



ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES
Inter-American Council for Integral Development
(CIDI)



**SECOND MEETING OF MINISTERS AND HIGH
AUTHORITIES OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

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**COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE SECOND MEETING OF MINISTERS AND
HIGH AUTHORITIES OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE FRAMEWORK
OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COUNCIL FOR INTEGRAL DEVELOPMENT
OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES**

“Strengthening and sustaining social protection systems”

(Adopted during the Fourth Plenary Session, held on July 9, 2010)

THE MINISTERS AND HIGH AUTHORITIES OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE MEMBER STATES OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES (OAS), gathered in Cali, Colombia, on July 8 and 9, 2010, for the Second Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of Social Development in the framework of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI),

RECOGNIZING the central role of the State in the fight against poverty, inequity, inequality and social exclusion;

BEARING IN MIND that, at the Fifth Summit of the Americas, with a view to strengthening our efforts to reduce inequality and social disparities and to halve extreme poverty by the year 2015, our Heads of State and of Government committed to exchanging information on policies, experiences, programs and best practices. To that end they supported the establishment of the Inter-American Social Protection Network in order to facilitate that exchange;

NOTING that social protection programs based on conditional cash transfers help to address the challenges of poverty, we are also convinced that we must promote actions aimed at fostering social mobility and lowering unemployment rates and inequity by generating conditions conducive to the development of dignified and decent work opportunities and access to quality education and health as two of the principal ingredients of social inclusion.

NOTING WITH CONCERN the human, economic, social and environmental impact of recent disasters in the region, particularly the earthquakes in Haiti and Chile, both for the regrettable loss of life and for the devastating consequences these catastrophes have brought upon national economies, local development and the social networks of the communities directly affected by them, especially the poorest and the most vulnerable;

AWARE of the negative impact of crises on employment and poverty, as well as the challenges this situation poses for national efforts to reach the Millennium Development Goals, especially with regard to the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger;

WE THE MINISTERS AND HIGH AUTHORITIES OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT,

ASSUME the commitment to strengthen our social protection strategies to minimize the consequences of the crises and avoid, as much as possible, a fallback on the advances made in reducing poverty; in order to move forward in this area, we must strengthen and consolidate the institutions responsible for social policy and ensure the fiscal sustainability of social protection programs. Those strategies shall be guided by the experiences of integrated development models in which economic policies, productive development with employment generation, and protection and social equity programs are central components of equal priority.

REAFFIRM that social protection is an integral approach comprised of various universal and targeted policies and programs that seek to help individuals confront the various risks they face in their lifespan; and that their specific design will be determined by the conditions, needs and decisions of each member State; in that regard, we value the exchange of experiences, methodologies, results and impact of social protection programs, such as conditional cash transfers and other intervention strategies in the framework of social protection networks.

COMMIT to enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of social protection, inclusion and poverty eradication programs and to promoting accountability and transparency mechanisms vis-à-vis citizens; to achieve this goal, we will share our management accomplishments in this field including, when appropriate, the implementation of single beneficiary registries, strengthening evaluation and monitoring systems and budget procedures that ensure the fiscal sustainability of said programs, even under adverse circumstances or crises.

REITERATE that poverty and inequality are multidimensional phenomena that require intersectoral and coordinated interventions in the framework of a national social development strategy. Therefore, we will continue to promote the implementation and strengthening of governmental strategies that integrate the work of various ministries and public agencies to ensure greater impact on the efforts being made to confront those challenges. Intersectoral coordination is essential to broaden the impact of a diversity of social policy interventions, including the promotion of employment and income generation, strengthening of food security policies, and prevention and protection management for communities faced with risks and vulnerabilities as a result of disasters.

UNDERSCORE the need to strengthen coordination with inter-American, regional and subregional integration agencies and mechanisms in order to advance our shared social policy priorities.

UNDERSCORE ALSO the importance that the Inter-American Social Protection Network join its cooperation efforts to other international mechanisms devoted to the analysis and diffusion of social protection, including those belonging to the Inter-American and United Nations systems.

CALL on all sectors of society, including civil society, and non-governmental, academic, private sector and community organizations, to collaborate in providing inputs to the design and implementation of monitoring and evaluation systems of public policies that seek greater social development in our societies; and to create strategic alliances between the State and the various social groups to strengthen democracy and promote the actions needed, in a framework of shared responsibility, to confront the challenges of poverty, especially extreme poverty, inequality and vulnerability.

TAKE NOTE of the progress made in the negotiations on the Social Charter of the Americas and its Plan of Action, an instrument conceived for the purpose of guiding the efforts of our States in the areas of social, economic and cultural development. We reiterate our support of its objectives, which seek to offer all our citizens greater opportunities to benefit from sustainable development with equity and social inclusion.

INSTRUCT the Inter-American Committee on Social Development (CIDES), with the support of the Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (SEDI) of the OAS, to consider the following elements in its Work Plan 2010-2012:

1. To strengthen the Inter-American Social Protection Network as a mechanism of hemispheric cooperation in fighting poverty and inequity and to foster the transfer of successful experiences and analyses of the main challenges confronting social protection strategies.
2. To continue implementing, within the framework of this Network, technical cooperation in the Caribbean through the "Bridge Caribbean Program," the results of which are an example of partnership for development; and to report to all the members of CIDES on the outcome of the sub-regional meeting on this matter to be held in Barbados in 2010, with a view to seeking opportunities to facilitate the implementation of this cooperation mechanism throughout the region.
3. To support the government of Haiti, especially with regard to the reconstruction of communities following the earthquake that devastated the country in January 2010, making available the cooperation mechanisms of this forum to transfer the knowledge and experiences relevant to the reconstruction process.
4. To promote greater dialogue and more joint activities with all sectors of society, including civil society, and non-governmental, academic, private sector and other organizations, for the purpose of moving forward in the development of social protection policies and programs that are more inclusive, participatory and subject to greater accountability.
5. To use existing mechanisms within the framework of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) of the OAS, to strengthen intersectoral coordination in the area of social policy. In this regard, promote the exchange of opinions and joint projects with relevant Inter-American committees and forums on topics such as promoting employment and income generation in vulnerable populations; strengthening food security policies; addressing inequalities between women and men; risk management; and reconstruction of communities in order to reduce the vulnerability of victims of disasters.
6. To contribute, upon request, to the drafting of the Social Charter of the Americas and its Plan of Action.
7. To collaborate, when appropriate, with the preparatory process for the Sixth Summit of the Americas.

8. To prepare a report on the execution of the Work Plan 2010-2012 to be presented at the next Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of Social Development.

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK the Government of Brazil for its generous offer to host the Third Meeting of Ministers and High Authorities of Social Development in the framework of CIDI to be held in 2012.