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Introduction

Just over one year ago, the region's democratically-elected Heads of State and Government gathered in Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago for the Fifth Summit of the Americas in order to come to consensus on the key areas to address the challenges facing the Americas. They were joined at the Summit by the partner institutions of the Joint Summit Working Group (JSWG), who were there to witness the setting of the Inter-American agenda for the next several years and continue their support to Member States in the context of the Summits process. As such, our leaders, in Paragraph 93 of the Declaration of Commitment of Port of Spain, called upon the JSWG "to further strengthen their commitment and to develop coordinated programs of action aimed at achieving the goals for the Americas" being agreed to at the Fifth Summit.

While the Summit itself is over, the process of implementation is ongoing. This report highlights some key JSWG initiatives with linkages to the Fifth Summit that demonstrate examples of ways in which the partner institutions are working together on multi-institutional, regional programs to assist OAS Member States in implementing hemispheric commitments.

The Fifth Summit main theme focused on the areas of Promoting: Human Prosperity, Energy and Environmental Sustainability, and included emphasis on Strengthening: Public Security, Democratic Governance, and the Summit of the Americas, Follow-up and Implementation. Just months before the Fifth Summit, the global economic crisis took hold and was the focus of much discussion and calls for action in Port of Spain. As such, the initiatives included in this report are organized according to these thematic areas.



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- Social Development
- Gender Issues
- Sustainable Economic Growth
- Labor
- Health
- Youth and Ageing
- Education
- Migration
- Science and Technology
- Agriculture, Rural Life and Food Security
- Cultural Diversity



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Social Development

In Paragraph 9 of the Fifth Summit Declaration of Commitment, the Hemisphere's leaders agreed to "establish a network for the exchange of information on policies, experiences, programs and best practices in social protection." On September 22, 2009 the **Organization of American States (OAS)** co-hosted the launch of the Inter-American Social Protection Network (IASPN) in New York City.

The objective of the IASPN is to promote cooperation and information-sharing among countries and institutions on social protection practices that provide real solutions to help reduce social inequality and poverty. The IASPN will consolidate the experiences of the JSWG institutions in the area of social protection, such as that of the **World Bank** to help countries in the region pioneer conditional cash transfers as a proven approach to help people out of poverty, as well as the work of **Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)** to catalogue conditional cash transfer initiatives. The IASPN will continue to build on these previous successful efforts to match recipient country needs with existing programs and methods that can be transferred. The IASPN will mobilize resources and strengthen institutions around the region through training workshops and technical assistance, and will continue to build on previous successful efforts to match recipient country needs with existing programs and methods that can be transferred.

The **World Bank** supported the creation and launch of the Inter-American Social Protection Network. The Latin America and the Caribbean Region of the World Bank's regional expert on social protection and CCT programs participated during the conference along with representatives of the programs that the Bank supports, such as Bolsa Familia (Brazil), and Familias en Acción (Colombia).

The region's conditional cash transfer programs were expanded during the past year with nearly US\$3 billion from the World Bank as a way of protecting the most vulnerable from the impact of the global crisis. IDA provided US\$203 million in assistance to the poorest countries in Latin America and the Caribbean in fiscal 2009, with non-concessional lending and grants to five countries. Some examples of these programs include:



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- A US\$1.5 billion loan to Mexico to expand its Oportunidades CCT program.
- A US\$636.5 million loan to Colombia for its Familias en Acción CCT program.
- A US\$40 million grant and credit financial support to improve water and sanitation services in Nicaragua.
- US\$30 million in financial support for the Rural Alliances Project in Bolivia, which aims to improve accessibility to markets for poor rural producers in selected sub regions.
- A US\$25 million grant approved for Haiti to finance the reconstruction and emergency maintenance of infrastructure destroyed or damaged by the hurricanes and tropical storms that struck the country in August and September 2008.
- A US\$10 million zero-interest loan to address the food crisis in Honduras.

Through its publication, the *“Social Panorama of Latin America”*, and publications related to sense of belonging, social protection systems and most vulnerable groups such as women and youth, **ECLAC** continued to disseminate information and to promote the debate on the new employment-related targets incorporated in the MDGs, the demographic dividend as an opportunity for expanding secondary education coverage, and the issue of youth and family violence from a perspective of social inclusion, as well as the financing of social protection, food security, changes to the family structure and challenges this poses for public action.

Technical cooperation was provided to develop methodologies for measuring social expenditure, improving management of social programmes and estimating the cost of hunger in many countries. ECLAC devoted much of its work to social protection and conditional cash transfers programmes identified as fundamental tools to achieve more equality and poverty reduction in the region providing technical cooperation to several countries. ECLAC has disseminated and shared information through the website dedicated to the LACSIN network (Latin America and the Caribbean Social Institutions Network) or RISALC in Spanish. This Network has served as a platform for knowledge-based social management.

The Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI) founded the Central American Border Zone Development Program (ZONAF) with the objective of improving



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the quality of life of the population of 57 municipalities in the border zone areas of the 5 Central American countries. The purpose of attending border zone areas was based on the high levels of poverty and vulnerability and exclusion from all development dynamics, even though these areas have the largest proportion of natural resources in Central America

Through January 2010, the ZONAF Program has approved 99 projects with approximately US\$38.2 million funded by ZONAF. These projects have changed the lives of thousands of border zone residents bringing about social benefits in diverse sectors, such as: health, education, environment, production and value chains, road infrastructures, water and sanitation and energy.

CABEI supports the housing sector in coordination with the active participation of governments through the American Council on Housing and Human Settlements, CCVAH. Thus the "Central American Strategy for Housing and Human Settlements" was developed and approved, as a fundamental initiative in coordination with the Secretariat of Central American Social Integration and CABEI. The regional housing deficit is 4.8 million units; the waste of urban land and rural towns creates disintegrated and disconnected cities. The solution suggested is to create regional synergies to support the sector.

The overall program objective is to provide partial credit guarantees, which will stimulate access to financing for households and businesses seeking loans for the social housing sector, to:

- a) Improve access to financing for the development of social housing projects;
- b) Improve access to micro financing for the expansion, improvement or gradual construction of social housing,
- c) Improve access to finance social housing purchases, new or used.

The goal is to be achieved through three options: two on the demand side and on the supply side of social housing:

A. Partial Guarantee Payment Default (GPI) or Credit Insurance is aimed at meeting the demand or quantitative deficiency (new or used house purchase). The aim is to offer a



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credit tool that allows borrowers to partially cover the credit risk of mortgage loans by transferring part of the risk to guarantee entities. This will promote access to mortgage credit financing to lower income people and facilitate mortgage backed portfolio emissions.

B. Micro-finance Guarantee (GPM) is designed to address the demand of housing or qualitative deficit (improvement, expansion and gradual construction). The guarantee consists of partial coverage for Financial Institutions prequalified by CABI to partially cover the credit risk arising from a portfolio of microcredit for housing, by transferring part of the risk to guarantee entities. The idea is to promote access to microcredit loans to make improvements, expand, progressive construction and lot purchasing.

C. Partial Guarantee for Timely Payment (GPO) is aimed at enhancing the supply of social housing projects. It consists of the issuance of partial coverage for financial institutions prequalified by CABI, to partially cover the credit risk arising from credit lines to social housing project developers.

The Government of Mexico through the Sociedad Hipotecaria Federal (SHF) has collaborated in the design of the products and will provide technical support in the implementation of PROGAVI.

The **Andean Development Corporation (CAF)** supports shareholder countries in structuring and funding drinking water and basic sanitation programs and projects with a high social and environmental impact. Through different financial and technical assistance mechanisms, CAF works to increase service coverage and quality by facilitating access among the most vulnerable sectors of the population, and to contribute to the creation of conditions that will favor institutional modernization, management quality, and the creation and consolidation of autonomous, efficient utility operators.

CAF pursues greater capacity-building action in underprivileged communities through social responsibility programs and projects focused on musical and athletic training, skill acquisition for basic trades, capital recovery, and the creation and support of local opportunities.



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In the area of social protection, which is linked to the objective of a minimum social level for all, the **International Labor Organization (ILO)** has accomplished the following: in Honduras, the draft National Strategy for Social Security was prepared; in Nicaragua, it supported the Social Security Institute in the preparation of statistics on Disability, Old Age, Death and Job risks; in the Dominican Republic a study of the Risks and Safety at Work by the Dominican Institute of Social Security has been conducted; in Mexico, the ILO has initiated a discussion on the extension of social security coverage in relation to unemployment insurance; in Brazil, among other actions, a Memorandum of Understanding has been signed with the Ministry of Social Security to increase social security coverage according to the goals of the Decent Work Agenda for the Hemisphere through 2015; in the framework of the Fund for Innovation in Micro insurance, the ILO is promoting the access of 3 million workers in the informal economy to social protection through specific projects in Mexico, Peru and Haiti.

Within the context of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG), **the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**, ECLAC and the entire UN family has initiated work with member states to update and produce new MDG reports. These reports which are elaborated in a participatory way under leadership of Governments will be presented to the MDG Review Summit in September 2010. The elaboration of these reports allows Member States to take stock of progress and where possible realign social policies and social investments geared to achieve the MDGs by 2015.

The dissemination of these reports also allows interested citizens and civil society organizations to count on a credible progress report that can be used to promote strengthening and increased attention to the MDG at national and local levels.

Gender Issues

The **OAS**, through the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM), continued to work with the OAS Department of Social Development and Employment (DDSE) in its efforts to follow up on the Strategic Guidelines for Advancing Gender Equality and Non-discrimination within a Decent Work Framework, adopted at the 15th Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labor (XV IACML, Trinidad and Tobago, 2007).



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In particular, work took place on preparing the study on *“Gender Mainstreaming in the Labor Ministries of the Americas,”* and implementation began of the project *“Advancing Gender Equality within the Framework of Decent Work,”* the components of which include high-level dialogues between labor ministries and national women’s mechanisms in the member states, sub-regional training workshops for personnel involved with gender and labor issues from both those sectors, and the development of indicators to support monitoring of the ministries’ progress with gender mainstreaming.

In coordination with the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences (FLACSO), CIM launched an initiative for capacity-building through on-line courses. The first course on *“Women’s Leadership in Current Contexts – Renewing Strategies and Practices”* took place from September 1 to November 1, 2009.

The OAS Department of Electoral Cooperation and Observation (DECO) embarked on a project to incorporate gender awareness and rights into its international electoral observation methods. The project aims to produce a practical manual for the OAS’s Electoral Observation Missions (EOMs) to examine and monitor the implementation of gender quotas and of countries’ acquired commitments regarding the political rights of women in those missions.

The CIM also currently has two projects underway: *“Integration of Policies and Programs on HIV and Violence Against Women from a Human Rights Perspective in Central America,”* and *“Strengthening Capabilities to Integrate Services for HIV and Violence Against Women in the Caribbean.”*

ECLAC continued its advocacy role with respect to women’s rights in the region, launching the *Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean*. The Gender Equality Observatory was developed as a strategic tool that allows governments to monitor women’s economic, political and physical autonomy in line with the MDGs and through indicators commonly agreed on. A set of policy recommendations addressing the need to develop evidence and integrate a gender perspective in social protection policies is being implemented in many countries including policy reforms, labor policies, social protection pension schemes and monetary transfers with the support and technical assistance of ECLAC.



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In November 2009, the **ILO** Subregional Office for the Caribbean, in collaboration with the Institute for Gender and Development Studies (IGDS) of the University of the West Indies (UWI), Mona Campus, Jamaica, jointly launched the **ILO-UNDP** publication, *Work and Family: Towards New Forms of Reconciliation and Social Responsibility*. The report provided an excellent platform for raising issues surrounding the reconciliation of work and family and highlighted actions which could be pursued to address these challenges. In October 2009, the ILO was one of five UN agencies which participated in a consultation to build a shared vision and platform for Caribbean organizations to collaborate and participate in a regional programme to end violence against women. The two-day consultations participants assessed gaps, deficits and opportunities for the implementation of the campaign.

Sustainable Economic Growth

The **Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)** approved a \$7 million loan for El Salvador, through its Opportunities for the Majority facility, aimed at helping the country's low-income population address their housing needs by expanding their access to credit.

The Salvadorean housing fund FONAVIPO (Fondo Nacional de Vivienda Popular), a public second-tier financial institution, will use the IDB loan to expand its credit lines to microfinance institutions that, in turn, will provide loans to low-income households for the purchase of a home or a lot, make improvements to a dwelling they already own, or progressively build their own home.

The program is expected to directly benefit around 2,300 families, with individual loans averaging \$3,000, in addition to their eligibility for a government subsidy under El Salvador's national housing program. These subsidies are also managed by FONAVIPO. The Bank's pipeline for the second half of 2009 includes a new loan for the country's housing program and integral improvement of informal settlements.

In addition to the new \$7 million loan, the project includes a technical cooperation grant to establish the Centro de Información y Asesoría al Usuario para el Acceso a Soluciones Habitacionales (CIASUSH), a public information center on housing solutions, which will



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help low-income families gather documentation and complete the paperwork to obtain available funding.

The IDB has also approved a \$10 million credit guarantee to help up to 80,000 small entrepreneurs get access to loans under an innovative program provided by Chile's Banco de Crédito e Inversiones (BCI).

BCI will apply new management and credit technologies for the program. It will partner with some of its own corporate clients who have large distribution networks and micro entrepreneurial client bases. It will also provide training to extend financial services to businesses operated by owners with low incomes who typically are excluded from the country's financial system.

The program will focus primarily on the Chilean capital, Santiago, where one quarter of Chile's microenterprises are located, and provide 40 percent of the metropolitan area's employment. Around one million people in Santiago remain unbanked. More than 60% of Chile's microentrepreneurs are estimated to lack access to bank credit.

The IDB's credit guarantee, with resources from the Bank's Opportunities for the Majority initiative, will be denominated in Chilean pesos. A \$600,000 grant from the IDB's Multilateral Investment Fund will support the training component of the program and the formation of strategic alliances with corporate and other partners.

Through this initiative, BCI, with IDB support, will contribute to extend financial democracy to an underserved market through the full use of modern technologies and the development of new business tools, applied in conjunction with strategic partners. BCI will work with corporate suppliers to obtain credit histories and background information needed to decide loan applications by small business owners. The project includes several other innovative tools, such as electronic payments, online collection, specialized training for bank personnel and mobile classrooms to extend financial literacy to borrowers.

ECLAC has devoted efforts to strengthen the capacity of governments to formulate and implement policies and strategies to enhance productivity and competitiveness of the countries' production structures and to strengthen policy discussion on the industrial



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development debate through several analytical reports and studies. Furthermore, the *Observatory for the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean (OSILAC)* was developed with the purpose of centralizing and harmonizing data that serves to monitor the status of the "information society" in the region.

In the area of innovation and competitiveness for export diversification and the improvement of the participation of the region in the world economy, the focus was on *Public-Private Alliances for Internationalization, Innovation and Export Development*. Success stories in this area were identified with the aim of drawing recommendations for the region.

Within the framework of the Support Strategy for MSMEs, **CABEI** has the goal to support the sustainable development of these enterprises and the financial system that serves them, contributing to the generation of jobs and wealth.

To accomplish this objective, the following strategic guidelines were established:

1. Provide financial services to MSMEs.
2. Strengthen the development of the financial sector servicing MSMEs.
3. Contribute to the development, growth, and productivity of MSMEs.

Within the Global Line of Credit (GLC), financial institutions have access to financial resources through different programs:

1. Program to provide support for MSMEs (2005, 2009)
2. Credit Facility for Improvement and Progressive Construction of Social Housing (2006)
3. Program to provide support to MSMEs affected by Natural Disasters (2007)
4. Program to provide support to Biodiversity Friendly MSMEs (BF-MSME) (2008)
5. CABEI's Program of Educational Credit (2009)

Additionally, the following programs are also available:

6. CABEI Award to Outstanding Microfinance Management (2004)
7. Program of Productive Chains (2005)



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8. Program of Technical and Financial Cooperation for the MSME Sector (2006)
9. Program of Subordinated Debt for Microfinance Institutions (2007)
10. Program for Capacity Strengthening of NBFIs (2008)
11. Program of Partial Credit Guarantees for BF – MSME (2008)
12. BIO – Premio (Bio Award) (2008)
13. Program of Special Eligibility (2009)

CABEI is the main source of funds for MSME in Central America, with noteworthy support to the microfinance sector. CABEI provides financing to microfinance institutions that serve low income citizens with entrepreneurial inclinations. By September 2009, with 145 total disbursements to financial institutions, CABEI managed to channel more than US\$94 million through 88 intermediary institutions (banks, cooperatives and microfinance institutions, among others). With CABEI resources, more than 65,000 credits to MSMEs were granted, with an average disbursement of US\$1,441.20.

With total accumulated disbursements of US\$ 1,568.4 million, CABEI has become the main source of funds for the MSME sector in Central America. This has allowed the support of 659 thousand jobs in the region. In addition, women remain the main beneficiaries of CABEI's programs for MSMEs. By September 2009, 64% of the borrowers benefited were women.

Considering the impact of CABEI in the MSMEs Enterprises and the low income people, in the next two years, CABEI's goal will be to continue providing resources through its current programs and the Anticrisis Plan for MSMEs. Additionally, CABEI is currently analyzing the possibility to participate in The Microfinance Growth Fund in 2010.

The **Andean Development Corporation (CAF)** helps fund its shareholder countries' development plans by granting long-term loans for public investment projects to increase or improve levels of treatment and coverage, productivity, access, and training, chiefly in the agricultural, sanitation, rural energy and transportation, housing, and transportation sectors.



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The Competitiveness Support Program (PAC), in accordance with its areas of action, is geared toward developing clusters, improving the business climate, and strengthening entrepreneurial capacity, as well as toward sharing the experiences gained thereby.

As regards access to funding for micro-, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), as in most of the world's countries, such companies make up the main productive apparatus in Latin America and the Caribbean. The projects that receive support include several funding mechanisms, such as capital contributions for MFI, lines of credit, subordinated loans, and partial guarantees for bonds issued through capital markets. In addition, in response to the recurring demands of many of the actors involved with microenterprises in the region, efforts continue to provide financing in local currencies.

In order to help its Member Countries respond to the global financial crisis and economic recession, the **Caribbean Development Bank (CDB)** engaged in a number of initiatives that were not only aimed at mitigating the effects of the recession, but also at improving conditions for longer-term sustainable growth and poverty reduction. During 2009, CDB provided support to BMCs in consolidating their fiscal position while strengthening their economic management systems to improve development results. Policy-based loans to the governments of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Grenada and Antigua and Barbuda were approved in May, October and December, respectively. These loans are intended to provide budgetary support to these countries, which have suffered significant reductions in economic activity, employment and government revenue as a consequence of the global recession. The recession has threatened the implementation of social and economic programs, while limiting access to financing that could help to meet the increasing financing needs. These loans therefore facilitated the continued implementation of the governments' policy agenda on terms that improved debt dynamics. Furthermore, the loans supported ongoing reforms that are aimed at improving economic management systems. Specifically, these loans were:

- US\$25 mn to the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines to support improvements in the institutional arrangements that govern public sector management.
- US\$12.8 mn to the Government of Grenada to support government's programme of macroeconomic reforms designed to strengthen the institutional framework for economic management; consolidate and streamline revenue



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- systems; strengthen financial management in the public sector; improve the investment climate; and enhance the framework for sustainable poverty reduction.
- US\$30 mn to the Government of Antigua and Barbuda to support a home-grown programme of economic adjustment and structural reforms geared to bring the fiscal and the debt positions on a more sustainable footing.

Additionally, the Government of Haiti received the first non-reimbursable Policy-Based Grant in the amount of \$10 mn, as part of a broader program of support, both budgetary and technical assistance to enhance fiscal and debt management.

During 2009, US\$46 million in lending to the private sector was approved. This was mainly to provide consolidated lines-of-credit to other local institutions to assist in providing finance to the productive sectors, including loans to medium-sized, small and micro enterprises and for student education.

In September 2009, the Government of The Bahamas took steps to cushion the impact of the recession on approximately 1,000 tourism sector employees who lost their jobs. Under the initiative, unemployment relief was complemented by a 10-15 week retraining programme. Training targeted occupations for which there were demands from the business sector (e.g. masonry, carpentry, welding, landscaping, mechanics, etc.) and areas where participants were more likely to secure employment. The ILO is providing technical support and advisory services for training/retraining workers who have been laid off, in technical and vocational fields and entrepreneurial skills.

In the area of sustainable enterprise promotion, **ILO** and the National Center for Productivity and Quality of Chile published the first report on work indicators and excellence in Chile, a pioneering study in the region that will allow measurements and comparisons of progress or setbacks in the country concerning working conditions. In Chile also, a study on "The Status of Micro and Small Enterprises" has been prepared and published. At a regional level, the network of trainers "Start and Improve Your Business has been strengthened.

The ILO World Pact for Employment, adopted during the 98th International Labor Conference (2009), alludes to the importance of sustainable enterprise and the creation



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of an enabling environment for its development, both in terms of generating the necessary response to the crisis based on decent work as well as for the creation of the right conditions to establish recovery and ensure that globalization maintains sustained rhythms of growth, while favoring conditions of more solid social inclusion.

In this framework, ILO has initiated a report that involves addressing decent work from the perspective of the political context of in which it is created; that is, a context that promotes sustainable enterprise. The report tries to give a clear message of a company's potential in the processes of economic and social development, and intends to develop and define specific recommendations on the designing of policies and initiatives intended to improve the business environment and create more favorable conditions for its sustainability, placing emphasis on decent work and on the role of governments, employers and workers.

Labor

The United Nations **Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)** has provided relevant analysis on macroeconomic policy, fiscal policy and labor market. Through publications such as *"The New Labor Scenario in Latin America: regulation, protection, and active policies in the labor market"*, ECLAC has contributed to strengthen the policy debate on labor market institutions, and has informed decision makers and technical staff on policy options regarding regulations and protections. A joint bulletin with the International Labor Organization (ILO) on the employment situation in Latin America and the Caribbean was created with two issues focusing on the design of public policies aimed at increasing employment and well-being, and the evolution of LAC labour markets, both published in 2009. A series of conferences and studies covering topics closely related to the reconciliation of growth with long-term development, such as macroeconomic stability, vulnerability and cyclical fluctuations, labour market institutions and policy options were also organized.

The first contribution of **ILO** concerning the theme of Labor, was to contribute to the signing of four new Decent Work Country Programs (DWCPs) in the region; 4 Work Plans for countries of the OECS, and a support in the design and implementation of



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employment plans in Mexico, Cuba, Costa Rica El Salvador, Honduras y Nicaragua as mechanisms to ensure greater opportunities for productive employment and decent work for men and women in the region. To this work must be added the significant contribution of a UN Joint Program (MDGs) in countries of the region: Dominican Republic, Peru, Paraguay, Nicaragua, Brazil, Mexico, on issues of gender equality, youth employment and migration, democratic and economic governance, environment and climate change and economic development of private sector.

Also, ILO highlights its ongoing provision of tools for better decision making in the labor market, considering the context of crisis and post crisis countries in the region. Among the most outstanding measures taken are: the development of decent work indicators in Latin America and the Caribbean; the design of a Report on Labor Situation and Millennium Development Goals in coordination with ECLAC; the design and dissemination of the report of Labor Overview in Latin America and the Caribbean; a Statistical Database, QUIPUSTAT; the implementation of the Labour Observatory in Central America and Dominican Republic; and the support of development indicators for the city of Belo Horizonte in Brazil, among others.

In the area of vocational training, ILO has provided technical support to the Network of Vocational Training Institutes in Central America, offering around 158 virtual training courses. Additionally, ILO has collaborated with the Program of Work Skills Development in the sub-region and has implemented the modernization project of the Sugar Industry in Mexico and Cuba, the fruit industry in Chile and tourism in the Dominican Republic. This has improved working conditions, labor productivity, and health and safety conditions at work in these economic sectors. For its part, the Caribbean office has provided technical assistance and advisory services for training, and reemployment in entrepreneurship and technical areas.

In the framework of the promotion of principles and fundamental rights in work and in the framework of the Declaration of Port of Spain Summit some results such as the elimination of child labor, the elimination of forced labor, the non discrimination of sex, race, ethnicity and the ratification of major conventions of ILO have been obtained in various country of the region. Last year in Belize, the Minister of Labor, along with other strategic partners, put into place a national policy on child labor, taking as central policy the fight against the worst form of work and its elimination. In Central America, the



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International Program on the Elimination of Child Labor (IPEC) accompanies the countries of this sub region in the process of designing a waybill for a zone free of child labor in 2020. With this exercise the countries capabilities have been strengthened to fulfill the goals fixed in the framework of Convention Num 138 and 182 of the ILO. Additionally, ILO lent assistance to the work agendas of Mato Grosso and Bahia in Brazil for the elimination of child and forced labor. ILO also initiated the execution of a project to eliminate child labor in agriculture in Mexico. In Paraguay, ILO has provided technical support to strengthen labor inspection with the objective to fight forced labor situations (opening of an office of inspection in the Paraguayan Chaco)

The ILO has also elaborated and published a study in Spanish and English on “Work and Family” for the Caribbean countries with the objective of promoting a platform of knowledge and discussion around aspects linked to family responsibilities and work. ILO was one of 5 agencies consulted to participate in the designing of a joint vision for a program for violence against women in the Caribbean. The Spanish version of the same study, designed in collaboration with **UNDP** has been presented in most of the countries of the region and has been complemented by several national report that deepen the analysis and recommendations. In addition, a tripartite discussion has been initiated for the design and adoption of a national Plan of Action. In some countries, campaigns have been initiated for the ratification of Convention 156. In Guatemala, a Plan of Action is being executed to solve the delay in the judiciary processes of trade union and gender discrimination. The creation of an office of Gender in the Minister of Labor and Job Development is being supported in Panama. In Nicaragua, ILO is taking part into a joint program “Toward Gender Equity and Empowerment of Women”. In Brazil, the program PRO-Equity in the special Secretariat of Policy for women has been extended and trade union organizations for domestic work have also been incorporated in the discussion to advance in the design of an international tool for domestic workers’ protection, which will be one of the key point of the 2010 International Conference Agenda.

In October 2009, Belize launched its Decent Work Country Programme (DWCP), thereby becoming the second country in the English- and Dutch-speaking Caribbean to pledge to make the goal of decent work and productive employment central to its national development policies. To date, work plans for four member countries of **ILO** of Eastern Caribbean States (Antigua and Barbuda, Grenada, Saint Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines) have been completed as part of a Decent Work Programme for the OECS.



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In response to requests from its constituents, the ILO Sub-regional Office for the Caribbean, in collaboration with the Office of Trade Negotiations of the CARICOM Secretariat, launched a series of trade negotiation workshops for representatives of employers' and workers' organizations in the Caribbean in September 2009. Three training workshops were convened under the theme "International Trade Negotiations, Trade Agreements and the Decent Work Agenda" (Trinidad and Tobago, September 2009; Grenada, December 2009; and The Bahamas, February 2010). The workshops were designed to equip employers' and workers' organizations to participate meaningfully in discussions on trade and on the social and labour dimensions of liberalization.

The Ministry of Labour, Local Government and Rural Development of Belize, in collaboration with the social partners and other key stakeholders, launched the National Policy on Child Labour in October 2009. The National Policy establishes a number of priority areas for combating child labour in Belize - one of six countries which participated in ILO's Canadian Government-funded Regional Child Labour Project in the English- and Dutch-speaking Caribbean. The National Policy builds on the work initiated under the Project.

Health

In response to paragraph 27 of the Declaration of Commitment of Port of Spain, **the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)** developed a regional initiative called the "Evidence-based Neonatal Intervention Package," in order to raise neonatal and maternal care service quality standards. It also developed neonatal health action plans within the mother and newborn care continuum, and it established interagency partnerships at the country level to support national plans of action. PAHO continues to support countries in increasing their numbers of hospitalized births overseen by qualified health practitioners.

In response to mandate 28, PAHO launched the Partners' Forum for Prevention and Control of Chronic Diseases, with the active participation of governments, the private sector, and nongovernmental organizations. The CARMEN Network initiative (Collaborative Action for Risk Factor Prevention and Effective Management of Chronic



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Non-communicable Diseases) was also expanded to cover obesity and diabetes, and another regional initiative is being developed to reduce consumption of salt in diets and eliminate trans fats. In addition, PAHO conducted a research project into the economic and budgetary impact and implications of non-communicable diseases. The Organization supported several countries in enacting tobacco control legislation (Colombia, Guatemala, and Trinidad and Tobago) and in developing legislative proposals (Costa Rica, Peru, and Ecuador); it also gathered regional data for the world tobacco monitoring system, including surveys of tobacco use among young people, teaching professionals, students, and health practitioners, and the most recent global survey of tobacco use among adults conducted to date in Brazil, Mexico, and Uruguay. This work is being carried out in conjunction with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

In pursuit of mandate 29, PAHO provided support for participation by 22 of the region's countries in the Pan American STEPS system (an approach for the surveillance of chronic non-communicable disease risk factors, focused primarily on behavioral risk factors) and for the consolidation of their ability to use those data for planning and evaluation, in conjunction with the WHO; it also developed a minimum dataset for the monitoring of non-communicable diseases (NCDs). As a result, 24 countries have established national non-communicable disease units.

In response to the commitments contained in paragraph 31, not only did PAHO support the countries in the formulation of plans and policies for the development of primary health care (PHC) based health systems and integrated health service networks; it also developed an analytical framework and a methodology for assessing the performance of health systems in the region's countries in accordance with PHC guidelines, along with a regional network for encouraging operational research and exchanges of experiences with PHC. Support was also given for the development of practitioners' skills in PHC-focused health, targeting health system leaders and managers as well as service providers.

To respond to mandate 32, PAHO organized national and subregional workshops to review technical and programmatic issues related to breastfeeding and complementary feeding, human milk banks, the Milk Substitute Code of Practice, and the design, monitoring, and evaluation of food fortification programs; it also launched a regional initiative for the prevention and treatment of diabetes and obesity.



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In response to mandate 33, PAHO launched the Pan American Alliance for Nutrition and Development, which was approved by the directors of the region's UN agencies. This is an interagency undertaking enabling those organizations to combine their efforts, integrate mandates, coordinate agendas, pursue joint planning, and provide countries with technical cooperation focused on the factors that determine health and development. A discussion panel on the Pan American Alliance for Nutrition and Development in pursuit of the Millennium Development Goals was also organized during the 45th Directing Council of PAHO in September 2009. The four countries where implementation of the Alliance is to begin were identified, and the Alliance was publicized in various political, technical, and academic forums at the regional and national levels.

As part of its activities in pursuit of mandate 34, PAHO made efforts to strengthen partnerships for providing a swift response to the AH1N1 influenza pandemic. Agencies from 17 countries and territories are involved with the Global Outbreak and Alert Response Network (GOARN); 21 countries and territories participate in the Caribbean network; five countries in the Andean network; and five in MERCOSUR (the Southern Common Market). PAHO supported the formulation of plans of action aimed at satisfying minimum requirements for basic early-warning and response capacities, in accordance with the obligations set by the International Health Regulations (IHR), in 28 countries (87%) of the region, and it conducted training programs on such topics as early detection, public health laboratories, and outbreak responses in 38 countries and territories. In addition, PAHO invited 20 of the region's countries to participate in external performance assessment panels dealing with the topic of quality control at laboratories and strengthening their ability to detect and control outbreaks. The Organization conducted an evaluation of basic capacities, and it prepared plans of action to build capacity of points of entry at all times (routine inspections and controls), as well as to detect incidents, report them, and establish an appropriate response. It also strengthened PAHO's alert and response system. Incidents are registered by means of a computer-based tool called the Event Management System (EMS), which has been implemented in 10 agencies. Training has been introduced to raise this tool's profile throughout the region.

In pursuit of mandate 35, through the Ministers of Health, PAHO carried out the Regional Initiative for the Elimination of Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV and Congenital Syphilis in Latin America and the Caribbean, with the support of PAHO and



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UNICEF. An evaluation of national health system responses to the HIV epidemic was conducted in six countries: Dominican Republic, Bahamas, Belize, Guatemala, Paraguay, and Trinidad and Tobago. PAHO supported countries in obtaining and exercising resources from the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria. In 2009, the Global Fund approved 17 of the 30 proposals submitted by the nations of Latin America and the Caribbean during Round 9; these projects are worth a total of US\$185 million. It also supported countries in negotiating prices for HIV drugs, which brought about benefits including an increase in the number of people receiving treatment. (As of late 2008, 445,000 people in the region were receiving drugs, which represents around 54% of the total number who need treatment.)

To meet the commitments of mandate 42, PAHO prepared a special meeting of the Permanent Council on incorporating issues of aging into national policies and law and on the viability of a regional convention on the issue. This task was carried out with the technical assistance of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and in conjunction with the Secretariat for Legal Affairs of the Organization of American States (OAS). PAHO also participated in activities for the promotion and protection of the human rights of senior citizens under the aegis of the PAHO Plan of Action on the Health of Older Persons, in collaboration with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. In addition, training workshops were held for public health workers and members of civil society: for example, a workshop for training and the reform of national aging policy, with a human rights focus, was held in Saint Kitts and Nevis in December 2009.

Working together with UNAIDS Co-sponsors in the region, **ILO** is committed to helping its constituents to halt and begin reversing the spread of HIV in fulfillment of the Millennium Declaration. To this end, in Paraguay, ILO is working with the transport sector, developing data on vulnerabilities associated to mobile work. In Brazil, ILO is strengthening the capacity of tripartite constituents to respond to HIV / AIDS, creating new learning materials that include work, gender, race and HIV.

In Central America, ILO has been strengthening its constituents to incorporate HIV in the agenda of decent work programs through the creation of focal points inside organizations. Currently two projects of development are in the first stage in Nicaragua and Honduras, and they are geared toward the creation of programs and policies on HIV



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in the areas of textile “maquila” industry and port transportation. In the Caribbean, ILO is working with the members of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) in its response to HIV/AIDS at the workplace. The members have identified HIV as a priority of the Sub regional program of decent work for the OECS.

Youth and Ageing

The **OAS**-affiliated Young Americas Business Trust and the **Inter-American Development Bank** also supported the Development Marketplace (DM), a competitive grants program, administered by **the World Bank**, which aims to identify and fund innovative projects which generate positive social impact. The focus of this year’s annual Development Marketplace Grant Competition--to help young entrepreneurs in their businesses endeavors to create employment and assist vulnerable groups--is a significant result of the growing participation of young people in the Summits process, particularly the mandates to support entrepreneurship outlined in the Youth Declaration negotiated at the Youth Forum just prior to the Fifth Summit.

OAS member states have addressed youth issues within the framework of the Inter-American Committees on Education (CIE) and Culture (CIC), by engaging in dialogues with youth. Last year, the Office of Education supported Ecuador in the organization of the “Youth of the Americas Encounter on Secondary Education” in the margins of the VI Inter-American Meeting of Ministers of Education. This first attempt to include youth’s perspective on education into education policy dialogue at the inter-American level resulted in a set of recommendations presented by youth to the ministers, who committed in their Declaration to strengthening mechanisms for youth participation. The CIE Authorities and Executive Committee subsequently included in their 2010-2012 Work Plan the development of a strategy to continue dialogues with youth.

In Paragraphs 41 and 42, leaders commit to incorporating issues of ageing into policy agendas and request the UN **Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)** to further strengthen its programs in this area. As such, ECLAC, in the context of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, made this issue a key focus area. As part of the technical secretariat for the Regional



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Intergovernmental Conference on Ageing, ECLAC contributed to promoting the proposal for a convention on the rights of older persons. Extensive technical cooperation services were provided to countries all over the region on a wide range of population related topics. In particular, ECLAC contributed to improving the national capacities for conducting the 2010 round of censuses dealing with key issues such as the inclusion of questions related to ethnic identification, health and migration, as well as the use of new technology. In addition a number of countries have utilized the *Manual on Indicators of Quality of Life in Old Age*, published by CELADE, as a framework for calculating and analyzing indicators on the ageing of the population and the situation of older adults.

In April 2009, at the request of the Secretariat of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), the **ILO** contributed to the chapter on youth employment in the Secretariat's Human Development Report (HDR). The ILO's research and contribution covered several pertinent issues including employment and training policies, the coherence of policies and programmes, and the roles of employers' and workers' organizations (actual and potential) in cooperating with government institutions to improve opportunities for youth employment in the OECS.

The ILO partnered with the Youth Training and Employment Partnership Programme (YTEPP) Ltd. in Trinidad and Tobago in September 2009 to introduce the ILO's "Know About Business (KAB)" 'Training of Trainers' programme. KAB is an entrepreneurship development education training course which is aimed at creating a culture of entrepreneurship. A cadre of 26 'small business development' trainers from various institutions in Trinidad and Tobago are now certified KAB trainers who can play key roles in stimulating a culture of entrepreneurship among young persons.

Education

The **GS/OAS** Office of Education and Culture (OEC) has supported member-state governments, with additional technical and financial support from UNICEF, the Bernard Van Leer Foundation, member-state donors, and other international and civil society organizations, in their implementation of the Hemispheric Commitment to Early



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Childhood Education approved and ratified through the V and VI Meetings of Ministers of Education and endorsed by leaders at the Fifth Summit. Notable initiatives include: two major Inter-American symposia on early childhood development; a project on early childhood statistics, policies, and programs pertaining to rural and indigenous communities in eight member-states; publication of three books about early childhood transitions; workshops for journalists on how to cover early childhood topics; workshops on the evaluation of early childhood education in each of the five OAS sub-regions; a distance learning course for professionals working with children under the age of three; and a Joint Special Session of the Permanent Council and the CEPCIDI on the importance of investing in early childhood in February 2010.

The Regional Education Indicators Project (PRIE), established in the Summits Process as a mechanism for assessing the progress of OAS member states toward achieving Summit educational goals, is preparing the publication *“Educational Panorama 2010”* with a special focus on member state progress toward the Summit commitment of 75% enrolment in secondary education with a goal of 100% by 2015, and continues to publish indicators of participation in tertiary education.

Leaders at the Fifth Summit affirmed in Paragraph 36 that improving access to and quality of early childhood education is a key factor in achieving universal primary education by 2015. As such, the **World Bank** is providing technical assistance in several areas of Early Childhood Development with a number of clients in the region. Beyond its technical assistance to client countries, the World Bank is coordinating a region-wide community of practice to facilitate dialogue between policy makers and across countries and sectors.

Education is one of the most effective instruments for generating productive development and attaining social mobility. For that reason, **CAF** is committed to providing technical and financial support for education policy initiatives in its member countries, emphasizing those proposals aimed at extending quality coverage for the youngest pupils, modernizing technical and technological education, and ensuring the increased efficiency and comprehensiveness of sector management.



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Migration

In 2009 the program of Migration and Development (MIDE) was created within the **OAS** Department of Social Development and employment of the SEDI. A technical agreement with the International Organisation for the Migration (**IOM**) was signed to work together to promote the protection of migrants human rights, to respond to the need of migrant workers and to combat human trafficking. At the same time the cooperation agreements with the **ILO** and the **ECLAC** were being amplified and another cooperation agreement with the Ibero American General Secretariat was signed.

The **IOM** Regional Office in Costa Rica manages the *Emergency Fund for the Assistance of Intraregional Migrants in Highly Vulnerable Situations*, which was created in 2005 by the member states of the Regional Conference on Migration. Since 2005, IOM has provided assistance to more than 500 vulnerable migrants, the majority of whom were unaccompanied migrant children or women.

IOM Mexico and the National Institute of the Women (INMUJERES) work to promote the rights of migrant women and combat trafficking in women and girls. The agreement allows the two organizations to cooperatively implement assistance programs for migrant women at the local, state, and national level.

The discussion on the topic of children affected by migration in the Caribbean is relatively new and evolving. Several Caribbean countries, the CARICOM Secretariat, IOM and UNICEF worked together to identify how migration affects children in the region, particularly for children who stay behind, children who migrate accompanied or unaccompanied, and children who return their country of origin/birth in the region. IOM's efforts have resulted in the publication, *A Framework and Recommendations for Action on Children Affected by Migration in the Caribbean* (spring 2010) for stakeholders to improve policies and practices that protect these children.

In November 2009, IOM and UNHCR hosted the Regional Conference on Refugee Protection and International Migration in the Americas in San José, Costa Rica. Officials from 20 countries, as well as IOM, UNHCR, OAS, OHCHR, national and international NGOs, civil society and academia gathered to discuss the human rights of people on the move irrespective of status; identification, profiling and referral mechanisms; human



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trafficking; asylum seekers and refugees; unaccompanied minors; victims of violence or trauma; and intra-regional cooperation.

A new IOM information campaign targeting Costa Rica and Nicaragua is focusing on migrants' rights and responsibilities. The campaign is part of an IOM-managed co-development program which aims to regularize the flows of Nicaraguan migrant workers in Costa Rica, by ensuring legal integration into the local labor market, improving the economic and psychosocial situation of the migrants and their families and promoting the social integration of migrants into Costa Rican society.

To ensure the protection of migrants' rights, the IOM Regional Office in Buenos Aires provided technical support to the governments of Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay to strengthen institutional capacities related to migration management issues, including human trafficking.

IOM periodically holds seminars for government officials on International Migration Law. The purpose of these introductory courses is to provide a preliminary overview of migration terminology, State rights and obligations, and international legal instruments related to the human rights and labor rights of migrants.

Recognizing the need to respect the human rights of labor migrants, IOM has carried out a wide range of projects including labor migration facilitation, skills-training workshops and income generation projects.

Twenty per cent (20%) of IOM's 335 active labor migration projects in 2009 were carried out in Latin America and the Caribbean. Through the establishment of a labor migration agreement with Maple Leaf Foods of Canada, IOM has assisted hundreds of Colombians, Hondurans, and Salvadorians to obtain temporary employment Maple Leaf in Canada. IOM's labor migration selection process begins following a request from the employer—and in close coordination with the governments involved—with advertisements in local media, and then continues with the processing and screening of applications, pre-selection interviews, and medical check-ups. The final selection is carried out by the employer during a face-to-face interview with the candidates pre-selected by IOM. After the final selection, the applicants receive IOM assistance in gathering documents and filling out forms to obtain travel documents, support in case



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of questions regarding their employment contracts, medical exams, language training and cultural orientation.

IOM's Labor Migration Department also carries out pre-departure orientation sessions for labor migrants, and is engaged in capacity building activities, including migration training workshops for government officials, civil social partners and employers' associations.

Migrant remittances are a vital source of income for millions of families in Latin America and the Caribbean. IOM, together with governments, migrants, migrants' associations and financial institutions, seeks to (1) reduce remittance transfer costs and (2) enhance the positive impact of remittances by generating research and data collection to support policy and program development, by encouraging policy dialogue and the sharing of good practices, as well as by building the capacity of remittance recipients to invest their remittances in productive and income-generating activities.

Since 2002, IOM Guatemala has carried out the yearly Survey on Remittances. The 2009 Survey, developed with UNICEF, focused on the impact of the financial crisis on children and adolescents in Guatemala and confirmed that the decline in remittances had forced tens of thousands of children to leave school and find work to supplement the family income.

With an estimated 80 million migrant workers around the world, labor migration has moved to the top of the policy agenda of many countries of origin and destination. Three key determining factors will continue to fuel this kind of movement: the "pull" of changing demographics and labor market needs in many industrialized countries; the "push" of population, unemployment and crisis pressures in less-developed countries, and established inter-country networks based on family, culture and history. A large proportion of labor migration occurs in an irregular manner, with a clandestine industry ready to abet it. Increasingly, governments at both ends of the migration spectrum are developing regulatory mechanisms to manage labor mobility to their individual and mutual benefit, and that of the migrant. Governments and migrants are increasingly turning to IOM for expert support and facilitation of regulated labor migration and direct assistance to the migrants. IOM will continue to facilitate the development of



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policies and programs that can individually and mutually benefit the concerned governments, migrants and societies

IOM will continue to support discussions between governments on migration issues throughout the hemisphere through the Regional Conference on Migration, covering North and Central America, the South American Conference on Migration, and the annual seminar in the Caribbean. It is IOM's hope that these and other migration dialogues will contribute to a community of cooperation on migration issues in the Americas, strengthening regional protection of the human rights of migrants and enhancing the regional standard of migration management.

Maximizing the positive relationship between migration and development has long been a strategic focus of IOM's work. In an era of unprecedented levels of human mobility, the need to develop a fuller understanding of the linkages between migration and development is particularly urgent, as is the need to act in practical ways to enhance the benefits migration can have for development, and to elaborate sustainable solutions for problematic migration situations. Well managed migration will contribute more effectively to an expansion of human prosperity.

Science and Technology

In keeping with the mandates of the 5th Summit in the Region in the areas of competitiveness and innovation, the **GS/OAS** Office of Science, Technology and Innovation (OSTI) has developed two important initiatives: *Engineering for the Americas* (EftA), a partnership of local governments, civil society, and the private sector to promote engineering education, quality assurance, and job creation, and *the Inter-American Metrology System*, a cooperation network comprised of national metrology institutions of the Member States. It is currently working with IDB funding to develop a Plan of Action for basic metrology infrastructure for the Central American Metrology Network.



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Agriculture, Rural Life and Food Security

Focusing on the issue of agriculture and rural areas, **ECLAC**, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and the **Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)** joined forces to prepare a report titled: *The Outlook for Agriculture and Rural Development in the Americas: A Perspective on Latin America and the Caribbean*.

Given the concerns on food security discussed during the hemispheric dialogue (SIRGs) leading to the Fifth Summit and later reflected on the Declaration itself, the IICA presented to the Foreign Ministers of the Americas its institutional response to the food security situation in the hemisphere, in the framework of the 2008 OAS General Assembly, in Medellin, Colombia. In its efforts at follow-up, IICA:

- Has developed a food security strategy based on institutional innovation to promote: technological change for food production and diversification; services to strengthen market capacity of small and medium producers, and the analysis, follow up and dissemination of policies and information on the food security situation and perspectives in the hemisphere.
- Organized, in 2009, an International Experts Workshop in Costa Rica, with the participation of other international organizations followed later in the year by the IICA/OAS Food Security Conferenceⁱ in Washington, D.C.
- Produced and disseminated several major documents to provide guidelines and improve understanding of the subject, its impact and potential response mechanisms.
- Developed methodologies to evaluate the impact of price volatility and to analyze the transference of international commodity prices to rural income. Case studies were conducted in 15 regions of 5 countries in the hemisphere.
- Works in partnership with AACTI of Canada, and several Andean universities to develop the ATINAR project on food production, storage, value added and nutritional analysis technologies.
- Provided support to several other national and regional initiatives and projects on food security in collaboration other international organizations (ECLAC, FAO, IDB, CIDA, etc).

The Ministers of Agriculture of the hemisphere updated the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan at their most recent Ministerial Meetings held in October 2009 in Montego Bay, Jamaica.



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This Plan represents a multidimensional and multisectoral hemispheric framework for the sustainable development of agriculture and the rural milieu. Specifically, the Ministers renewed their commitment to the broad-based and comprehensive approach to agriculture and rural life, inherent to that Plan, and defined additional updated strategic actions reflecting the present hemispheric challenges and the mandates of the Fifth Summit on food security, energy, environment and climate change as.

IICA provided support to the Ministers and their delegates in the implementation and updating of the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan with the Jamaica 2009 Hemispheric Ministerial Agreement, and has continued providing support to the countries for the implementation of the Plan.

Cultural Diversity

As part of the CIC Work Plan, the **OAS** Office of Education and Culture is executing a two-year project “Culture in Development: An Inter-American Information Network” to provide informational resources and promote exchange of good practice among policy makers in the field of culture. As part of this project, the “Cooperation Fund for Technical Assistance Missions” was created in 2010 to promote bilateral and multilateral cooperation in development of cultural policy.



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As a follow up to the commitments made at the Fifth Summit by **OAS** Members States and an announcement from US President Obama, an Energy and Climate Partnership for the Americas (ECPA) has been established. The Partnership is being developed as a voluntary option for both OAS Member States and international organizations to put forward innovative clean energy initiatives. For the past six months, the OAS has been working on the creation of a website, focal points and dialogue mechanisms for this partnership, and diverse projects are being developed among the Member States. The members of the JSWG are contributing to the expansion of the Partnership by contributing to a clearinghouse of information of best practices and providing technical assistance and financial support to regional initiatives.

The Energy and Climate Ministerial of the Americas was held in Washington, DC, at the **Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)** on April 15, 2010, and at the Organization of American States the following day. The first day enabled meetings among representatives from government, civil society, industry, academia, and international financial institutions. On the second day, energy ministers met in private, closed-door sessions. Both days served to explore possible initiatives in energy efficiency, renewable energy, cleaner fossil fuels, and energy infrastructure and energy poverty.

IICA has created the Hemispheric Program in Agroenergy and Biofuels within the institution to:

- Act as a platform for disseminating knowledge, information and experiences.
- Act as a specialized forum for countries to share, discuss and analyze these concerns.
- Facilitate horizontal technical cooperation

IICA is also the Secretariat of the Technical Committee of the Inter American Commission on Ethanol and published an Agroenergy and biofuels Atlas¹, compiling and systematizing the information presently available in the countries.

IICA actively collaborates on these issues with diverse international (OAS, UN, FAO, IDB) and regional organizations (OLADE¹, PROCIANDINO², PROCITROPICOS³, CREBA⁴) in the

¹Organización Latinoamericana de Energía

²Programa Cooperativo de Innovación Tecnológica Agropecuaria para la Región Andina



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realization of Conferences, Round Tables, Workshops and other activities in pursue of the overall objective of energy security. IICA is also the coordinator of the Red Jatropha LACⁱⁱ and a member of the “Red Mesoamericana de Investigación y Desarrollo en Biocombustibles”

CABEI’s Board of Directors approved “CABEI’s Strategy to Support the Energy Sector in Central America”. This Strategy presents, as its main objective, the providing of financial solutions to encourage energy efficiency, promoting the development of renewable energy sources and reducing the dependency of non renewable energy sources in Central America.

CABEI’s Energy Strategy focuses on three main action branches:

1. Promote energy efficiency.
2. Promote renewable energy projects, and
3. Promote the development of the infrastructure needed to access and manage energy.

In accordance with the Energy Strategy, CABEI has developed a series of Products and Programs for the support of the energy sector in the region.

1. Program for the Support of Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMSE) directed to renewable energy and energy efficiency projects. Some of the benefits that this Program provides include:
 - Social and Gender oriented: The benefits will be more significant for low income families; they will utilize less of their income in paying for their energy. This has special relevance for the high percentage of Central American households lead by women.
 - Environmental: Relief of pressure on natural resources. This includes relief of local and global pressures, such as CO2 emissions, which lead to global warming.
 - Economical: Expense reduction when the amount of consumed energy by final consumers and industries is reduced in such services such as lighting, air conditioning and transportation.

³ Programa Cooperativo de Investigación, Desarrollo e Innovación para los Trópicos Suramericanos

⁴ Caribbean Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency and Bioenergy Action Programme



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2. Energy Efficiency Program. This Program has as its main objective the promoting of energy efficiency projects in order to reduce the dependency of fossil fuels in the region and the reduction of the emission of toxic gases into the environment.

Likewise, the Program has, as specific objectives, the following strategic actions:

- To promote the implementation of energy efficiency in all the uses of energy.
- To promote the development of renewable energy projects.
- To promote the development of the necessary infrastructure to convert, transport, and store energy.

3. Renewable Energy Program. This Program has as its main objective the promoting of renewable energy projects in order to reduce the dependency of fossil fuels in the region and the reduction of the emission of toxic gases into the environment.

Likewise, the Program has, as specific objectives, the following strategic actions:

- To contribute to the development of renewable energy projects in CABEL's founding and beneficiary countries.
- To promote the diversification of the country's energy matrix by introducing an alternative source of energy.
- To increase the productivity, efficiency and competitiveness of the industries through the savings perceived in their operating costs.
- To promote energy projects that grant access to electricity to remote areas those have no current access to the energy grid.

The ARECA Project is a tripartite initiative funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF), supervised by the **United Nations Development Program (UNDP)** and implemented by CABEL. Our objective is to increase the development of renewable



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energy in Central America and to contribute in reducing the existing financial barriers that hinder the large scale development of small and medium size projects.

ARECA is offering a Partial Credit Guarantee Program for Small Renewable Energy Projects. This mechanism supplements the guarantees provided by the developer to Intermediary Financial Institutions (IFIs) up to 35% of the credit amount granted by the financial institution, with a maximum of one million dollars (US\$1,000,000) per project.

The eligible projects are all small and medium size renewable energy generating projects such as hydroelectric, wind, biomass, geothermal, and solar energy. The generating capacity of these projects should not exceed 10 megawatts (10MW) and should be located in any of the Central American countries and Panamá.

Through the South American Regional Infrastructure Integration Initiative (IIRSA), **CAF** supports a thorough review of the project portfolio agreed on by the 12 countries, which is structured into ten axes for integration and development and 47 project groups. In this review, notice was taken of progress with project implementation – more than 140 priority projects are under execution.

CAF's participation in the IIRSA Initiative has continued to emphasize support for the implementation of the regional integration portfolio's priority projects; in this, a particularly valuable role has been played by the allocations of the Sustainable Infrastructure Projects Promotion Fund (Proinfra), which has supported studies and pre-investment work for more than 30 projects in a total non-reimbursable contribution amount of almost US\$10 million.

The First-Class Ports Program is geared toward improving the quality of port services as a strategic element in supporting regional integration and the increased competitiveness of exporting productive sectors; it is founded on three basic pillars: (i) **CAF's** previous work on logistics, competitiveness, and transportation; (ii) the zoning work of the IIRSA Initiative; and (iii) the Guarantee Mark port management model that was successfully applied in Spain at the port of Valencia.

Through the BioCAF Biodiversity Program, the Corporation successfully concluded the design of the regional project "Facilitating funding for biodiversity businesses and



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support for the development of market activities in the Andean region.” This project will be submitted to the GEF in pursuit of grant funding worth US\$6.3 million, which will receive national, bilateral, and other matching funds to reach a total value of US\$14.5 million.

Through the Latin American Program for Carbon and Clean Alternative Energy (PLAC+e), CAF makes important contributions to the development of the carbon market with the registration and issuing of certified reductions in the transportation sector. An agreement was recently signed for a forestry project, which will yield social benefits for small producers in rural areas. Ten new contracts for carbon emission sales have also been signed: seven under the CAF-Netherlands program, and two with Spain’s Ibero-American Carbon Initiative. The Corporation signed an agreement to present projects to sellers, thus launching an open sales model with the participation of buyers of all kinds, public and private agencies, and funds. The portfolio included projects in various productive sectors, such as energy generation using renewable sources (hydro, wind, and geothermal), biofuels, transportation, gas and oil, and forestry activities.



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The **OAS** has initiated efforts to improve regional cooperation and strengthening national technical and institutional capacity for disaster reduction, prevention, preparedness and response, rehabilitation, resilience, risk reduction, impact mitigation, and evaluation.

Following-up on a mandate from the Heads of State and Government of the Americas from the Fifth Summit of the Americas, on January 26th member States of the Organization of American States (OAS) officially convened the Second Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High Level Authorities on Sustainable Development. This meeting, supported by the OAS Department of Sustainable Development (DSD) will be hosted by the Dominican Republic in Santo Domingo, October 6-8, 2010.

Since the First Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High-Level Authorities on Sustainable Development in 2006, the 34 OAS Member States have been working with the DSD in a focused and clear cooperative agenda inspired by the Declaration of Santa Cruz + 10 and the Inter-American Program on Sustainable Development. The upcoming Ministerial Meeting is the next milestone of progress in the western hemisphere's environmental agenda. During the preparatory process, the DSD will work closely with governments, technical experts, civil society organizations and the private sector to set out specific, tangible and cooperative measures that can make a difference in the regions' environmental performance. The OAS welcomes and encourages participation of the environmental community in this process.

ECLAC continued working on the interrelationships between economic growth, environmental protection, urban development and social equity, with significant attention to the cross-cutting issue of climate change. Significant progress was also made in the study of the economic impact of climate change in Latin America and the Caribbean through fifteen national and regional studies to be fully published during 2010.

Analysis, research and technical cooperation services were provided to improve public policy formulation in the areas of management of natural resources, and the provision of public utility and infrastructure services with the aim of fostering sustainable development. Some of these efforts included the document *"Situation and Perspectives of Energy Efficiency in LAC"*. An innovative methodology called *"Tablero de Comando"*



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for the formulation of policies for the sustainable production and use of biofuels was also developed.

In the area of assessing the economic impact of natural disasters, ECLAC continues to support the countries of the region through the application of the methodology to assess the macro, socio-economic and environmental impacts of natural disasters, called *Damage and Loss Assessment (DALA) Methodology for Assessments of Natural Disasters*. In use over the last 35 years, over the last two years, more than 12 country reports after major natural disasters in different countries of the region were produced. The methodology was for the first time applied to assess health disasters such as the influenza pandemic in Mexico and the dengue epidemic in Bolivia. Several training workshops were also held so that technical staff can conduct their own preliminary damage assessment of natural disasters using the ECLAC Disaster Impact Assessment Methodology.

In response to mandate 67, **PAHO** reviewed the Plan of Action for protecting health from climate change in the Americas. As a result, a plan of action for protecting health against the effects of climate change was adopted by the ministers of the MERCOSUR countries. PAHO organized a sub-regional workshop for the nations of Central America and the Caribbean to deal with the problems of vulnerability. PAHO carried out activities with the Mercosur countries that led to adaptations to climate change within the health sector. It also prepared the launch of the first draft of guidelines for assessing the vulnerability and adaptation of health to climate change, and pilot studies were conducted to evaluate the proposed guides in Barbados, Brazil, Bolivia, Canada, and Costa Rica.

As part of its commitment to helping client countries deal with the effects and impact of climate change, and as was requested by the member states at the Summit of the Americas, **the World Bank** is supporting the region's governments to develop alternative energy resources in a socially and environmentally sustainable manner.

The region has piloted new technologies and approaches to reduce emissions. Brazil is moving towards energy independence through the expansion of alternative energy sources such as hydroelectricity, ethanol, and biodiesel. Its sugar-based ethanol



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production is financially and environmentally sustainable without diverting land from food crops.

Environmentally friendly public transport policies demonstrated by Curitiba (Brazil) and expanded in Bogota (Colombia) are now underway in dozens of cities in the region. Costa Rica has received worldwide recognition for its efforts to place a financial value on preserving ecosystems through several initiatives on “payments for ecosystems services.”

To better respond to these countries’ development agendas, the Bank has introduced several innovative programs:

- *A US\$1.3 billion loan to Brazil for the First Programmatic Development Policy Loan for Sustainable Environmental Management.*
- *A US\$1 billion loan to Mexico to expand access to housing to low income groups.*
- *A \$501.25 million development policy loan was approved to support Mexico’s National Climate Change Strategy.*
- *A US\$401 million loan for Mexico’s Environmental Sustainability Development Policy Project.*
- *A US\$400 million loan to Uruguay in support of the government’s reform program and additional financing to face the impact of the global economic crisis.*
- *A US\$330 million loan to Peru to strengthen the new Ministry of the Environment and improve environmental management in key sectors of the Peruvian economy.*
- *A US\$100 million loan to launch a public bond in Uruguayan Pesos, the Bank’s first ever to be issued for the purpose of a back-to-back disbursement of a specific loan.*

In 2008, **IICA** created the Natural Resources and Environmental Management Division in response to the mandates previous Summit and Ministerial Meetings and the environmental challenges facing the hemisphere. Through this unit it has strived to “increase visibility” for the conservation of natural resources and environmentally



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friendly good agricultural practices, particularly on the strategic issue of Agriculture in the Americas response to Climate Change and Food Security.

IICA has initiated a hemispheric agenda, taking into account regional and national policies and fostering the strengthening of institutional and private capacities, training and working in a participative form with executives and technicians in the countries.

IICA has participated in diverse international meetings related to natural resources and environmental management, climatic change and sustainable development including the UN conference on Biodiversity, desertification and soil degradation and drought; the World Forestry Congress; the V International Water Forum and the Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen.

During the last 2 years IICA has collaborated and provided support for 6 projects valued at US\$ 56.0 million and has produced and disseminated diverse materials geared to improve and systematize training events and project design in the countries of the hemisphere.

IICA has also produced diverse publications related to environmental management, natural resources, climate change and their link to food security, the most recent one being "Agriculture, Urbanization and Water".

CABEI, through an agreement signed with the Global Environmental Fund (GEF), is in charge of operating Project CAMBio (Central American Markets for Biodiversity) whose purpose is to promote SMES that are friendly with the biodiversity through financing, technical assistance as well as incentives for complying with conservation indicators for SMES. CAMBio also promotes partial guarantees that allow SMES access to financing from Financial Institutions. Through this agreement, CABEI has destined US\$ 17 Million for credits and GEF US\$ 10.2 Million. The project applies to the Banks founding member countries.

UNDP focuses on helping developing countries to create the enabling environment to attract and drive direct investment toward lower carbon technologies and sustainable land management at the national and sub-national levels. This entails providing support and capacity building in the areas of policy formulation, regulatory frameworks and



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production of strategies that embed climate change action. At the same time, UNDP assists countries to access financial resources to directly address climate change mitigation and adaptation through application of renewable energy, energy efficient technologies, sustainable land management, water governance and chemicals management.

Several examples of UNDP-led initiatives highlight the above approach: nineteen countries around the region are assisted to analyze investment and financial flows to provide critical information for policy makers on investment options for climate change mitigation and adaptation; UNDP has recently initiated a program (TACC) to assist sub-national governments to develop integrated territorial climate plans as a means of identifying cost-effective investments in CC mitigation and adaptation and the synergies between them; UNDP is supporting the piloting of innovative risk transfer mechanisms against extreme weather events and the implementation of strategies to facilitate sustainable development that will counter the negative effects of extreme natural catastrophes through an integrated approach to risk management.



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In Paragraph 73 of the Declaration of Commitment, **OAS** Member States expressed their wish to advance further cooperation on public security via the *Meetings of Ministers Responsible for Public Security in the Americas or MISPA*. As a result, the OAS supported MISPA II, which was held in November 2009 in Santo Domingo and focused on analyzing the causes of violence and addressing it in a multidisciplinary way in order to prioritize policies. The OAS is contributing to the work outlined in MISPA II by developing data and statistics for efficient public security policies.

Since the second half of 2009, the CIM Executive Secretariat has been working with the GS/OAS Department of Public Security on a project to train police officers in dealing with cases of violence against women within the framework of the human trafficking program. The project works for the implementation of current legislation and international instruments dealing with this topic by promoting, supporting, and adapting the police response to this pandemic.

On the 15th and 18th of December 2009, the CICTE Secretariat, in conjunction with the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and in collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Inter-American Commission on Drug Abuse Control organized the “Second Sub-regional Workshop on the Interdiction and Investigation of Cross Border Bulk Cash Smuggling.” The workshop was held in Lima and was to enhance the capability of participating countries to effectively apply the national and international legal framework on bulk cash smuggling, as well as the investigation of violations of their local cash declaration laws/regulations. There was also an exchange of best practices with respect to special analysis, investigative and prosecution techniques, and the importance of international cooperation on those matters

The OAS, in collaboration with the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) and the Government of the Commonwealth of Dominica organized the 3-7 August 2009 in Roseau, Dominica the Third Meeting of National Observatories on Drugs in the Caribbean. The meeting gathered practitioners from the Caribbean to discuss the latest research in the region on drug use and also discuss the policy recommendations for the region in light of results of new surveys and other studies as well as recent activities in the region. The aim was to develop recommendations on how to improve



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the approach to drug use prevention and to determine the best practices that can be applied.

In response to mandate 74, **PAHO** implemented and strengthened the information systems for general injuries in Nicaragua, Honduras, El Salvador, Colombia, Peru, and the countries of the Caribbean. It also strengthened observatories for violence and gender in collaboration with the Inter-American Coalition for the Prevention of Violence in countries including Nicaragua, Honduras, El Salvador, Panama, and Brazil. PAHO participated with and supported other agencies of the United Nations system in programs to promote citizen security and prevent violence in countries including Guatemala, El Salvador, Colombia, Brazil, and Suriname. It also trained officials from health and other ministries in the prevention of violence and injuries using the TEACH-VIP (Training, Educating, and Advancing Collaboration in Health on Violence and Injury Prevention) module. PAHO consolidated Brazil's youth violence prevention network and supported its "*Núcleo de Estudos da Violência*" (NEV) initiative, which focuses on home visits to teenage mothers in disadvantaged neighborhoods to prevent child abuse and promote health. It also supported the initiative to develop a model for the re-education of women victims of violence and their male assailants in four Mexican states, carried out in conjunction with Mexico's National Public Health Institute (INSP), and it consolidated the Inter-American Coalition for the Prevention of Violence, which involves the OAS and other agencies.

IOM has been working to combat human trafficking since 1994. The Organization has implemented more than 500 projects in some 100 countries. While much of the focus of IOM's work is on capacity building and prevention campaigns, IOM has provided direct assistance to more than 15,000 trafficked individuals throughout the world.

IOM's approach places concern for the victim of trafficking at the centre of all its activities. The overall objectives are to provide protection and empower trafficked women, men, girls and boys; raise awareness and understanding of the issue; and bring justice to victims. The four guiding principles are respect for human rights; gender sensitivity and empowerment; physical, mental and social well-being of the individual and their community; and sustainable capacity building and ownership of governments and civil society.



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IOM's capacity building work to combat human trafficking includes training and the development of specialized tools for government officials, including law enforcement, NGOs and other stakeholders working with victims of trafficking. In Argentina, IOM and its partners developed a publication on the new anti trafficking law and its application to help prosecutors and law enforcement working on human trafficking cases.

In response to the paucity of available and reliable data on human trafficking, IOM carries out research, which leads to effective policy and program development. In 2009, IOM launched a website focusing on Counter Trafficking efforts in Spanish-speaking countries in the Western Hemisphere. The site www.contralatrata.org contains information on human trafficking and IOM projects in 17 countries. It was developed as a tool for IOM counter-trafficking experts, partners, media and the general public to readily find information on activities in the Spanish speaking countries of the Americas.

IOM's *Caribbean Counter-Trafficking Model Legislation and Explanatory Guidelines* is a technical resource for stakeholders in government and civil society to improve domestic legislation and policy that criminalizes human trafficking. For this initiative, IOM brought together legal experts from 10 countries and CARICOM to develop comprehensive anti-trafficking legislation that upholds the international standards and guidelines for implementation.

As part of its work to build capacity and to provide technical support, IOM Washington created the *IOM Counter-Trafficking Training Modules*. The content of the *Modules* draw on IOM's extensive knowledge on the subject, offering a 'how to' approach on issues relating to victims' protection and assistance. The seven *Modules* topics include Information Campaigns, Return and Reintegration, Capacity Building, Cooperation and Networking, Victim Identification and Interviewing Techniques, Direct Assistance, and Children.

In Central America and Mexico, IOM is working to raise awareness amongst governments, civil society organizations and the public at large on the existence, characteristic, dynamics and impact of human trafficking in the region, and to encourage a greater and more effective counter trafficking response. IOM develops projects focused on victim protection, assistance and reintegration. IOM also works with its partners to develop national public polices, including legislative changes, mass



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information campaigns and capacity building thru activities such as workshops, seminars and virtual learning.

In the United States, IOM provides case-by-case assistance to victims of trafficking. Since 2005, IOM has assisted more than 300 immediate family members to resettle to the U.S.

To prevent the sexual exploitation of children via the Internet, IOM Uruguay developed a guide for parents and teachers to prevent sexual abuse and to promote safe Internet use for children.

In Haiti, IOM is working to raise awareness and reintegrate children victims of trafficking. The plight of approximately 173,000 Haitian children that are victims of trafficking for domestic servitude, known as *Restaveks* has been the focus of IOM's counter-trafficking program in the country. Since 2005, IOM has assisted more than 300 *Restavek* children to reunite with their families.

The **UNDP's** recent launching of the Human Development Report focusing on Citizen Security is an example of its contribution to the Summit commitments towards public security. The report proposes as remedies for the heightened levels of insecurity in the region the application of "smart authority" within the context of respect for democracy and adherence to the rule of law. The Report provides detailed analysis for policy makers and includes a presentation of policy options and actions that can lead to a reduction of violence and a significant contribution to strengthen public security throughout the Region. UNDP also increased financial commitments for Regional initiatives related to Citizen Security and small arms control action in Central America.



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The Declaration of Commitment of Port of Spain reaffirms countries' commitment to strengthening the legitimacy of electoral processes. In that regard, the **OAS** carried out 12 Electoral Observation Missions in 2009 with more than 739 electoral observers in El Salvador, Antigua y Barbuda, Ecuador, Panama, Mexico, Colombia, San Vicente and the Grenadines; Bolivia and Dominica. The OAS also implemented the project on strengthening Caribbean Electoral Organizations and carried out a number of electoral projects and studies.

Under the aegis of the Commitment of Port of Spain, in October and December 2009 and in January and March 2010, the GS/OAS Department of International Law organized meetings with a group of government and civil society experts to draft a model law on access to public information and a guide for its implementation, in accordance with the established applicable international standards. The final document that emerged from those meetings' discussions was presented to the Committee on Juridical and Political Affairs at the end of April 2010.

The GS/OAS Department of International Law provided technical and legal assistance to the working group that is negotiating the draft American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; it organized a meeting of the caucus of indigenous peoples' representatives in November 2009; and it gave its support to the organization of the 12th Meeting of Negotiations in Pursuit of Consensus in December 2009.

The Department of International Law has been giving technical and legal support to the efforts of the working group charged with negotiating the draft Inter-American Convention Against Racism and All Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance. The Department of International Law has also been working with civil society groups representing populations of African descent and the LGBTI community, and it has participated in a series of events to publicize and raise awareness about those topics within society, and to empower those sectors regarding their participation in decision-making processes within international agencies, including the OAS. The Department of International Law has also drawn up a program to incorporate Afro-descendant issues within the Organization's policies and programs.

On March 11th and 12th 2010, the OAS' Department of Legal Cooperation, of the Secretariat for Legal Affairs, in conjunction with the Attorney General's Ministry of



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Belize held a Workshop evaluating the First and Second Rounds of the Mechanism for the Follow-up on the Implementation of the Inter-American Convention against Corruption (MESICIC). The main objective of the workshop was to try to get people from a broad sector of society, especially civil society, to make the government truly transparent and responsible. After Belize, some other workshops are planned throughout the year in Trinidad and Tobago, Guatemala, the Dominican Republic, and Suriname as a way to reinforce inter-American efforts at legal cooperation by strengthening national anti-corruption measures.

CAF continued with the implementation of its region-level governance programs, in the understanding that it is important to create potential arenas for strengthening countries' democratic governance and to enhance civic coexistence through dialogue and consensus-building. Framed by four lines of action within the sphere of governance, these efforts offer a crosscutting approach to ethics and transparency within the public administration and in citizen management, and to the development of human capacities for improving the execution of governance and the understanding of how it is exercised in each country's context

Through the Border Cooperation and Integration Fund, the CAF has mobilized 4 million dollars in grants for technical cooperation to support bi-national and multilateral projects and initiatives that promote physical infrastructure, productive development, human and environmental sustainability in common border regions. The Fund also aims at promoting dialogue, mutual trust and good neighborliness among its shareholder countries.

UNDP, in a joint initiative with the OAS, with the support of the Spanish Fund for Latin America, is developing a Second Democracy Report in LA: An Agenda for a Citizen's Democracy. The main goal is to promote a participatory debate to develop an agenda for strengthening democratic governance in the region. Based on a working document prepared with contributions from several experts, a broad set of key actors (government authorities, political, social, economic leaders, scholars and journalists) have taken part in national and subregional consultations and debates in several countries since October 2009: Paraguay, Guatemala, Uruguay, Panama, Colombia, Bolivia (plus upcoming meetings in Mexico and Brazil). This process will result in a publication to be presented in June 2010. The regional report presents strategic issues for democratic governance in



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LAC: the new role of the State, representation, participation and republican control of democratic powers. This process is already opening up new public policies and political dialogues to face the challenges to democracy in Latin America.



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Strengthening the Summit of the Americas, Follow-up and Implementation

To support the calls made in Paragraphs 90 and 91 at the Fifth Summit to increase the accountability of governments to the peoples of the Americas, in January 2010 the **OAS** launched the Summits of the Americas Follow-up System (SISCA). SISCA is an online inter-agency work tool where government entities can enter Summit mandate-related goals and progress. In addition, it serves as a forum for the entry of qualitative information, such as policies, strategies, limitations encountered, and steps to be taken for the effective fulfillment of Summit mandate-related goals.

Paragraph 94 of the Port of Spain Declaration commits to the ongoing growth of citizen participation in the inter-American system and the Summits process. To comply with this important challenge, the OAS Summits Secretariat, with support from **the Institute for Connectivity in the Americas (ICA)**, has developed the Summits Virtual Community (SVC), which utilizes Web 2.0 tools to enhance engagement among Summit stakeholders and promote wider participation in the preparatory process for the Sixth Summit.

ECLAC continued working on the systematization and dissemination of statistics and supported countries in strengthening their national statistical systems and capacities in the areas of national accounts, the measurement of progress towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) with suitable indicators, the conduct of household surveys and the development of environmental statistics. Efforts aimed at improving the quantity and quality of MDGs indicators have resulted in a larger number of countries having made considerable advances in the collection of information and in the production of those indicators. ECLAC enhanced efforts to improve accessibility of data collected through CEPALSTAT, a new portal of statistical information included in ECLAC's web page.

IICA, as the Secretariat of the Ministerial Process, continued supporting the consolidation of the Ministerial Process and facilitated the celebration of its Fifth Ministerial Meeting, in Montego Bay, Jamaica, October 2009. During this meeting the Secretariat presented to the assembled Ministers a Report on advances in the Ministerial process emphasizing its link with the Summit Process and informing them of the specific mandates of the Declaration of Commitment of Port of Spain. This meeting



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identified 15 strategic actions and 6 Implementation and Follow up Measures clearly responding to the Port of Spain mandates.



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Responding to the Economic Crisis

In March 2010, the **Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)** Members agreed to approve a 7 billion dollar increase in new resources into the Bank, which will allow the IDB to double its pre-crisis lending program.

Through the timely provision of specialized information, policy recommendations, and documents like *“The reactions of the Governments to the international crisis: an overview of policy measures”*, the United Nations **Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)** has raised awareness and understanding of the different policy options available to deal with the crisis.

To help Latin American governments fight the effects of increasingly deteriorating economic conditions, **the World Bank** rapidly responded to the region’s demands. In response to the global crisis, the Bank dramatically increased its support to Latin America and the Caribbean during its fiscal year ending June 2009. The Bank approved US\$14 billion in new commitments, almost tripling its regular lending volume, with \$13.8 billion in loans from its International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and \$203 million in International Development Association (IDA) commitments. Nearly US\$3 billion went to expand CCT programs. A similar volume is expected to be delivered during fiscal year 2010.

Following the Summit of the Americas in Port of Spain, and spurred by discussions at the Summit, the World Bank Group (IBRD, IFC and MIGA), **the Inter-American Development Bank and the Inter-American Investment Corporation (IDB/IIC), the Corporacion Andina de Fomento (CAF), the Caribbean Development Bank (CBD) and the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI)** announced that they would work together to identify partnerships to increase their collective impact and explore new opportunities to protect the economic and social gains achieved in the region during the last five years. They also announced that they would increase their support to the region by providing as much as \$90 billion (out of which the World Bank will provide \$35.6 billion) during the next two years in a joint effort to spur economic growth by coordinating their crisis response initiatives.

During fiscal year 2009, Brazil, Mexico, and Argentina were the largest borrowers, while the environment, economic policy, and social protection sectors received the largest amount of funding. Support to the region during fiscal 2009 represented 42 percent of total IBRD lending and nearly a third of total Bank IBRD/IDA lending.



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Deferred Drawdown Option (DDO), a type of committed credit line, was instrumental for several countries. Nine DDOs were approved for seven countries in fiscal 2009—Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Peru, and Uruguay—and provided an immediate source of liquidity. The new financing instrument reflects the Bank's commitment to assisting governments in providing positive market signals by creating a preventive source of financing.

In accordance to the importance of the MSME sector - as a fundamental instrument for the socioeconomic development of the region- and the role played by **CABEI** in the support for the sector – CABEI is the main source of funds for the MSME sector in the region (130 financial intermediaries), CABEI has developed the Anti-crisis Plan for MSMEs considering the following points:

- The international economic crisis – there has been a reduction in the supply of foreign lending to MSMEs. This directly affects those IFIs that have been working for the sector, especially those that are not regulated.
- Reduction in loan portfolio – as a consequence of capital restraints, CABEI has seen a reduction in its loan portfolio in the sector, hence providing fewer resources for the support of additional jobs.

CABEI will launch its Anticrisis Plan for MSME:

- CABEI expects to allocate US\$ 132.9 million during the year 2010. It is important to mention that on average CABEI has disbursed over US\$ 200 million annually to the MSME sector.
- To complement the allocation of resources, CABEI will also allocate US\$150 thousand from its Technical and Financial Cooperation Program for the MSME sector, to train, assess and accompany IFIs during this time of economic crisis through a Technical Assistance Program. Specifically some of the topics covered will include Integral Risk Management, and general guidance under regulatory processes.

The Microfinance Growth Fund represents a vehicle for CABEI to counteract the actual crisis and continue providing valuable economic support to the MSME sector in Central America. In this sense the Fund could be used as:

- A source of funds for CABEI's current programs which direct resources to MSMEs in different economic sectors.



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- A source of funds for CABEL's Program of Subordinated Debt for Microfinance Companies. This program was designed to strengthen microfinance companies and thus increase the provision of financial services to the region's low income population, eventually also helping to generate employment and reduce poverty.

In the framework of the economic crisis, many international financial initiatives from the **ILO** have been generated, including the adoption of the "World Employment Pact" and the creation of a Latin America and the Caribbean Crisis Observatory. This Observatory has helped identify programs and policies applied to several countries, by giving a response based on decent work. Throughout 2009, Argentina, Bahamas, Brasil, Canadá, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, México, Paraguay, Perú y Uruguay were selected as examples. Those countries documented themselves in English and Spanish in a series of twenty "ILO notes on the crisis" that summarize the main features of these policies and highlight the contribution of the countries to facing the crisis. A bulletin on the labor situation, developed jointly with **ECLAC** and ILO, has documented both the impact of the crisis in the regional labor market as well as the major trends in policy responses, identifying good practices which will also serve in many cases to promote an economic recovery using decent work.

Also, a large number of political interventions have been implemented in some countries as a part of the cooperation with ILO. In the Southern Cone office, a regional meeting on "International Crisis and Policies for MSMEs" has been organized. In the Caribbean office a study on Youth Employment has been carried out and covered aspects such as policies of training and coherence between policies and programs and the role of organizations of employers and workers on the road to improve opportunities for youth employment in OECS. In Brazil, a Subcommittee to develop a National Agenda for Decent Work of Young People in the framework of the Inter-ministerial Executive Committee (June 2009) has been created, and a diagnostic study on the situation of Brazilian youth, entitled "Decent Work and Youth-Brazil has been developed." Central American countries have been developing a series of Joint Programs associated with the theme of Youth Employment (Costa Rica, Honduras and Nicaragua), while in the Dominican Republic it is worth mentioning the program on Youth and Employment of the Secretariat of State for Labor. In Cuba, ILO provides assistance in human resource development in the tourism sector, through the system of Measurement and Enhancement of Productivity (SIMAMPRO).



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Acronyms

MEMBER INSTITUTIONS OF THE JOINT SUMMIT WORKING GROUP (JSWG)

OAS	Organization of American States
IDB	Inter-American Development Bank
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
PAHO	Pan American Health Organization
World Bank	World Bank Group
IICA	Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture
CABEI	Central American Bank for Economic Integration
CAF	Andean Development Corporation
CDB	Caribbean Development Bank
IOM	International Organization for Migration
ILO	International Labour Organization
ICA	Institute for Connectivity in the Americas
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme