basin Financial Development Fund (FONPLATA), described the actions and the role of the Fund through the presentation "Regional Cooperation in the Area of Border Integration" (SP/XXIV-RDCIALC/Di N° 11-13). After detailing the work of the Fund since its inception in 1974 within the framework of the Cuenca del Plata Treaty, he underlined the new strategic vision of FONPLATA, its financing mechanisms and its interest in developing strategic alliances with other regional funds to deepen regional integration, capitalizing on the experience gained and recording renewed existing mandates for the same purpose.

([http://www.sela.org/attach/258/EDOCS/SRed/2013/05/T023600005146-0-Presentacion_FONPLATA - SELA - Mayo 2013.pdf](http://www.sela.org/attach/258/EDOCS/SRed/2013/05/T023600005146-0-Presentacion_FONPLATA_-_SELA_-_Mayo_2013.pdf))

12. Then, the moderator thanked the speakers for their presentations and for the concepts and recommendations offered during such presentations.

13. Session II: Border integration from the perspective of Latin American and Caribbean organizations. The session was moderated by Ms. Cecilia Elizabeth Segura de Dueñas, Director-General of Foreign Policy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of El Salvador, who introduced the topic and gave the floor to the following speakers of this working session:

14. Mr. Nahuel Oddone, of the Unit of International Trade and Industry, presented the main concepts that support the work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in the area of border integration and regional cooperation. His

presentation was entitled "Regional cooperation in the area of border integration" (SP/XXIV-RDCIALC/Di N° 12-13) and focused on regional cooperation as the core of the current regional agenda. He stressed the need to collectively address a number of related topics, ranging from infrastructure as a key element for territorial cohesion to asymmetries of economic and social development and coordination at both intergovernmental and subnational government levels. Given the importance of the territorial dynamics of border and the maturity achieved in regional integration processes, he stressed the ECLAC's view on borders as a space for social experimentation of integration.

http://www.sela.org/attach/258/EDOCS/SRed/2013/05/T023600005162-0-Di_12_CEPAL_Nahuel_Oddone.pdf)

15. Mr. Raúl Nieto Vinuesa, Coordinator of the Border Development Programme of the Andean Community (CAN), made a presentation entitled "Border Integration from the Perspective of Latin American and Caribbean organizations," (SP/XXIV-RDCIALC/Di N° 13-13). He explained the pioneering role of the Cartagena Agreement and the legal, institutional and programmatic developments in the area of border integration, and mentioned specific cases of existing border integration zones (BIZ) among its Member States.

http://www.sela.org/attach/258/EDOCS/SRed/2013/05/T023600005177-0-Integracion_y_desarrollo_fronterizo_en_la_Comunidad_Andina.pdf)

16. Ms. Daiana Ferraro Silvera, Deputy Assistant Director-General on behalf of the Uruguayan Pro Tempore Presidency of the Common Market of the South (MERCOSUR), spoke about "Policies and Initiatives of MERCOSUR in the Area of Border Integration" (SP/XXIV-RDCIALC/Di N° 14-13). She presented MERCOSUR's conceptual and operational challenges, historical evolution, increased emphasis on the social dimension of integration and, in particular, the main challenges posed by some issues, such as asymmetries, regulatory harmonization and differences in institutional structures, as well as those new challenges associated with the expansion of MERCOSUR.

http://www.sela.org/attach/258/EDOCS/SRed/2013/05/T023600005142-0-Politicas_e_iniciativas_en_MERCOSUR_en_integracion_fronteriza.pdf)

17. At the end of this session, the moderator thanked participants for their remarks during the debate and brought the first day of work to an end.

18. **Session II: Border integration from the perspective of Latin American and Caribbean organizations.** The continuation of Session II was moderated by Ambassador Said Badi Guerra, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Belize. The following speakers took the floor:

19. Ms. Elayne Whyte Gómez, Executive Director of the Mesoamerican Project, explained the importance of the "Mesoamerican Project" (SP/XXIV-RDCIALC/Di N° 15-13), and Mr. Martín Alcalá Salgado, Deputy Director for Social Development of the Secretariat of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, made a presentation entitled "Infrastructure and Physical Integration" (SP/XXIV-RDCIALC/Di N° 31-13). They spoke about the scope of the Tuxla-Gutiérrez Mechanism for Dialogue and Consultation in its two economic and social cornerstones. They highlighted the emphasis made on the development of physical integration, within the framework of the Mesoamerican Project, through important infrastructure works, such as the road running from the South of Mexico through the Central American Isthmus and the development of harmonized border crossings. In

8

addition, they stressed the importance of supporting these projects with appropriate funds. In the case of Mesoamerica, this need is covered by the Yucatan Fund, managed by the AMEXCID with a significant capacity to finance projects, with those of regional impact being given top priority.

[\(\[http://www.sela.org/attach/258/EDOCS/SRed/2013/05/T023600005161-0-Mexico_Presentacion_Integracion_fronteriza_SELA.pdf\]\(http://www.sela.org/attach/258/EDOCS/SRed/2013/05/T023600005161-0-Mexico_Presentacion_Integracion_fronteriza_SELA.pdf\)\)](http://www.sela.org/attach/258/EDOCS/SRed/2013/05/T023600005161-0-Mexico_Presentacion_Integracion_fronteriza_SELA.pdf)

[\(\[http://www.sela.org/attach/258/EDOCS/SRed/2013/05/T023600005161-0-Mexico_Presentacion_Integracion_fronteriza_SELA.pdf\]\(http://www.sela.org/attach/258/EDOCS/SRed/2013/05/T023600005161-0-Mexico_Presentacion_Integracion_fronteriza_SELA.pdf\)\)](http://www.sela.org/attach/258/EDOCS/SRed/2013/05/T023600005161-0-Mexico_Presentacion_Integracion_fronteriza_SELA.pdf)

As regards the experience of the Mesoamerican Project, the following factors were highlighted as important to take into account: the need for conceptual precision to qualify the various border situations ("border territorial development," "border integration," "cooperation," "facilitation"...); the convenience of determining the "objectives" of cooperation, in order to better define projects and their scope (binational or regional levels, for example) and coordinate stakeholders; and the need for an "institutional framework" to deal with the execution and follow-up of projects and the integration process they support should not be underestimated.

20. Mr. Alberto Durán, Director of Transport and External Economic Relations of the Association of Caribbean States (ACS), made a presentation entitled "The Association of Caribbean States: Promoting land, air and sea connectivity for the integration of the Great Caribbean" (SP/XXIIV-RDCIALC/Di N° 16-13). He drew the attention of participants to the latest institutional and programmatic developments arising from the V Summit of ACS, held recently in Petion-Ville, Haiti, which are intended to solve some integration problems, particularly in the field of transport and communications in the Grand Caribbean. This region is mostly comprised of island developing countries.

[\(\[http://www.sela.org/attach/258/EDOCS/SRed/2013/05/T023600005160-0-Presentacion_AEC_en_SELAII_\\(22_05_13\\)_COMPRIMIDA.pdf\]\(http://www.sela.org/attach/258/EDOCS/SRed/2013/05/T023600005160-0-Presentacion_AEC_en_SELAII_\(22_05_13\)_COMPRIMIDA.pdf\)\)](http://www.sela.org/attach/258/EDOCS/SRed/2013/05/T023600005160-0-Presentacion_AEC_en_SELAII_(22_05_13)_COMPRIMIDA.pdf)

21. Mr. Carlos Arana Courrejolles, Coordinator of Social Affairs, Transport, Infrastructure, Communications and Tourism of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO), spoke about "The Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization, International Cooperation and the Amazon Social Inclusion Agenda" (SP/XXIIV-RDCIALC/Di N° 17-13). He made an emphasis on the unique characteristics of the geographical area covered by the eight member countries of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization, their demands and the strategic agenda that supports the ongoing relaunch of the organization, which favours the social factor, critical element of any border policy that plays an influential role, in addition to international cooperation and a better approach to other regional mechanisms.

[\(\[http://www.sela.org/attach/258/EDOCS/SRed/2013/05/T023600005140-0-OTCA-COOPERACION_INTERNACIONAL_E_INCLUSION_SOCIAL_AMAZONICA.pdf\]\(http://www.sela.org/attach/258/EDOCS/SRed/2013/05/T023600005140-0-OTCA-COOPERACION_INTERNACIONAL_E_INCLUSION_SOCIAL_AMAZONICA.pdf\)\)](http://www.sela.org/attach/258/EDOCS/SRed/2013/05/T023600005140-0-OTCA-COOPERACION_INTERNACIONAL_E_INCLUSION_SOCIAL_AMAZONICA.pdf)

22. Mrs. Orietta Zumbado, Coordinator of the SEFRO Programme, and Mr. Raúl Alejandro Jofré Cabello, Chief of International Technical Assistance of the SEFRO Programme, Regional Programme on Border Security of Central America (SEFRO) / General Secretariat of the Central American Integration System (SICA), presented the scope and institutional mechanisms of the Programme, whose main objective is to strengthen border security. They also presented the results of the Programme in 2012 and stressed the importance of harmonizing technology and databases, carrying out

monitoring and field visits and exchanging experiences and best practices in a process that focuses on integrated management of Central American borders. The presentation is entitled "Results of the Regional Programme on Border Security (SEFRO) 2012" (SP/XXIV-RDCIALC/Di N° 18-13).

(http://www.sela.org/attach/258/EDOCS/SRed/2013/05/T023600005168-0-Resultados_SEFRO_2012.pdf)

23. Mr. Martín Guillermo Ramírez, Secretary-General of the Association of European Border Regions (AEBR), spoke about "Cross-border Cooperation and European Integration. An inspiration to other Continental Integration Processes" (SP/XXIV-RDCIALC/Di N° 19-13). He stressed the importance of the experience gained during five decades in Europe, which makes it a laboratory of cases and solutions that can be shared globally, highlighting the need for political will and generation of trust, planning, medium-term financing to develop plans and projects in a sustainable manner over time and non-overlapping, as critical factors of cooperation for border integration. In addition, he stressed that the European Union currently has more than two hundred border integration structures in operation. The border integration experience of AEBR extends to particularly complex cases for political reasons or ethnic antagonisms, as are the cases of Jerusalem, South Africa and other countries in Africa.

(http://www.sela.org/attach/258/EDOCS/SRed/2013/05/T023600005174-0-La_cooperacion_transfronteriza_y_la_integracion_europea.pdf)

24. Mr. Nahuel Oddone, of the Unit of International Trade and Industry of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), presented an analysis that underlines the high importance of border integration in the context of regional integration, highlighted the fundamental conditions that favour it, and formulated an approach to what could be a transnational border integration agenda. Among other issues, this agenda would include the identification of shared objectives, a proper institutional design, creation and promotion of alliances, definition of evaluation and monitoring mechanisms, public-private participatory frameworks, design of communication channels between strategic actors and dissemination and awareness efforts. In this context, he made the proposal to establish an "Observatory for border integration," putting the institutional structure of ECLAC at the disposal of interested parties for its conformation. His presentation was entitled "Regional Cooperation in the Area of Border Integration" (SP/XXIV-RDCIALC/Di N° 20-13).

(http://www.sela.org/attach/258/EDOCS/SRed/2013/05/T023600005169-0-Cooperacion_regional_en_el_ambito_de_la_integracion_fronteriza.pdf)

25. The moderator thanked the speakers for their presentations and invited delegates and participants to exchange ideas and make comments on cases and experiences presented.

The delegate of Cuba, Mr. Ramiro de León Torras, said that the issue of border integration and cooperation acquires high relevance at a time when the Latin American and Caribbean region is reviving its integration process. He stressed the importance of the border as a space for integration and underscored the need to provide it with an appropriate institutional model, at the regional and subregional levels, as an aspect of regional cooperation. He explained that the establishment of such institutions would cover relevant aspects of the process linked to shared development goals, for the benefit of areas covered by border integration agreements.

10

In addition, he highlighted a set of criteria and factors in the areas of management, participation, measure of progress, financing and investment, and intra-regional coordination and cooperation, making a more effective use of existing financial institutions. He also spoke about adaptation to the own geographic and economic environment, particularly in the Insular Caribbean, citing previous experiences in the region that are worth mentioning with a view to reviving them, as was the case of the Caribbean Multinational Shipping Company, NAMUCAR.

(http://www.sela.org/attach/258/EDOCS/SRed/2013/07/T023600005210-0-Presentacion_Delegacion_Republica_Cuba_Ramiro_Leon.pdf)

Other contributions to the open debate focused on the high relevance of the topics addressed by the different presentations. Comments and remarks on some of those topics included the desirability of accurately identifying and managing the different concepts related to the theme of border integration, in particular for the definition of projects, and the need to give border integration the due political importance and to ensure both the coordination of actors critical to the success of the process and the necessary follow-up through appropriate institutional arrangements. Most participants agreed that one of the great challenges of border integration is the convergence, in a governing body, of the variety of actors and disciplines related to the issue. In this connection, participants agreed on the need to build shared models of border management.

26. Session III. Regional Experiences in Border Integration in Latin America and the Caribbean. The session was moderated by Mr. Mark Kirton, SELA's consultant. During the session, the following speakers took the floor:

27. Mr. Alvaro Sarmiento Matute, on behalf of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), spoke about "Regional Experiences of Border Integration. Coordinated Border Management," (SP/XXIV-RDCIALC/Di N° 21-13). He explained that although facilitation of border integration is necessary to avoid generalizations, since each case requires specific solutions, there is a set of guidelines leading to the design of coordinated management plans focused on the critical aspects of the border phenomenon. Based on them, action plans could be developed, and their positive effects on problems, in particular on efforts to break the dilemma between freedom of movement and security, could build trust and add continuity. This effort also has the technical and financial support from the IDB.

(http://www.sela.org/attach/258/EDOCS/SRed/2013/05/T023600005170-0-BID_experiencias_regionales_SELA_INTEGRACION_FRONTERIZA1_SARMIENTO.pdf)

28. Mr. Gustavo Pacheco, Deputy Director-General of International Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Eastern Republic of the Uruguay, presented the case of "Uruguay-Brazil Border: from Cooperation to Integration" (SP/XXIV-RDCIALC/Di N° 22-13). He made emphasis on the political will that motivates both countries, within the framework of a shared vision for border management and territorial development, which involves the creation of institutions interested in both security and social issues, with special emphasis on rights of border populations and involvement of communities in such management.

(http://www.sela.org/attach/258/EDOCS/SRed/2013/05/T023600005175-0-Frontera_Uruguay-Brasil_-_De_la_cooperacion_a_la_integracion.pdf)

29. Mr. Juan Carlos Montúfar Celada, Tri-national Technical Manager of the TRIFINIO Plan Tri-national Commission, presented the experience of the "TRIFINIO PLAN. More than 25 years of cross-border cooperation. El Salvador-Guatemala-Honduras" (SP/XXIV-RDCIALC/Di N° 23-13), which evidenced the importance of political commitment, continuity of efforts and diversity of areas that can be covered in a plurilateral border cooperation process, safeguarding a shared natural heritage using a forward-looking approach.

(http://www.sela.org/attach/258/EDOCs/SRed/2013/05/T023600005176-0-Plan_TRIFINIO_-_Mas_de_25_anos_de_cooperacion_transfronteriza_El_Salvador-Guatemala-Honduras.pdf)

30. Mr. Carlos Federico Paredes, Adviser to the Presidency of the Autonomous Port Executive Commission (CEPA), Republic of El Salvador, made a presentation entitled "Concession of the Port La Unión Centroamericana, Central American Experience of Border Integration" (SP/XXIV-RDCIALC/Di N° 24-13), which shows the scope and status of an international cooperation effort based on the shared geographical space (Gulf of Fonseca) and the meeting of common development needs and opportunities in the area of port logistics and transport within the framework of a common integration scheme (SICA).

(<http://www.sela.org/attach/258/EDOCs/SRed/2013/05/T023600005166-0-CEPA.pdf>)

31. Ms. Arlyn González, Director of International Technical Cooperation of the Ministry of Economy and Finance of the Republic of Panama, made a presentation entitled "Experience of border cooperation. Case: Panama-Costa Rica" (SP/XXIV-RDCIALC/Di N° 25-13).

(http://www.sela.org/attach/258/EDOCs/SRed/2013/05/T023600005171-0-Experiencia_de_la_cooperacion_fronteriza_-_Caso_Panama_-_Costa_Rica.pdf)

32. Ms. Saskya Lugo, Technical Management Coordinator of the Technical Secretariat for International Cooperation of the Republic of Ecuador (SETECI), carried out an analysis on "The national territorial articulation: a way to consolidate cooperation in the region" (SP/XXIV-RDCIALC/Di N° 26-13). She stressed the importance of the new paradigm that gives a boost to regional and international cooperation of Ecuador, the strong emphasis given to strategic planning, the social dimension and human development, and the capitalization of the own experience in dealing with border integration.

(http://www.sela.org/attach/258/EDOCs/SRed/2013/05/T023600005173-0-La_articulacion_territorial_nacional_-_Un_camino_para_consolidar_la_cooperacion_regional.pdf)

33. The continuation of Session III on regional experiences in border integration in Latin America and the Caribbean was moderated by Mr. Luis Alberto Oliveros, SELA's consultant, who gave the floor to the following speakers:

34. Eng. Antonio Vargas Hernández, Director-General for Multilateral Cooperation of Dominican Republic, made a detailed presentation on the challenges posed by border integration in his country's border with Haiti, as a result of strong economic asymmetries and challenges in the areas of human development and preservation of the environment, ratifying the will that encourages his Government to overcome them through dialogue and cooperation. His presentation was entitled "Dominican Republic-

12

Haiti, Two Nations, Two cultures, Two States on the Island of Hispaniola" (SP/XXIIV-RDCIALC/Di N° 27-13).

(http://www.sela.org/attach/258/EDOCS/SRed/2013/06/T023600005194-0-Republica_Dominicana_-_Haiti_-_Dos_naciones,_dos_culturas,_dos_estados_en_la_Hispaniola.pdf)

35. Ms. Marcela Espinoza, Director of Borders of the Directorate for Borders and Limits of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Chile, and Mr. Pablo Cea, Country Coordinator of the International Cooperation Agency of Chile, emphasized in their presentation, entitled "Border Integration" (SP/XXIIV-RDCIALC/Di N° 28-13), the importance of the institutional factor and the coordination among the various authorities responsible for borders. To efficiently deal with integration in border zones, they stressed the need to address border cooperation as a highly decentralized process that focuses on the attention to local realities. Areas, principles, actors of the border integration policy being developed by Chile and the importance of the logistics integration platforms were explained in detail during the presentation, without prejudice to recognize, as a factor to be taken into account under any modality adopted, the need for sustained monitoring and improvement efforts.

(http://www.sela.org/attach/258/EDOCS/SRed/2013/05/T023600005179-0-Integracion_fronteriza_-_Chile.pdf)

36. Mr. Garth Williams, Deputy Chief Executive Officer of the Passport, Immigration and Citizenship Agency of the Republic of Jamaica, made a presentation entitled "Cooperation in Border Integration from the perspective for International Cooperation Directors for Latin America and the Caribbean: Successful Experiences and Lessons Learned" (SP/XXIIV-RDCIALC/Di N° 29-13). He noted as "lessons learned" those experienced by his country as a result of a special event of regional scope, namely the 2007 Cricket World Cup. He highlighted the important integrating role of technology for the exchange of data in certain areas, such as the movement of people, and recommended to explore this approach for major international sporting events scheduled in the region (2014 FIFA World Cup and 2016 Olympics). Investments in these technology platforms should be planned as legacy systems for long-term regional border integration.

(http://www.sela.org/attach/258/EDOCS/SRed/2013/05/T023600005167-0-Cooperation_in_border_integration.pdf)

37. Ms. Ada Yanira Gutiérrez Lorenzana, Executive Director of the Under-Secretariat for International Cooperation of the Secretariat for Planning and Programming (SEGEPLAN), Republic of Guatemala, made a presentation on the "Regional Experiences of Border Integration" (SP/XXIIV-RDCIALC/Di N° 30-13) in Guatemala, Mexico, Belize, El Salvador, and Honduras. She detailed the scope of lessons learned and pending challenges in each of these borders, in the face of which regional cooperation plays an important role.

(http://www.sela.org/attach/258/EDOCS/SRed/2013/05/T023600005178-0-Experiencias_regionales_de_integracion_fronteriza_-_Guatemala.pdf)

38. During the open debate, the exchange of opinions and ideas was particularly active, reflecting a set of issues of shared interest.

Among these issues, the following stand out: Border integration is recognized as a matter of strategic interest that needs to be understood not only as a challenge but also as a

source of opportunities; it is necessary to overcome the dilemma between border as a security issue and border as a cooperation issue; the region has a number of experiences of border integration, facing problems arising from this process and looking for their solutions, which represents a wealth that deserves to be better known and used; while many different situations take place, as reflected by experiences, there are also similarities and coincidences in terms of critical issues and approaches, which leads to their replicability; participants agreed that the search for solutions require stakeholders to have a strategic vision, promote a thematic agenda, be proactive and provide, maintain or strengthen the focus on human development of border areas; emphasis was made on the special situation posed by the geographical factor in the Caribbean countries and on the development of solutions for certain issues, such as the movement of persons on the basis of an intensive use of new technologies; participants also stressed the need to maintain contact, exchanges and mutual cooperation through an appropriate mechanism that enables Member States to follow up on the themes developed within the framework of the XXIV Meeting of International Cooperation Directors for Latin America and the Caribbean.

As regards the issue of regional cooperation in the field of border integration, participants stressed the need for the region to consider as a priority the reorganization of its work system, which should involve adequate and appropriate management and use of concepts, definitions and adoption of a relevant agenda focused on commitment and development of integration; and the need to agree on a clear institutional framework, based on lessons learned, for the sake of regionality. Participants said that Latin America and the Caribbean should also focus on the development of strategies aimed at developing far-reaching lines of work, putting the region's sustainability at its core.

39. The delegation of Cuba asked to take the floor to inform the representations of the Member States of SELA – an organization whose spirit of regional solidarity and cooperation they stressed – of the absolute rejection of their Government to the decision adopted by the Government of the United States of America to qualify Cuba as a “State Sponsor of Terrorism” and to include it in the U.S State Department’s annual report on the topic. In this regard, they circulated a briefing paper which, at their request, is included in this report, in **Annex VII**.

After an exchange of interesting views on the procedure to be followed, the delegates agreed to take note of the document distributed by the delegation of Cuba as an informative text, without expressing an opinion on its content. In addition, some delegates said that, as this meeting is of a technical character, this is not the space to deal with this type of issues and they are not entitled by the authorities of their respective governments to give an opinion on that.

40. **Session IV: Future Role of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation**

41. In introducing the topic, the moderator said that this section of the agenda represents a valuable opportunity to review the cooperation developments of interest to developing countries within the framework of the United Nations, for which the presence of Ambassador Mourad Ahmia, Executive Secretary of the Group of 77 and Head of the Secretariat of the Pérez-Guerrero Trust Fund, is significant. He recalled the region's historic leadership in the South-South cooperation strategy since the Buenos Aires (1978) and Caraballeda (1981) conferences and thanked the Pérez-Guerrero Trust Fund of the Group of 77 for its valuable and continuous support to the Meeting of International Cooperation Directors for Latin America and the Caribbean.

14

After thanking SELA for the invitation and the Government of El Salvador for selecting the important topic of border integration, Ambassador Ahmia spoke about the “Future Role of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation.” In this connection, he noted that the Group of 77 has been actively involved in reform efforts of the institutional architecture within the United Nations, aimed at the modernization and strengthening of the institutional arrangements of the United Nations in support of South-South Cooperation. In this regard, he referred to the conclusions and recommendations of the G77 High-level Panel, met in Fiji in May 2013 and whose discussions focused on how to ensure the institutional and financial strengthening of South-South Cooperation in the current international context and that of the UN system. He stressed the need to protect its autonomy with respect to North-South Cooperation and to take actions with a view to ensuring the aforementioned strengthening and autonomy, leaving behind its subordination to the UNDP and becoming an independent UN agency. In this context, he drew the attention of delegates to the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on South-South Cooperation and the United Nations.

In addition, he referred to the potential of the Pérez-Guerrero Trust Fund and called on the region’s countries to take advantage of it. Finally, he noted that 2014 will mark the 50th anniversary of the G77 and special events are scheduled to take place in each region. In this connection, he invited Latin America and the Caribbean to consider options.

He stressed the relevance that the Pérez-Guerrero Trust Fund has given to the Meeting of International Cooperation Directors for Latin America and the Caribbean and welcomed the intention of some Member States to co-sponsor and host this event in the future. In addition, he shared the concern of those present about the follow-up of work planned within the framework of this forum, and expressed that he will submit their remarks for consideration of the next Ministerial Meeting of the Group of 77.

42. Venue, date and topic for the XXV Meeting of International Cooperation Directors for Latin America and the Caribbean.

Mr. Enrique Gil Natareno, Director of Cooperation Programmes and Projects, on behalf of the Republic of Guatemala, congratulated and thanked El Salvador and SELA for the organization of this important Meeting of International Cooperation Directors for Latin America and the Caribbean. He stressed that Guatemala will have the honour to host the XXV Meeting of International Cooperation Directors for Latin America and the Caribbean: “Cooperation for the productive use of remittances in Latin America and the Caribbean.” As regards this subject, he said that migrants’ remittances have a direct impact not only on the household economy and welfare, but also on the economy and society as a whole, which must be analyzed in depth to determine their reach, maximize their positive effects and minimize the negative ones. That is why this topic was selected. He ended his participation by inviting the representatives of the Member States to this event, to be held at a similar date next year and, in response to a request made by the Executive Secretary of the G77, to serve as a framework for the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Group of 77.

B. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The XXIV Meeting of International Cooperation Directors for Latin America and the Caribbean: “Regional Cooperation in the area of border integration” – organized by the Permanent Secretariat of the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA) and the Government of El Salvador, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with the support of the Pérez-Guerrero Trust Fund (PGTF) of the Group of 77 (G-77), CAF-

development bank of Latin America and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) – took place on 30 and 31 May 2013, in San Salvador, El Salvador.

As a basis for the exchanges of views, the Permanent Secretariat of SELA submitted the working documents “Regional cooperation in the area of Border Integration (SP/XXIV-RDCIALC/DT N° 2-13) and “Regional cooperation in the area of Border Integration: A Caribbean perspective” (SP/XXIV-RDCIALC/DT N° 3-13).

The documents review the problems of border integration both in Latin America and in the Caribbean, highlighting the diversity of current situations, approaches and attempted solutions, the importance of institutional and managerial factors, planning requirements and funding for developing plans and projects. They also deal with the dichotomy between the traditional approach focused on security and limits and the approach that considers the border as an economic and social reality, which encompasses both land and maritime cross-border spaces and requires cooperation and involvement of local communities.

Participants in the meeting thanked the Permanent Secretariat of SELA for timely contributing to the analysis of this issue and accomplishing proposed goals, taking note with interest of the aforementioned documents. They also thanked for the presentations and remarks made by the representatives of subregional and regional organizations specialized in the subject. In addition to the valuable presentations delivered by the International Cooperation Directors and other senior officials of the Member States, participants in the meeting also had an overview of the initiatives and progress regarding border integration in Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as the importance and potentials of International Cooperation, South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation actions in the area of border integration, with a view to identifying best practices and enhancing regional interaction in that field.

The exchange of information and perspectives on the subject contributed to reach the following conclusions and recommendations, which will be submitted for consideration to the competent authorities:

Conclusions:

- 1) Border integration is a central common element in the agenda of Latin American and Caribbean regional integration, which will significantly benefit from the regional cooperation efforts to meet current economic and social needs in border areas.
- 2) Cooperation in the area of border integration entails understanding the concept of border not as a borderline for security but rather, and above all, as a territorial and socio-economic space for interaction.
- 3) Cooperation in the area of border integration also requires defining, in a precise way, the concepts of border territorial development and border integration, as well as those of border cooperation and facilitation, because each concept corresponds to different modalities of intervention.
- 4) Once the scope has been defined and the most appropriate intervention modalities have been selected, cooperation in the field of border integration requires designing and coordinating a transnational agenda based on the identification of strategic goals and objectives shared by the States concerned.

16

5) Cooperation in the area of border integration, in its broadest sense, will benefit from the establishment of spaces for dialogue, as well as stable and participatory collaboration and coordination at the national, regional and local level.

6) The implementation of cooperation plans and projects in the area of border integration must be endowed with:

- an organizational structure which is appropriate to each situation and type of project;
- planning on the basis of the objectives pursued;
- adequate resourcing in the medium-term, in order to ensure the stability and continuity of the plan and associated projects;
- effective communication channels, coordination and participation among all political, economic and social stakeholders involved in the implementation and follow-up of the project, particularly at the regional, local and community levels;
- and mechanisms for evaluation and monitoring at the national and subnational levels.

7) Regional cooperation in the area of border integration would benefit from the establishment of a permanent mechanism for monitoring, follow-up and exchange of experiences and best practices at the regional level.

Recommendations:

1) Attach priority to the issue of border integration within the framework of Latin American and Caribbean regional cooperation plans and projects.

2) Promote the establishment of a regional monitoring and collaboration mechanism for follow-up and exchange of knowledge, experiences and best practices in the area of border integration among officials responsible for border integration and international cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean. For this purpose, a request should be made for SELA, in collaboration with ECLAC, IDB and CAF, to outline a proposal for a follow-up and technical support mechanism.

3) The analyses, experiences gained and exchanges point to the need to consider a series of issues and approaches summarized by way of recommendations as follows:

- a) The areas of intervention to promote border integration in the region must be defined by the countries engaged in such processes, with a geographical scale that ensures a positive impact from the initiatives to be adopted and that strengthens the daily relationship between border stakeholders. In this connection, it is important to have an assessment of the existing "border situations", so as to work on those realities and issues of priority depending on the complexity of the prevailing socio-economic situation, the management of cross-border risks, the high potential of such realities and issues in terms of human development, the bilateral integration and the joint international economic projection.
- b) The institutional framework of border integration processes must be strengthened through permanent mechanisms in which not only national agencies have presence and participation, but also representatives of the various organizations of the border society, including local government bodies. Those instances must have a permanent presence.

- c) It is important to move forward with the establishment of border regimes, i.e., opening up borders so that the inhabitants and economic actors in those areas can strengthen ties within the framework of minimum document requirements to move from one border area to another, as defined bilaterally. Without neglecting the security problems affecting border areas in Latin America and the Caribbean, the progress of regional integration demands them to evolve under the approach of border areas for development rather than under the traditional approach of security borderlines.
- d) Member States should take the necessary steps to establish border regimes in a bilateral way, which allow for making concrete investments in infrastructure and productive activities to be recognized as legal undertakings that contribute to overcome the instability and precariousness that characterize many border economies at present.
- e) The formulation and management of border integration plans require that the countries committed to them establish the necessary technical units and jointly define a methodology for their progress, including rapprochement with the corresponding national public investment systems, so that they assume a substantial part of the funding for border integration projects.
- f) International economic and technical cooperation has been and must continue to be an important source of non-reimbursable resources for financing border integration projects in the region, both in their pre-investment and execution phases.

In view of the experiences in Latin America and the Caribbean, it is also recommendable to give greater impetus to South-South Cooperation so as to ensure transfer of successful experiences and lessons learned among countries.

- g) The formulation and structure of public investment budgets should be subject to review so as to make it possible to include the demands arising from border integration projects. This issue should be worked out within the framework of bilateral initiatives between neighbouring countries.
- h) Regional development banks have offered an important technical and financial support to border integration initiatives and should continue to do so, while exploring new formulas to allow for optimizing the reception and use of resources for border integration projects.
- i) Border integration among the island countries of the Caribbean has a critical role to play, in order to optimize the use of air and maritime spaces, establishing regulations for their use in a harmonic way, with intensive application of technologies to strengthen initiatives for interconnection, so that those countries can complement each other socially and economically, and gain a joint presence vis-à-vis third countries and markets.
- j) The Bi-national Border Centres (CEBAF) or Unified Border Centres (CUF), established to facilitate the legal departure of persons, vehicles and goods from one country and their entry into the neighbouring country, can play a role in fostering border economies by promoting the use of such flows of local factors.
- k) Integration and regional cooperation agencies should include, to the largest possible extent, border integration as one of the mechanisms of their work

18

programmes, in view of its broad contribution to the goals of integration processes in the region.

C. OTHER MATTERS

Delegations took note of the offer made by the Government of the Dominican Republic, through the medium of the Directorate General for Multilateral Cooperation (DIGECOOM), to be host and co-sponsor of the XXVI Meeting of International Cooperation Directors for Latin America and the Caribbean, to be held in 2015. In addition, they took note of the offer of the Government of Paraguay, through the Directorate General of International Technical Cooperation of the Technical Secretariat for Planning of Paraguay, to co-sponsor and host the XXVII Meeting, to be held in 2016.

They also recognized the valuable contribution of the Pérez-Guerrero Trust Fund (PGTF) of the Group of 77 to the Meeting of International Cooperation Directors for Latin America and the Caribbean through the Permanent Secretariat of SELA, and urged them to continue providing this support to future regional meetings.

International Cooperation Directors of the Member States of SELA, representatives of regional and international organizations and other participants thanked the Government of El Salvador, especially the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, for hosting the meeting and providing a warm hospitality during the event. They also thanked the Pérez-Guerrero Trust Fund (PGTF) of the Group of 77, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), CAF-development bank of Latin America and the Permanent Secretariat of the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA) for the organization and the technical and financial support for the conduction of this XXIV Meeting of International Cooperation Directors for Latin America and the Caribbean.

Participants decided that the Permanent Secretariat of SELA will send the conclusions and recommendations of the meeting for approval on a no-objection basis. In this regard, it will submit draft conclusions and recommendations and the Member States will have a period of ten (10) business days from the date of circulation for consideration.

D. CLOSING SESSION

At the closing session of the "XXIV Meeting of International Cooperation Directors for Latin America and the Caribbean. Regional Cooperation in the Area of Border Integration", His Excellency Mr. Jaime Miranda, Vice-Minister of Cooperation for Development of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of El Salvador, took the floor to express its satisfaction that El Salvador has been the host of this important forum, and thanked the Permanent Secretariat of SELA, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and CAF-development bank of Latin America for their support and co-sponsorship of the meeting. He emphasized that border integration is a process through which States sharing borders join actions and efforts to raise the standard of living of their inhabitants, using together their resources and potential, and welcomed the opportunity for the Member States of SELA to successfully share their experiences at this meeting in San Salvador and to look for possibilities to work together towards cooperation for border integration in a joint and collaborative manner.

Finally, Ambassador Carlos Bivero, Acting Director of Integration and Cooperation Affairs of the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA), reiterated the Permanent Secretariat's gratitude to the Government of El Salvador for their hospitality, support and attention. He also thanked the other co-sponsors and participants for their valuable contributions to the successful conduction of the XXIV Meeting of International

Cooperation Directors for Latin America and the Caribbean, thus complying with the mandate of the Latin American Council, to which the corresponding report will be submitted.

A N N E X I

Agenda

**XXIV MEETING OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION DIRECTORS
FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

“REGIONAL COOPERATION IN THE AREA OF BORDER INTEGRATION”

Crown Plaza Hotel, Calle 89 Ave. Norte y Calle Poniente, Colonia Escalón

Date: 30 and 31 May 2013. San Salvador, El Salvador

Objectives. This meeting is intended to: i) Provide an overview of those policies and initiatives being advanced by Latin American and Caribbean countries in the field of border integration and the role of national authorities and regional and subregional integration and cooperation mechanisms in strengthening such cooperation; (ii) Collect and systematize successful experiences and best practices in this area at the intra-regional and inter-regional levels; (iii) Exchange information on opportunities for international cooperation, South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation that are now available to the Latin American and Caribbean countries and the initiatives that have been undertaken in the region with the support of bilateral and multilateral development agencies; and iv) Promote a space for regional dialogue on the exchange of offers and demands for cooperation in the field of border integration.

Wednesday, 29 May 2013

Cultural Agenda for the XXIV Meeting of International Cooperation Directors for Latin America and the Caribbean (SELA), upon invitation by the Government of El Salvador (See Annex)

Thursday, 30 May 2013

Caribe Conference Room

Morning

8:30 – 9:00

REGISTRATION

9:00 – 9:45

OPENING SESSION

- Ambassador Carlos Bivero, Acting Director of Integration and Cooperation Affairs, Permanent Secretariat of the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA)
- Ambassador Mourad Ahmia, Executive Secretariat of the Pérez-Guerrero Trust Fund (PGTF) of the Group of 77 and Head of the Secretariat of the Pérez-Guerrero Trust Fund
- Honourable Rodrigo Parot, Representative of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) in El Salvador
- Honourable Juan Pablo Rodríguez Gómez, Adviser to the Executive Presidency of CAF-development bank of Latin America
- His Excellency Salvador Sánchez Cerén, Vice-President of the Republic of El Salvador

9:45 - 10:45

INTRODUCTORY SESSION

Moderator: Ambassador Carlos Bivero, Permanent Secretariat of the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA)

- Presentation of the document "Regional Cooperation in the area of Border Integration", Luis Alberto Oliveros, SELA's Consultant

10:45 - 11:15

COFFEE BREAK

11:15 - 12:15

INTRODUCTORY SESSION - Continued

Moderator: Ambassador Carlos Bivero, Permanent Secretariat of the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA)

- Presentation of the document "Regional Cooperation in the area of Border Integration: A Caribbean perspective", Mark Kirton, SELA's Consultant

12:15 – 1:30

SESSION I: PERSPECTIVES OF REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT BANKS AND SUBREGIONAL BORDER INTEGRATION FUNDS

Moderator: Oscar Edmundo Anaya Sánchez, Director of Economic and Fiscal Policy, Ministry of Finance of El Salvador

- Mrs. Kea Wallrad, Senior Specialist in the Sector of Integration and Trade, Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)
- Juan Pablo Rodríguez Gómez, Adviser to the Executive Presidency, CAF-development bank of Latin America

1:30 – 2:00

FREE TIME FOR LUNCH**Afternoon**

2:00 2:30

SESSION I: PERSPECTIVES OF REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT BANKS AND SUBREGIONAL BORDER INTEGRATION FUNDS - Continued

Moderator: Oscar Edmundo Anaya Sánchez, Director of Economic and Fiscal Policy, Ministry of Finance of El Salvador

- Lenox Forte, Director, Regional Development Division, Development Fund to Disadvantaged Countries, Regions and Sectors in the Caribbean Community (CARICOM)
- Ricardo Cronembold Bello, Principal Secretary, Plata Basin Financial Development Fund (FONPLATA)

- 2:30 – 4:00 **SESSION II: BORDER INTEGRATION FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN ORGANIZATIONS**
Moderator: Mrs. Cecilia Elizabeth Segura de Dueñas, Director-General of Foreign Policy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of El Salvador
- Nahuel Oddone, Unit of International Trade and Industry, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)
 - Raúl Nieto Vinuesa, Coordinator of the Border Development Programme, Andean Community (CAN)
 - Ms. Daiana Ferraro Silvera, Deputy General Director, Uruguayan Pro Tempore Presidency of the Common Market of the South (MERCOSUR)
- 4:00 – 5:30 **DEBATE**
- 5:30 – 6:00 **PRESENTATION**
Norteamérica Conference Room
- Catalogue of South-South Cooperation in El Salvador: Promoting the exchange of development experiences in Latin America and the Caribbean
- 6:30 **WELCOME COCKTAIL (Jade Conference Room, Crowne Plaza Hotel)** Offered by His Excellency Hugo Martínez, Minister of Foreign Affairs of El Salvador

Friday, 31 May 2013
Caribe Conference Room

Morning

- 9:00 – 11:30 **SESSION II: BORDER INTEGRATION FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN ORGANIZATIONS – Continued**
Moderator: Ambassador Said Badi Guerra, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Belize
- Mrs. Elayne Whyte Gómez, Executive Director, Mesoamerican Project, and Martín Alcalá Salgado, Deputy Director for Social Development of the Secretariat of Foreign Affairs of Mexico
 - Alberto Durán, Director of Transport and External Economic Relations, Association of Caribbean States (ACS)
 - Carlos Arana Courrejolles, Coordinator of Social Affairs, Transport, Infrastructure, Communications and Tourism, Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO)
 - Mrs. Orietta Zumbado, Coordinator of the SEFRO Programme, and Raúl Alejandro Jofré Cabello, Chief of International

Technical Assistance of the SEFRO Programme, Regional Programme on Border Security of Central America (SEFRO) / General Secretariat of the Central American Integration System (SICA)

- Martin Guillermo Ramirez, Secretary-General of the Association of European Border Regions (AEBR)
- Nahuel Oddone, Unit of International Trade and Industry, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

11:30 – 11:50

COFFEE BREAK

11:50 – 1:00

SESSION III: REGIONAL EXPERIENCES IN BORDER INTEGRATION IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Moderator: Mark Kirton

Panel: 15-minute presentations

- Alvaro Sarmiento Matute, Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)
- Gustavo Pacheco, Deputy Director-General of International Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Eastern Republic of Uruguay
- Juan Carlos Montúfar Celada, Trin-ational Technical Manager, TRIFINIO Plan Tri-national Commission
- Carlos Federico Paredes, Adviser to the Presidency, Autonomous Port Executive Commission (CEPA), Republic of El Salvador
- Mrs. Saskya Lugo, Technical Management Coordinator. Technical Secretariat of International Cooperation of the Republic of Ecuador
- Mrs. Arlyn González, Director of Intenational Technical Cooperation, Ministry of Economy and Finance, Republic of Panama

1:00 – 2:30

FREE TIME FOR LUNCH

Afternoon

2:30 – 3:45

SESSION III: REGIONAL EXPERIENCES IN BORDER INTEGRATION IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN - Continued**Moderator:** Luis Alberto Oliveros**Panel: 15-minute presentations**

- Antonio Vargas Hernández, General Direction of Multilateral Cooperation (DIGECOOM), Dominican Republic
- Pablo Cea, Country Coordinator of the International Cooperation Agency of Chile (AGCI), Chile; Mrs. Marcela Espinoza, Director of Borders, Direction of Borders and Limits, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Chile
- Garth W. Williams, Deputy Chief Executive, Operations of Passport, Immigrations and Citizenship Agency of the Republic of Jamaica
- Mrs. Ada Yanira Gutierrez Lorenzana, Executive Director of the Subsecretariat of International Cooperation of the Secretariat of Planning and Programming (SEGEPLAN) Republic of Guatemala

3:45 – 4:30

DEBATE

4:30 – 5:00

SESSION IV: FUTURE ROLE OF THE UN OFFICE FOR SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION**Moderator:** Ambassador Carlos Bivero, Acting Director of Integration and Cooperation Affairs (SELA)

- Ambassador Mourad Ahmia, Executive Secretary of the Group of 77 and Head of the Secretariat of the Pérez-Guerrero Trust Fund

5:00 – 5:30

COFFEE BREAK

5:30 – 6:00

SESSION V: FOLLOW-UP OF THE CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE LAST MEETING OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION DIRECTORS**Moderator:** Ambassador Carlos Bivero, Acting Director of Integration and Cooperation Affairs (SELA)**VENUE, DATE AND TOPIC FOR THE XXV MEETING OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION DIRECTORS FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**

- Enrique Gil Natareno, Director of Cooperation Programmes and Projects, on behalf of the Republic of Guatemala, host and co-sponsor of the XXV Meeting of International Cooperation Directors for Latin America and the Caribbean

- Luis Amarilla, Director-General of International Technical Cooperation of the Technical Secretariat of Planning of the Republic of Paraguay. Offer to host and co-sponsor the XXVII Meeting of International Cooperation Directors for Latin America and the Caribbean
- Mrs. Ivette Subero, Departmental Director of the General Direction of Multilateral Cooperation (DIGECOOM) of Dominican Republic. Offer to host and co-sponsor the XXVI Meeting of International Cooperation Directors for Latin America and the Caribbean

6:00

SESSION VI: CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6:30

CLOSING SESSION

- His Excellency Jaime Miranda, Vice-Minister of Cooperation for Development of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of El Salvador
- Ambassador Carlos Bivero, Acting Director of Integration and Cooperation Affairs, Permanent Secretariat of the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA)

ANNEX

CULTURAL AGENDA FOR THE XXIV MEETING OF COOPERATION DIRECTORS (SELA)
(optional)Invitation by the Government of El Salvador**Wednesday, 29 May 2013****Afternoon**

4:00 p.m.	Departure from the Hotel Crowne Plaza, San Salvador
4:30 – 5:00 p.m.	Visit to the National Museum of Anthropology (MUNA)
5:20 – 6:30 p.m.	Visit to the Municipal Palace, Municipal Museum of Santa Tecla (former penitentiary) and walk in Paseo El Carmen, tourist site in La Libertad Department
7:00 p.m.	Dinner in the Hacienda Real Restaurant

Note: Transportation costs and entrance fees to museums will be covered by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of El Salvador. Participants must pay for their dinner.

A N N E X I I

**Speech by Ambassador Carlos Bivero,
Acting Director of Integration and Cooperation Affairs
of the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA)**

Your Excellency, Salvador Sánchez Cerén, Vice-President of the Republic of El Salvador;

Your Excellency, Hugo Martínez, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of El Salvador;

Your Excellency, Mario Roger Hernández Calderón, Vice-Minister of Economy and Representative to the Latin American Council

Your Excellency, Jaime Alfredo Miranda, Vice-Minister of Cooperation for Development;

Your Excellency, Ambassador Mourad Ahmia, Executive Secretary of the Group of 77;

Honourable Representatives of the Inter-American Development Bank and CAF-development bank of Latin America, co-sponsors of this event;

Honourable International Cooperation Directors and Members of the distinguished delegations of the Member States of the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA);

Distinguished representatives of integration and cooperation mechanisms in Latin America and the Caribbean;

Members of the diplomatic corps, Observers and other special guests;

Ladies and gentlemen:

On behalf of the Permanent Secretary of the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA), Ambassador Roberto Guarnieri, I would like to express our sincere appreciation and gratitude to the Government of El Salvador for its generous offer to host this XXIV Meeting of International Cooperation Directors for Latin America and the Caribbean, and for the effective support that allowed us to gather today in San Salvador.

I would also like to underscore the importance of the issue of border integration, which was proposed by the Government of El Salvador as the central topic of our meeting.

Similarly, it is worth highlighting the historical significance of this meeting, which gathers countries, regional organizations and experts to exchange experiences and views on a subject which is both complex and particularly sensitive in its multiple dimensions.

Our Heads of State and Government, gathered in Caracas on the occasion of the founding Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) in December 2011, requested us to move forward towards unity and integration so as to successfully confront the challenges faced by our region.

To achieve this, among other important mandates, they instructed the regional mechanisms to expand the exchanges of successful experiences and meet the need of having a strategy for development of border areas, particularly in terms of infrastructure and connectivity.

And today, with the valuable support of CAF-development bank of Latin America and the Caribbean, the Inter-American Development Bank and the Pérez-Guerrero Trust Fund for cooperation among developing countries, we are addressing the issue of regional

cooperation in the area of border integration, perhaps for the first time in our history in such a broad forum, with so much experience and specialization.

In order to facilitate exchanges, the Permanent Secretariat of SELA requested two well-known analysts – Luis Alberto Oliveros, from Peru, and Raymond Mark Kirton, of Trinidad and Tobago – to present their opinions and suggestions for consideration of this forum, in view of their long academic and professional experience.

And while their contributions are important, there's no doubt that we will have the opportunity to know and directly assess the experiences of the Member States, and those of the organizations that the governments of the region have entrusted with the task of helping to achieve, through cooperation, the strategic objectives of border integration.

Distinguished delegates, you are the main stakeholders in this process of mutual information and personal and professional interaction, which gives a reason and sense to our forum, as a space of fraternal encounter and constructive dialogue with a vision for the future.

This forum will undoubtedly play an important role in revitalizing the dynamics of regional cooperation, as required by our Heads of State and Government within the context of CELAC, which was immediately mirrored in the Decisions of the Latin American Council of SELA.

Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen:

I would like to conclude by wishing you, on behalf of the Permanent Secretary of SELA, Ambassador Roberto Guarnieri, the greatest success in your debates, ratifying our willingness to continue promoting intra-regional cooperation, which is one of the fundamental objectives of SELA, as defined in the Panama Convention.

Thank you very much.

A N N E X I I I

**Speech by Ambassador Mourad Ahmia,
Executive Secretary of the Group of 77
and Head of the Secretariat of the Pérez-Guerrero Trust Fund (PGTF)**

Honourable Vice President,

Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs,

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen:

1. At the outset, I would like to thank SELA for inviting the Group of 77 and the PGTF to share the Group's views on South-South Cooperation and its contribution to regional cooperation in the area of border integration. Allow me to also thank the government and the people of El Salvador for their kind hospitality and for the excellent arrangements made to host this meeting.

2. Regional cooperation and integration provides the most meaningful approach and effective conduit for the South to face the challenges of globalization and take advantage of its opportunities. We are all aware that capabilities and capacities to expand increase substantially through exchanges of experiences and good practices, sharing of technical resources, information and joint activities in research and development. Unfortunately, these activities are constrained by lack of resources. But as pointed out in the background report, border integration holds an immense value for developing countries since it allows many of them to develop strategies by pooling their resources together and cooperating in several critical areas in order to build these capacities, and improve efficiency and competitiveness.

3. In that regard, the Group of 77 encourages cooperation among regional groupings and we strongly believe that South-South Cooperation will contribute in promoting and bridging sub-regional and regional groupings as a pivotal dynamic for enhancing South-South cooperation. We are pleased with the Latin America and the Caribbean region in their commitment to increase regional integration for the purpose of regional and local development and competitiveness.

4. These South-South initiatives in the context of regional cooperation in the area of border integration enhance the standard of living of their communities by increasing their opportunities through access to education, employment, trade, healthcare, environmental protection and infrastructure. These experiences from Latin America will prove important for other regions also.

5. As stated in the report, "border and regional integration is a fundamental way to foster solidarity between states sharing borders and encourage cooperation in specific areas to spill over into other areas, further solidifying the bilateral or multilateral relations. In this way, border areas play a crucial role in promoting regional integration which in turn furthers cross border cooperation and contributes to development of border areas". In essence, border and regional integration plays a fundamental role in the contribution of developing countries to the global economy.

6. As reiterated by the G77 Ministers for Foreign Affairs in their most recent Declaration adopted on 28 September 2012, South-South cooperation remains an important pillar in the development of developing countries, vital to confront the multiple challenges faced

by our countries. The border integration as a segment of the regional integration movement illustrates perfectly the tremendous role South-South cooperation plays in improving the lives of southern communities. At this stage, developing countries should intensify South-South cooperation as a development strategy and a means for ensuring their participation in international economic relations.

7. But we are also aware of the many factors obstructing the effective border integration as illustrated in the background report such as the adequate and comprehensive legal framework necessary to set the guidelines, rules and policies which govern border cooperation. In addition, physical infrastructures and lack of appropriate transportation constitute other important obstacles which make it difficult to reach greater results in this process.

8. In this context, additional resources are required to increase solutions to critical social and economic needs for the populations of the South and special efforts should be made to build infrastructures and provide resources for capacity building, strengthening institutional and technical capacities and to improving the exchange of experience and know-how among developing countries.

9. The Group of 77, through the PGTF, appreciates and welcomes these opportunities to further strengthen the fruitful collaboration developed over the years with SELA in promoting and supporting South-South cooperation in various fields. I wish to take this opportunity to reiterate the PGTF's readiness to continue to support the implementation of South-South cooperation projects through catalytic financing and strengthening its cooperation with SELA in the years ahead. As the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Group of 77 will be commemorated in 2014, such collaboration is further testimony of the common objective shared by SELA and G77 to strengthen not just South-South cooperation but also the solidarity between developing countries.

I wish you all success in your deliberations.

Thank you.

A N N E X I V

**Speech by the Honourable Rodrigo Parot,
Representative of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) in El Salvador**

Your Excellency, Salvador Sánchez Cerén, Vice-President of the Republic of El Salvador;

Your Excellency, Hugo Martínez, Minister of Foreign Affairs of El Salvador;

Honourable Mourad Ahmia, Executive Secretary of the Group of 77 and Head of the Secretariat of the Pérez-Guerrero Trust Fund;

Honourable Juan Pablo Rodríguez, Adviser to the Executive Presidency of CAF-development bank of Latin America;

Honourable Ambassador Carlos Bivero, Acting Director of Integration and Cooperation Affairs of SELA;

Honourable International Cooperation Directors of the countries in the region;

Members of the diplomatic corps and representatives of international organizations accredited to the Government of El Salvador;

Ladies and gentlemen:

Welcome to the XXIV Meeting of International Cooperation Directors for Latin America and the Caribbean, focused on regional cooperation in the area of border integration.

Since its inception, the Inter-American Bank of development (IDB) has supported regional integration projects and committed to their implementation in Latin America and the Caribbean. In this regard, I would like to refer to the Ninth General Capital Increase (IDB-9), a mandate approved in 2010 and aimed at allowing our institution to increase its loans to Governments and institutions interested in the development of the Latin American and Caribbean region. This Ninth General Capital Increase also includes a new and specific strategy to support regional cooperation and integration. In addition to a 15% funding increase, a measure to become effective as of 2015 for integration and cooperation projects, it aims to cover five pillars in such regional cooperation and integration category:

The first pillar refers to infrastructure, with emphasis on the sectors of transport, energy, telecommunications, etc. This pillar should also consider software-based policy and regulatory frameworks that facilitate their implementation. The second pillar refers to regional initiatives involving public and private operations.

The third pillar focuses on strategy, which recognizes the importance of the generation of regional public goods, as a form of leveraging linkages in the areas of education, health, environment, migration, etc. Finally, the fourth pillar aims at the development and participation of public and private sector initiatives to foster the promotion and sustainability of integration goals at the national and regional levels.

To ensure that the issue of regional cooperation and integration is fully addressed in the operational programme of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) at global and regional levels, projects to be financed should also cover the fields of commerce, financial integration, coordination of policies, etc., that enable countries to effectively

and efficiently face common challenges and make better use of the opportunities provided by the regional and global integration mechanism.

The IDB has a long history of support for regional cooperation, and in response to the growing demand in recent years, efforts have been stepped up to support cooperation among LAC countries, as well as between these and others from the rest of the developing world.

To that end, the Bank has developed and strengthened many of its programmes and provided countries with resources to support the bilateral transfer. It created the initiative of regional public goods, which promotes the coordination of collective responses from LAC countries to common opportunities and challenges. It has supported the creation of institutional frameworks and structures that facilitate intra-regional South-South cooperation through the Ibero-American Programme to Strengthen South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation, coordinated by the Uruguayan Agency for International Cooperation.

In addition, it has allocated resources to the strengthening of public institutions in the areas of customs, insurance brokers, broadband and sustainable cities through the exchange of experiences with Asian countries in coordination with the Asian Development Bank. Within the framework of this programme, the First Joint Meeting of Customs Directors of Latin America and Asia was held in Panama in April 2013. This event contributed to the launch of negotiations for the signing of cooperation agreements aimed at reducing trade costs through the authorized economic operator programme.

Finally, allow me to thank you all for your presence and participation, to greet the entities that supported us in the organization of the meeting and to wish you every success in your deliberations.

Thank you very much.

A N N E X V

**Speech by the Honourable Juan Pablo Rodríguez Gómez,
Adviser to the Executive Presidency of CAF-development bank of Latin America**

Vice-President of the Republic;

Minister of Foreign Affairs;

Vice-Minister;

Colleagues at the Board;

Representatives of Member States:

First of all, I would like to thank SELA for the initiative of creating this forum for encounter and reflection and the Government of El Salvador for welcoming enthusiastically the possibility that you, all countries, jointly discuss a crucial issue for regional integration, which is border integration and development. This topic has been and remains of the utmost importance for CAF-development bank of Latin America, of which 18 countries here today are full members.

From the point of view of CAF-development bank of Latin America, the situation of Latin America is quite promising under the difficult circumstances affecting the world. Despite its good performance, the region still faces structural challenges, which have to do not only with the loss of position of the region in world trade, but also with a lag in response to demands for saving and investment to generate greater productive transformation, increasing productivity and competitiveness and fundamental gaps, such as the fact that we are the most unequal region in the world. And in view of these lags and structural challenges facing Latin America and the Caribbean, integration is still a chance and it continues to play a fundamental role.

In the specific case of border integration, nothing would help more in alleviating these challenges and working hard to solve them and seek higher levels of development for the region than working on borders. In fact, it undoubtedly is the crucial hinge of integration not only in terms of ensuring access of goods, services and of course technology, but also in terms of facilitating physical connectivity among countries in the areas of telecommunications and energy. In addition, it plays a vital role in achieving higher levels of social cohesion and development for the well-being of populations.

As a result, CAF-development bank of Latin America, in carrying out its fundamental work through a strategic programme for years, has developed a specific fund for border integration. A strategic fund that is necessary to support all initiatives not only at the bilateral and trilateral levels, but also at the level of subregional integration schemes, the Mesoamerican Project, MERCOSUR, the Andean Community, etc., in order to achieve specific border integration and development goals. However, border integration and borders should be analyzed with a strategic vision, a long-term vision, a vision of complementarity, a vision of joint opportunities and mutual benefits among countries and of course among their inhabitants. This is our commitment at CAF-development bank of Latin America.

We are glad to see here familiar faces of representatives of countries with which we are already working on initiatives and, as I said before, making use of a fund, which will be explained in detail later in the presentation. This fund ensures that we are the only multilateral agency allocating resources exclusively to provide countries with technical assistance in border development and integration projects.

46

In the context of this joint effort, we are pleased to participate in this forum and wish all participating countries every success in these two days of deliberations, based on documents presented. I hope that they can make progress in defining mechanisms, in gaining knowledge about best practices on border integration among countries, in defining innovative mechanisms for South-South cooperation and in making some headway based on creative proposals in terms of financial resources for border integration and development.

On behalf of CAF-development bank of Latin America, I thank you very much for the invitation and reiterate our interest and belief in supporting countries on this issue.

A N N E X V I

**Speech by His Excellency Salvador Sánchez Cerén,
Vice-President of the Republic of El Salvador**

Allow me to greet you and convey to you the expression of my friendship as Vice-President of the Republic of El Salvador and member of the TRIFINIO Plan Tri-national Commission. I am sure that you are enjoying your stay in our country for both the beauty of our nature and the warmth of our people. I am pleased to extend a warm welcome to:

Representatives of the 28 countries making up SELA;

Representatives of organizations and regional development banks;

Representatives of the United Nations System;

Representatives of the G77;

The diplomatic corps.

El Salvador is pleased to host this important meeting, which allows for closer relations of friendship and cooperation among Member States of SELA in the relevant theme of "regional cooperation in the area of border integration."

Our Latin American and Caribbean region has been characterized by the abundance of regional integration processes, including ALBA, MERCOSUR, UNASUR, CELAC, SICA, among others. This has enabled the region to meet development challenges despite multiple obstacles, in particular today as a result of the challenges posed by globalization and multiples crises in the economic, social, environmental, energy and climate areas, as well as a crisis of values.

Many times we have faced political conflicts and wars, but we have managed to overcome them because of our strong willingness to build peace and reach agreements within our territories and between our States. This much-needed peace should be based on social justice, economic equity, gender equality and the recognition of cultural and ethnic diversity.

This event is very important, because it deals with precisely regional cooperation in the field of border integration, which is a complex issue. I must tell you that in these four years as Vice-President and as a member of the TRIFINIO Plan Tri-national Commission, this issue has been a life lesson, which allows me to see the development of rural communities located in border areas with a more comprehensive vision.

The TRIFINIO Plan arises from an agreement signed in 1986 by Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador, within the framework of the dialogue for Central American integration, and aims to turn this region into a region of peace and to protect the natural, historical and cultural heritage of the border area. Since 1998, it has its legal basis in a Treaty.

Such Treaty defines the TRIFINIO region as an INDIVISIBLE ECOLOGICAL UNIT, comprised of 45 municipalities and a population of about 700,000 inhabitants in an area of 7 thousand Km², where only the joint and coordinated action from the three countries can guarantee sustainable development.

The TRIFINIO Plan Tri-national Commission (CTPT), made up of the Vice-Presidents of Guatemala and El Salvador and the Presidential Designate of Honduras, is in charge of the implementation and permanent update of the TRIFINIO Plan.

50

The CTPT consists of two bodies: the Trinational Executive Secretariat and the Advisory Committee, which brings together mayors, departmental governors and all organized expressions of the social and productive areas in the region. The CTPT relies on the institutions of each State and international cooperation.

This plan has contributed to the establishment of a closer cooperative relationship among the municipalities making up the communities. In addition, Salvadoran public institutions in the areas of education, health and civil protection cooperate to meet social demands of border communities in Honduras and Guatemala.

During these four years working in the region and engaging in a dialogue with mayors, associations, productive social sectors, communities, craftspeople, members of cooperatives and the business sector, I can assure you that borders in the TRIFINIO region are just dividing lines, since the dynamics of integration and cooperation among peoples is very strong and goes beyond formality among States.

Communities share a cultural and historical relationship, local commerce and use of natural resources of the basins where they live.

They face common problems of extreme poverty, historic abandonment by States, dual citizenship, environmental pollution and degradation of ecosystems, impacts of climate change and even conflicts over the use of water resources.

In a dialogue with residents, I found that they do not see a direct and specific benefit from the TRIFINIO plan for their communities and sectors. This allowed me to conclude that the development of projects for the protection of natural resources is not enough. It is necessary to incorporate the social approach, which requires the active, conscious and organized participation of the population as architect and recipient of their own development to overcome the serious socio-economic problems and reverse the environmental degradation.

Therefore, in these four years my Guatemalan and Honduran counterparts and I have worked hard to revitalize the TRIFINIO Plan with a new vision that incorporates development in its entirety with four components:

- Social development in border communities
- Sustainable economy
- Protection of natural resources
- Regional integration and cross-border cooperation

We have relaunched the Advisory Committee at the trinational level, which plays an important role in the participation of and decision-making by local actors. We have also promoted institutional agreements and formed an inter-agency committee that ensures a greater involvement and commitment of the different bodies of the State.

With the political will of the three Governments at the highest level, the Tri-national Commission made it possible for a significant portion of the TRIFINIO region to be declared as the Fraternity Biosphere Reserve, named by UNESCO as the JEWEL OF THE AMERICAS. El Salvador is proud to have more than the 72% of this territory, since it is the only tri-national reserve in the world to contain a wealth of biodiversity in a small space shared by three neighbouring countries.

We fully agree with UNESCO on the importance of biosphere reserves as models that demonstrate that human beings can live in dignity and in harmony with Mother Nature. As a result, we have initiated actions aimed at changing the traditional approach to development.

Thanks to the support of international cooperation (European Union, Taiwan, IDB and others), we are developing programmes for productive development and protection of natural resources, education, health and support to the development of micro and medium-sized entrepreneurs of the sustainable tourism chain.

We are implementing the programme for protection of tropical forests and watershed management, with the cooperation of German institutions, in three areas:

- Environmental management
- Protection of natural resources
- Protected Areas

With the support of Government institutions and international cooperation, the Salvadoran part of the TRIFINIO region is promoting adult literacy programmes and the programme "Closing the Knowledge Gap," which are aimed at breaking the academic deadlock and accelerating the processes of education and training of children and youth. Health programmes, through community medical teams, should focus on prevention measures, complemented by health days in various branches.

Through South-South cooperation, we are promoting two major efforts:

- With the support of the Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla, Mexico, we are running the comprehensive plan for the rescue of the Metapán lagoon.
- With the support of Cuba's National Institute for Agricultural Sciences and the National Centre for Agricultural Health, we are promoting the centre for production of agro-environmental alternatives. One of the first actions is the installation of a bio-fertilizer plant, which will lead to increased productivity and reduced pollution of ecosystems.

In addition, I would like to emphasize that border integration should be a priority issue in any integration process, since jointly addressing transnational problems that affect border populations may give better results for the comprehensive development of communities and the countries involved.

For this reason, I think that States must generate spaces and legal conditions to strengthen the dynamic local integration processes in border areas.

In this connection, El Salvador pays special attention regional cooperation within the framework of the SELA, since it enables integration processes, in any of their areas, to have a greater impact and sustainability over time.

Finally, I want to thank you all on behalf of the Government of El Salvador for participating in this important meeting and wish you all a productive session that generates the results that the region expects and strengthens the ties of cooperation among the Member States of SELA.

Thank you very much.

A N N E X V I I

**Statement
by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Cuba**

**STATEMENT BY CUBAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
CUBA DOES NOT RECOGNIZE THE US GOVERNMENT TO HAVE THE
SLIGHTEST MORAL AUTHORITY TO JUDGE IT**

On 30 May, the U.S. State Department repeated its unwonted accusation that Cuba is "a State sponsor of international terrorism."

Once again, this shameful decision has been taken deliberately with no truthful basis, ignoring the wide consensus and explicit demand from many sectors of the U.S. society and the international community for an end to this injustice.

The sole objective of this discredited anti-Cuba exercise is to try and justify the maintenance of the blockade, a failed policy condemned worldwide. It is also an attempt to please a steadily decreasing anti-Cuba group desperately propping up a policy which no longer has any basis and is not even in the national interest of the United States, the majority of its population and of Cuban migrants resident in the country.

The United States government insists on maintaining this arbitrary and unilateral designation, in spite of the total collapse of the ridiculous accusations and feeble arguments which it has traditionally utilized in recent years as an excuse for it, such as the presence in Cuba of fugitives from U.S. justice, none of whom in fact have been accused of terrorism. It also alleges that Cuba has taken in Basque members of ETA, ignoring the fact that this was in response to a request from the governments involved. It also notes that members of the Colombian guerrilla movement are living in the country. This is an absurd accusation, because since 2011 Cuba has been a sponsor of the peace process in Colombia.

Cuban territory has never been and never will be utilized to harbour terrorists of any origin, nor for the organization, financing or perpetration of acts of terrorism against any country in the world, including the United States. The Cuban government unequivocally rejects and condemns any act of terrorism, anywhere, under any circumstances and whatever the alleged motivation might be.

On the contrary, the United States government employs state terrorism as a weapon against countries which defy its interests, provoking deaths in civilian populations. It has used drone aircraft to perpetrate extra-judicial executions of alleged terrorists, including U.S. citizens, resulting in the death of hundreds of innocent civilians.

Historically, the United States has been the refuge of self-confessed terrorists and murderers of Cuban origin and, to this day, is harbouring Luis Posada Carriles, the mastermind of the first act of terrorism perpetrated on civil aviation in the Western Hemisphere, which provoked an explosion aboard a Cubana de Aviación aircraft off the coast of Barbados on 6 October 1976, and the death of its 73 passengers, including the national youth fencing team. While Posada is living in freedom and peace in Miami, Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino, Antonio Guerrero y Fernando González remain unjustly incarcerated for fighting against terrorism in the United States, accused of crimes they did not commit.

For years, Cuba has suffered the consequences of acts of terrorism organized, financed and perpetrated from U.S. territory, with 3,478 persons killed and 2,099 left with disabilities.

56

The Cuban government does not afford the government of the United States the least moral authority to judge it.

In 2002, the government of Cuba proposed to its U.S. counterpart the adoption of a bilateral agreement to confront terrorism, an offer which it reiterated in 2012, without having received any response.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs strongly rejects the utilization for political ends of an issue as sensitive as international terrorism, and demands an end to this shameful designation, an offense to the Cuban people, the only objective of which is to attempt to justify the anachronistic and cruel blockade of Cuba, and which is to the discredit of the United States government itself.

Havana, 30 May 2013

A N N E X V I I I

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A N N E X I X

List of documents

SP/XXIV-RDCIALC/DT N° 1-13/Rev.1	Agenda
SP/XXIV-RDCIALC/DT N° 2-13	Base document: "Regional Cooperation in the area of Border Integration" Consultant: Luis Alberto Oliveros
SP/XXIV-RDCIALC/DT N° 3-13	Base document: "Regional Cooperation in the area of Border Integration: A Caribbean perspective" Consultant: Raymond Mark Kirton
SP/XXIV-RDCIALC/CR-13	Conclusions and Recommendations
SP/XXIV-RDCIALC/Di N° 1-13	Speech by Ambassador Carlos Bivero, Acting Director of Integration and Cooperation Affairs, Permanent Secretariat of the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA)
SP/XXIII-RDCIALC/Di N° 2-12	Speech by the Honourable Mourad Ahmia, Executive Secretary of the Group of 77 and Head of the Secretariat of the Pérez-Guerrero Trust Fund (PGTF)
SP/XXIV-RDCIALC/Di N° 3-13	Speech by Rodrigo Parot, Representative of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) in El Salvador
SP/XXIV-RDCIALC/Di N° 4-13	Speech by Juan Pablo Rodríguez Gómez, Adviser to the Executive Presidency of CAF-development bank of Latin America
SP/XXIV-RDCIALC/Di N° 5-13	Speech by His Excellency Salvador Sánchez Cerén, Vice-President of the Republic of El Salvador
SP/XXIV-RDCIALC/Di N° 6-13	Presentation of the document: "Regional Cooperation in the area of Border Integration" Consultant: Luis Alberto Oliveros
SP/XXIV-RDCIALC/Di N° 7-13	Presentation of the document: "Regional Cooperation in the area of Border Integration: A Caribbean perspective" Consultant: Raymond Mark Kirton

SP/XXIV-RDCIALC/Di N° 8-13	<p>“Cooperación Regional e Integración Fronteriza. Una Perspectiva desde los Instrumentos de Integración del BID”</p> <p>Ms. Kea Wallrad, Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)</p>
SP/XXIV-RDCIALC/Di N° 9-13	<p>“Integración y Fondos Regionales: el aporte de CAF-banco de desarrollo de América Latina”</p> <p>Juan Pablo Rodríguez Gómez, Adviser to the Executive Presidency, CAF-development bank of Latin America</p>
SP/XXIV-RDCIALC/Di N° 10-13	<p>“Regional Cooperation in the Area of Border Integration – A Perspective from the CARICOM Development Fund”</p> <p>Lenox Forte, Director, Regional Development Division of the Development Fund to Disadvantaged Countries, Regions and Sectors in the Caribbean Community (CARICOM)</p>
SP/XXIV-RDCIALC/Di N° 11-13	<p>“Cooperación Regional en el Ámbito de la Integración Fronteriza”</p> <p>Ricardo Cronembold Bello, Principal Secretary of the Plata Basin Financial Development Fund (FONPLATA)</p>
SP/XXIV-RDCIALC/Di N° 12-13	<p>“Cooperación Regional en el Ámbito de la Integración Fronteriza”</p> <p>Nahuel Oddone, Unit of International Trade and Industry, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)</p>
SP/XXIV-RDCIALC/Di N° 13-13	<p>“La Integración Fronteriza en la Perspectiva de los Organismos Latinoamericanos y Caribeños”</p> <p>Raúl Nieto Vinuesa, Coordinator of the Border Development Programme of the Andean Community (CAN)</p>

SP/XXIV-RDCIALC/Di N° 14-13	<p>"Políticas e Iniciativas en MERCOSUR en el ámbito de la Integración Fronteriza"</p> <p>Ms. Daiana Ferraro Silvera, Deputy Assistant Director-General, Uruguayan Pro Tempore Presidency of the Common Market of the South (MERCOSUR)</p>
<p>SP/XXIV-RDCIALC/Di N° 15-13</p> <p>SP/XXIV-RDCIALC/Di N° 31-13</p>	<p>"Proyecto Mesoamérica"</p> <p>Ms. Elayne Whyte Gómez, Executive Director, Mesoamerican Project, Infrastructure and Physical Integration</p> <p>Martin Alcalá Salgado, Deputy Director for Social Development of the Secretariat of Foreign Affairs of Mexico</p>
SP/XXIV-RDCIALC/Di N° 16-13	<p>"La Asociación de Estados del Caribe: Promoviendo la conectividad terrestre, aérea y marítima para la integración del Gran Caribe"</p> <p>Alberto Durán, Director of Transport and External Economic Relations, Association of Caribbean States (ACS)</p>
SP/XXIV-RDCIALC/Di N° 17-13	<p>"La Organización del Tratado de Cooperación Amazónica, la Cooperación Internacional y la Agenda de Inclusión Social Amazónica"</p> <p>Carlos Arana Courrejolles, Coordinator of Social Affairs, Transport, Infrastructure, Communications and Tourism, Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO)</p>
SP/XXIV-RDCIALC/Di N° 18-13	<p>"Resultados del Programa Regional de Seguridad Fronteriza SEFRO en 2012"</p> <p>Ms. Orietta Zumbado, Coordinator of the SEFRO Programme; and Raúl Alejandro Jofré Cabello, Chief of International Technical Assistance of the SEFRO Programme, Regional Programme on Border Security of Central America (SEFRO) / General Secretariat of the Central American Integration System (SICA)</p>

SP/XXIV-RDCIALC/Di N° 19-13	<p>“La Cooperación Transfronteriza y la Integración Europea. Una inspiración para otros procesos de integración continental”</p> <p>Martín Guillermo Ramírez, Secretary-General of the Association of European Border Regions (AEBR)</p>
SP/XXIV-RDCIALC/Di N° 20-13	<p>“Cooperación Regional en el Ámbito de la Integración Fronteriza”</p> <p>Nahuel Oddone, Unit of International Trade and Industry, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)</p>
SP/XXIV-RDCIALC/Di N° 21-13	<p>“Experiencias Regionales de Integración Fronteriza. Gestión Coordinada de Fronteras”</p> <p>Álvaro Sarmiento Matute, Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)</p>
SP/XXIV-RDCIALC/Di N° 22-13	<p>“Frontera Uruguay-Brasil, de la Cooperación a la Integración”</p> <p>Gustavo Pacheco, Deputy Director-General of International Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Eastern Republic of Uruguay</p>
SP/XXIV-RDCIALC/Di N° 23-13	<p>“PLAN TRIFINIO. Más de 25 años de Cooperación Transfronteriza. El Salvador-Guatemala-Honduras”</p> <p>Juan Carlos Montúfar Celada, Tri-national Technical Manager, TRIFINIO Plan Tri-national Commission</p>
SP/XXIV-RDCIALC/Di N° 24-13	<p>“Concesión del Puerto de la Unión Centroamericana, Experiencia de Integración Fronteriza en Centro América”</p> <p>Carlos Federico Paredes, Adviser to the Presidency, Autonomous Port Executive Commission (CEPA), Republic of El Salvador</p>

SP/XXIV-RDCIALC/Di N° 25-13	<p>"Experiencia de la Cooperación Fronteriza Caso: Panamá – Costa Rica"</p> <p>Ms. Arlyn González, Director of International Technical Cooperation, Ministry of Economy and Finance, Republic of Panama</p>
SP/XXIV-RDCIALC/Di N° 26-13	<p>"La articulación territorial nacional: un camino para consolidar la cooperación en la Región"</p> <p>Ms. Saskya Lugo, Technical Management Coordinator, Technical Secretariat for International Cooperation of the Republic of Ecuador</p>
SP/XXIV-RDCIALC/Di N° 27-13	<p>"República Dominicana – Haití, Dos Naciones, Dos Culturas, Dos Estados en la Isla Hispaniola"</p> <p>Antonio Vargas Hernández, Directorate General for Multilateral Cooperation (DIGECCOM), Dominican Republic</p>
SP/XXIV-RDCIALC/Di N° 28-13	<p>"Integración Fronteriza"</p> <p>Ms. Marcela Espinoza, Director of Borders, Directorate for Borders and Limits, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Chile, and Pablo Cea, Country Coordinator of the International Cooperation Agency of Chile (AGCI)</p>
SP/XXIV-RDCIALC/Di N° 29-13	<p>"Cooperation in Border Integration from the perspective for International Cooperation Directors for Latin America and the Caribbean: Successful Experiences and Lessons Learned"</p> <p>Garth W. Williams, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Passport, Immigration and Citizenship Agency of the Republic of Jamaica</p>
SP/XXIV-RDCIALC/Di N° 30-13	<p>"Experiencia Regionales de Integración Fronteriza"</p> <p>Ms. Ada Yanira Gutiérrez Lorenzana, Executive Director of the Under-Secretariat for International Cooperation of the Secretariat for</p>

76

	Planning and Programming (SEGEPLAN), Republic of Guatemala
SP/XXIV-RDCIALC/Di N° 32-13	Presentation of the Delegation of the Republic of Cuba Ramiro de León Torras
SP/XXIV-RDCIALC/Di N° 33-13	List of participants
SP/XXIV-RDCIALC/IF-13	Final Report