



V SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS PREPARATORY PROCESS

Private Sector Subregional Consultations

December, 2008

Introduction

The Organization of American States General Secretariat, through its Department of Trade and Tourism (DTT) and the Summits of the Americas Secretariat, in coordination with the Trinidad and Tobago National Secretariat for the V Summit, organizes a series of consultations with the private sector with a view to promoting its participation in the V Summit process¹.

In 2006, OAS Member States adopted the General Assembly Resolution 2244 “Promotion of Private Sector Participation in OAS Activities”, which called for the continued dialogue with the private sector and strengthening the means of dialogue with that sector, at the national level, in OAS activities, and in the Summits of the Americas process. OAS Member States agreed to “continue supporting the dialogue with the Ministers of Foreign Affairs before the inaugural sessions of the OAS General Assembly and the Summits of the Americas, so that the private sector may make recommendations, including proposed initiatives related to the topic of the Assembly or Summit and directed at the member states and the OAS.”

The consultations with the private sector were organized through coordinators representing the institutional private sector structures within the integration groupings as well as regional business associations:

Caribbean

Caribbean Association of Industry and Commerce (CAIC)

Central America, Panama and the Dominican Republic

Federation of Chambers of Commerce of Central America (FECAMCO)

Southern Cone

Business sector of the Economic-Social Consultative Forum of Mercosur (FCES)

¹ This process of consultations with the private sector was made possible with the financial support of the United States Government and the organization Private Sector of the Americas.

North America

Council of the Americas

Andean Region

Andean Consultative Business Council

Inputs were also requested from the Business Technical Advisory Committee on Labor Matters (CEATAL), the Latin American Business Council (CEAL), the Latin American Organization for the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (OLAMP) and the Latin American and Caribbean Association of Information Technology Entities (ALETI).

The coordinators received the draft Declaration of Commitments of Port of Spain accompanied by a brief survey (see annexes 1 and 2) to guide the discussions and the recommendations within each subregion or organization.

This document includes the inputs from the following organizations:

- √ Federation of Chambers of Commerce of Central America (FECAMCO)
- √ Caribbean Association of Industry and Commerce (CAIC)
- √ Council of the Americas
- √ Latin American Business Council (CEAL)
- √ Business Technical Advisory Committee on Labor Matters (CEATAL)
- √ Latin American and Caribbean Association of Information Technology Entities (ALETI)

Inputs from the Andean Consultative Business Council, the business sector of the Economic-Social Consultative Forum of Mercosur and OLAMP are being prepared and will be distributed in a new document to be circulated among countries as soon as they become available.

In addition to the sub-regional consultations, a virtual consultation will be launched shortly through the Summit of the Americas Virtual Platform.

For additional information, please contact:

OAS Department of Trade and Tourism

Pamela Coke-Hamilton, Director. E-mail: pcokeh@oas.org

Gisela Vergara, Trade Specialist and Private Sector Forum Coordinator. E-mail: gvergara@oas.org

CONSULTATIONS CEAL

Recommendations of the Latin American Business Council (CEAL)

International President: Jorge Zablah-Touché (El Salvador- 2008-2009)

TOPIC 1: Promoting Human Prosperity

- **What are the most important challenges the Americas face to promote human prosperity?**

Promoting equitable conditions for universal access to education and infant nutrition is fundamental. Nevertheless, in view of globalization it is also essential to focus on technical careers in secondary schools that foster sources of employment as well as earmarking resources to attain greater access to quality higher education.

With a healthy, educated, trained and all-inclusive society, we will become a more prosperous, cohesive and equitable region.

- **What must the goals of our governments and the private sector be with regard to:**

A. Decent employment: Free negotiations between unions and businesses on labor conditions that promote greater labor flexibility. In view of the international crisis, the state must redirect social spending to promote “jobs” intended to improve regional infrastructure, such as rural roads, for example. In this way, we will meet the objective of generating employment and improving the infrastructure of the region.
(the case of Mexico)

B. Health, well-being and nutrition: Attain and comply with the UN Millennium Development Goals.

C. Access to quality education: absolute priority. The IDB should set up a bureau to monitor and follow up on the implementation of public policies to improve education and to link loans and financing

conditions to compliance with the regulations of this bureau. For example, a country that does not follow the education parameters established by the bureau would pay a greater spread in IDB loans; countries that fully comply with the regulations would receive a reward. Promoting public-private efforts such as COLFUTURO in Colombia and GUATEFUTURO in Guatemala that promote education credits and scholarships for post-graduate and doctoral studies in the best universities in the world are models that should be replicated throughout the rest of the region. The public policy of Chile and Panama to guarantee education credits and scholarships to any citizen accepted in the best universities in the world to pursue their careers must also be promoted.

- D. Overcome inequality and promote social cohesion:** quality education. Take advantage of the successful model promoted by Brazil: BOLSA FAMILIA
- E. Foster innovation and entrepreneurship.** Public and private investment in science and technology, research and development and link universities with business (successful cases of Brazil, Mexico and Chile).
- F. Business Environment:** A product of social, political and economic stability. This is essential to attract foreign direct investment given current world problems.

- **What must the private sector commit to in order to reach these goals?**
To generating wealth and employment using social and environmentally responsible formulas and contribute to paying its taxes with complete transparency. Promote greater participation in public-private initiatives.
- **What is the role of public-private alliances in reaching these goals?**
Their role is essential. Since the infrastructure needs in Latin America require investments of more than 8% of the GDP annually for more than

25 years, the only way to meet these needs is to promote an appropriate business climate and proper legislation for Development and Public-Private Participation Alliances. It is necessary to take advantage of the experiences of Mexico, Brazil, Colombia, Chile and Peru, among others, to apply them not only to road infrastructure, but also to education, health and prison administration, among others. Public-private participation alliances are essential for long-term projects whose social return is difficult to predict.

- **What must the timeframe be for reaching these goals?** This depends on the country and available resources. To start, countries must adopt the goal of “at least 10% annual increases” with regard to certain recognized international parameters.

TOPIC 2: Energy Security

- **What are the most important energy security challenges faced by the Americas?** Small countries, LDCs and those with low human development indices (HDI) and lesser relative development must receive preferential treatment in terms of energy security through an IDB fund and/or other institutions that can be used to equalize energy prices, avoiding exposure to excessive international market volatility.
- **What must the goals of our governments and the private sector be with regard to:**
 - A. Energy efficiency and conservation.** Take advantage of our renewable energy potential (water, geothermal, wind, direct or indirect solar by photosynthesis), which in the case of Central America exceeds 18,000MW.
 - B. Energy diversification.** Reach a regional agreement to reduce our oil dependence. Take advantage of Brazil’s experience in using ethanol, biodiesel, electricity cogeneration based on sugarcane waste (bagasse) and promote biofuels.

- C. Clean energy solutions.** Incentives for the use of clean energies. Promote environmental certificates that increase market value through the use of clean energies.
- D. Energy cooperation and integration.** Continue integrating energy markets. This is already in operation in Mexico with SIEPAC in Central America and will continue in Colombia in the next two years, and in turn will then be extended to South America.
- E. Safe access to energy supplies for all.** Continue the Rural Electrification Program until it reaches 95% coverage. Where it is not feasible to invest in electric transmission, implement solutions with solar and/or wind energy.
- **What must the private sector commit to in order to reach these goals?** To promoting long-term investments and seeking extra-regional international partners to invest in our region.
 - **What is the role of public-private alliances in reaching these goals?** Their role is essential since available public funds for the required investments are not sufficient and must be geared to promoting 100% coverage, while private resources are geared to generating clean energy.

TOPIC 3: Environmental Sustainability

- **What are the most important environmental sustainability challenges faced by the Americas?** Guaranteeing the right to full human development in harmony with the environment, within the framework of inter-temporal equity; that is, countries that have opted to save their natural resources for future availability must be compensated in terms of preservation goals and objectives by those who have overexploited their environment. The valuation of natural resources must be stimulated and their regional markets must be developed, as in the case of carbon credits, particularly since our region has a strong potential in international markets.

➤ **What must be the goals of our governments and the private sector regarding:**

- A. **Natural disaster preparation.** Our region is highly exposed to a large number of natural disasters, particularly the Caribbean region due to hurricanes and the Andean region due to earthquakes. It is necessary to strengthen our natural disaster mitigation committees and generate alliances with the private sector in order to have effective distribution networks when these natural disasters occur.

CONSULTATIONS CEATAL

CEATAL' Contributions to the Project Declaration of the V Summit of the Americas

In response to the objective of contributing to the negotiations for the Fifth Summit of the Americas, CEATAL underscores the following elements to be considered within the mandates of the Draft Commitment of Port of Spain:

- **SOCIAL DIALOG.** The draft Declaration should note that the positive effects of economic growth will reach their maximum when they lead to a sustainable development process, go hand-in-hand with social well-being and are stimulated by real social dialog. In order to deal with current social problems, the region must have a broad and genuine social dialog, based on a new collaboration paradigm and not on a culture of confrontation, a paradigm in which governments, entrepreneurs and workers join efforts to generate wealth and employment. Thus, governments must design and apply national public policies that incorporate social dialog aimed at promoting social development. New forms of organizing work, increasing international trade flows, subregional and bioregional integration processes, free trade and free investment agreements, the existence of an increasingly competitive environment, relocation of plants, and labor migrations, among others, in addition to the world economic and financial crises are all factors that add to the daily challenges that exist in relations between business owners and workers. As a result, it is even more necessary to create a climate of dialog and collaboration that will help to harmonize different interests and priorities and bring about social consensus to ensure social peace, the well-being of workers and the sustainable development of businesses.
- **PRIVATE PROPERTY AND LEGAL SECURITY:** The draft Declaration should stress the importance of private property as the keystone of economic development and human prosperity. This calls for the existence and application of clear and stable legal standards that provide security for entrepreneurs. There must be full respect for private property as a prerequisite for the existence of sustainable enterprises. The smooth functioning of the private sector implies the

existence and application of clear and stable legal standards that provide security for entrepreneurs. These standards must be predictable and include an institutional environment in which business and investment can be carried out securely. In countries where there is no legal security for exercising the right to private property for large and small enterprises alike, there is an immediate deceleration of development, deterioration of credibility and trust at the international level, an increase in informality and a definite return to higher poverty rates. Without sustainable enterprises, there will be no decent work.

- **TRANSPARENCY AND ELIMINATION OF CORRUPTION IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.** The draft Declaration should stress the importance that a globalized society requires transparent and committed management of public institutions. The lack of standards, efficiency, management control, honesty and transparency in the functioning of public institutions are clear factors that contribute to the insecurity of society in general. Enterprises and entrepreneurs need, first and foremost, political, public and administrative security in order to make decisions concerning investment and employment. Governments must double their efforts to strengthen institutionality by eliminating all forms of arbitrariness or corruption in carrying out their functions and by fostering transparency in government activities. Institutional deficiencies and excess regulation are probably the major cause of the lack of competitiveness in the region, to which we must add the traditional lack of coordination between government and the private sector. The growing globalization of the economies demands institutional frameworks that allow global governance, but at the same time, this must coexist with good governance at the national level, where the different local and regional policies foster an inclusive globalization process. Governments should firmly commit to increasing their efforts to overcome existing inequalities. To do this, they must promote, inter alia, fair and equitable tax systems and better governance of available resources to benefit productive employment and economic and social development.

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- **EDUCATION AND HUMAN CAPITAL:** The draft Declaration should highlight the fact that the creations of jobs demands close collaboration between enterprise and government in designing education policies. Education is the foundation of citizenship, equal opportunities and development. Education policies and professional training must respond to the expectations of society and to the needs of enterprises and of the labor market. These policies should also include as a priority in their objectives, employability and fostering an entrepreneurial spirit. Thus, due to the constant changes in the way production and work are organized, it is essential that the entrepreneurial community collaborate in designing and implementing training programs. Enterprises, and their ability to produce, depend more and more on the quality of human resources and the establishment of harmonious labor relations.
 - **INFORMAL ECONOMY.** The draft Declaration should reflect the promotion of legislative frameworks that tend to reduce the informal economy since this has become one of the principle obstacles to the development of the region. Currently, the informal economy provides employment to a high percentage of the economically active population in Latin America. This leads to social inequalities, inefficiency in the markets, and keeps us from obtaining the decent work goals defined by the ILO. It is important to reinforce the foundations of the institutions and public powers, to increase efficiency, simplify and adapt regulations to meet the situations in which they operate, and establish transition programs to attain this goal.
 - **TRADE.** Lastly, it is surprising to see the lack of any reference to the importance of trade in the draft Declaration. It has been shown empirically that protectionism in times of crisis does not foster development and, therefore, it is essential that in order to be relevant, the draft Declaration must promote open borders for the exchange of goods and services.
 - **RESPONSES TO THE CRISIS–** All of the above topics take on even greater significance in a time of crisis such as the present crisis. Governments must,

therefore, act together in supporting the private sector so that existing jobs are maintained. They must also design support measures for the unemployed that include active training policies, to enable them to regain their employability.

CONCLUSION

We understand that the document cannot overlook the above topics since they are essential for the development of the countries. The topics specifically address the promotion of human prosperity, energy security and environmental sustainability – objectives highlighted in the Declaration.

December 5, 2008

CONSULTATIONS ALETI



Recommendations of the Latin American and Caribbean Association of Information Technology Entities (ALETI)

President: Dr. Jorge A. CASSINO

What is ALETI?

- ALETI is the Latin American and Caribbean Association of Information Technology Entities, which brings together the principal Chambers of Commerce of the Information Technology Industry and includes fifteen (15) countries of the region, plus Spain. ALETI was duly constituted in 1998 and has participated actively in national, regional and world forums with multilateral entities, such as the UN, IDB, WB, EU, etc. ALETI represents 5.25% of the information technology business in the world, approximately 200 billion dollars in 2008. This represents a little more than 60,000 large-, medium- and small-scale businesses in the IT industry. ALETI is a major contributor in bridging the technology gap among the countries in the region, improving access to education for all the people, strengthening research and development, promoting innovation and new entrepreneurs by bringing knowledge to all levels of society.

THEME 1: Promoting Human Prosperity

- **What are the most important challenges facing the Americas to promote human prosperity?** Human prosperity is based on the following principles: free market access, freedom to own a business and private property, free access to information, job markets, protection of health, participatory democracy, freedom of speech and belief, transparent administration of the state, access to education and equal human opportunities, elimination of child labor, gender equality, non-

discrimination and a distributive economy with equal opportunities. These bases give men and women opportunities for professional, personal and human growth, with fundamental emphasis on interaction between governments and the private sector in order to reach consensus that will make it possible to attain these principles.

It is necessary to promote and encourage Social Entrepreneurial Responsibility (SER) by having an increasing number of businesses assume their responsibilities in carrying out their businesses.

One of the useful tools for monitoring prosperity plans is information technology.

➤ **What must the goals of our governments and the private sector be with regard to:**

- A. **Decent employment:** Governments and the private sector are mutually responsible not only for providing the legal conditions to protect workers, but also for protecting businesses from frivolous lawsuits. The physical safety of workers, contractual conditions, gender equality, protection of birth, elimination of child labor, labor training and mutual respect are fundamental to all decent work. Work from the home can be one aspect that should be kept in mind over the next years and IT will be a fundamental tool for this.
- B. **Health, well-being and nutrition:** Promoting a health system based on prevention, food education, nutrition and hygiene, preventing and eradicating diseases such as dengue, yellow fever, cholera and tuberculosis, as well as using IT tools, to optimize resources and using them rationally in the population. Social programs must be strictly controlled in order to avoid their improper use.
- C. **Access to quality education:** Governments and the private sector should work together to promote education at all levels and in all regions, seeking intensive use of digital tools, based on distance

education using digital means, ensuring that they are designed for the professions or specializations that the country and markets demand. The private sector should promote ongoing training, retraining and adaptation of their personnel and society, geared to the needs of their markets, whether technologies, languages, international trade, etc. The ministries of education, public and private universities and the education system in general must work together to ensure that plans and programs are aligned with local and international employment opportunities in a globalized economy, in both the public and private sectors. Special attention should be given to strengthening mathematics, basic sciences and foreign languages, principally in primary and secondary schools. The above must not exclude humanistic education focused on solidarity and spiritual values that must always serve as the point of reference for the complete education system.

The ministries of science and technology must promote, foster and orient all projects that include I+D+I, that can generate revenue for the country through intellectual property, and any research that can be translated into commercial results. We suggest that special attention be given to positive, transparent, non-discriminatory incentive programs between local and foreign capital.

- D. **Overcoming inequity and promoting social cohesion:** Social cohesion is based on the principle of equal opportunities, justice, education, etc. There must also be similar benefits for all production, commerce and services actors, avoiding privileges that distort equity. Legal security is the cornerstone to ensuring equity and cohesion for the people, including protecting pension funds from undue government appropriation. It is also necessary to provide the private sector with long- and medium-term plans that guarantee their commercial and development strategies.

Special attention must be given to digital inclusion through programs that address the causes of digital gaps among people, social groups and enterprises. It is essential that the programs developed for these purposes fully consider the elements that come together for creating or maintaining these gaps, many of which are not digital technology in and of itself or access to this technology, but the ability to use it, ignorance of its usefulness, the culture or the social and economic conditions involved.

E. **Promoting innovation and entrepreneurship:**

Innovation will be the distinguishing aspect of countries since it will give them added value and revenue to continue fostering research and invention.

Respect for intellectual property is the key to benefit from innovation proceeds; it will be the key to working with the academic, private and public sectors to establish the actions to be taken, among which there must be regional complementation of knowledge and training.

Governments should allocate larger portions of their budgets to research, development and innovation and prepare tax structures that encourage this type of activities by the private sector.

Moreover, opportunities brought about by innovation and entrepreneurship make it possible to balance the opportunities between those who have much and those who have less. Each step of innovation must be interpreted as a risk for those who are well established and as an opportunity for those who need to get ahead.

F. **Business environment:** Governments must design and enforce legal, tax, customs and personal mobility mechanisms that allow the private sector to compete under equal conditions and opportunities, thus facilitating investment and the establishment of businesses from the region and in the region.

Governments and the private sector must encourage the dissemination of information about alternate dispute settlement mechanisms that exist in the region, such as arbitration, mediation and conciliation, as well as those established in bilateral and multilateral agreements. Governments should pay particular attention to programs that promote the development and use of digital technologies to improve market information and decision-making. These technologies are elements that “fertilize” the business eco-systems of in the countries and regions, and promoting them is a key element for ensuring an appropriate environment for local and regional businesses. The conditions for competition in key sectors for this environment are fundamental. Special attention must be given to promoting competition in the telecommunications and financial sectors and to providing public services. Businesses must be promoted from the initial stages when sharing and marketing information, and not only in the traditional market phase of products or services.

- **What must the private sector commit to in order to reach these goals?**
- A. Promote the ethical conditions of Social Entrepreneurial Responsibility among the members.
 - B. Promote, communicate and encourage respect and protection for the environment.
 - C. Promote, educate and spread good energy management practices.
 - D. Put the common good before the interests of the union.
 - E. Invest in whatever is needed and assume leadership in actions required by the market for sustainable development of entrepreneurial and sectoral activities.
 - F. Be willing to sit down to work with the government and social sectors to jointly solve problems, in an environment of respect, transparency and equal treatment.

G. Take innovation as the greatest challenge for the private sector, making sure that the private sector provides the major part of innovation, which will be a clear sign of healthy competition.

➤ **What is the role of public-private alliances in reaching these goals?**

A. The interaction between the public and private sectors, aimed at constructing new development, innovation and crisis solution mechanisms must be implemented as a signal to society of a new working method. These alliances must be based on the search for the common good as the key element of the alliances, placing ethical dictates and healthy social and economic co-existence before economic and political interests. Transparency is a fundamental value in these “partnerships.” View innovation as the major challenge for the private sector, ensuring that the major part of innovation is provided by the private sector, which will be a clear sign of healthy competition.

➤ **What must the timeframe for reaching these goals be?**

Each country and subregion, according to their situations, must establish the objectives and timeframe for establishing coordination and decision-making mechanisms, within the framework of these initiatives. The Summits could be a mechanism for ACCOUNTABILITY AND BENCHMARKING progress.

THEME 2: Energy Security

➤ **What are the most important energy security challenges faced by the Americas?** The generation of renewable sources of energy in the region must be a priority. Incentives for the private sector to make this challenge a priority are key elements of a strategy to address this problem. Provide training, promote, develop and finance the use of renewable energies, such as solar, wind, geothermal and hydroelectric energy. Important emphasis must also be placed on educating the population on the efficient use and conservation of energy. Develop control systems that provide feedback for management decisions.

➤ **What must the goals of our governments and the private sector be with regard to:**

A. Energy efficiency and conservation:

Saving energy and using it rationally are based on education plans at all levels of society, as well as the clear and precise dissemination of the need to protect regional ecology.

The alternative sources of energy must be made known and demonstrated at all levels of society. In this regard, the technology sector has been working for years on developing low-consumption, non-contaminating equipment.

B. Energy diversification: in order to properly apply the different methods of energy (wind, solar, geothermal and hydroelectric), the public sector, together with the private and academic sectors, should develop plans to disseminate knowledge of, create an awareness and promote these methods as pilot projects in different locations.**C. Clean energy solutions:** Changing from an energy system based on hydrocarbons to a clean energy system requires extremely high levels of investment and changes in human and economic patterns. These must be clearly expressed in government strategies and their budgets and work programs. The international financial community also plays a fundamental role in this process, facilitating financial, technological and human resources for these purposes. Gradually reducing dependence on hydrocarbon energy until it is eliminated is a long process based on the political will to make the change by using all possible means, including fiscal or financial incentives that ensure the reformulation of energy production.

Governments and private enterprise must commit, together with the universities of the countries, to achieve technical academic growth in these technologies.

D. Energy cooperation and integration: This strategy is highly positive. However, it requires heavy investment in electric interconnection infrastructure (transmission lines, compensation equipment and substations), which makes it difficult to achieve this goal. Although this is a positive

strategy, investment in other generation mechanisms can be more applicable, given the world financial situation.

- E. **Secure access to energy supply for all:** This is the key to the development of the countries and their provinces or departments, allowing all communities to have access to available energy, which also is a priority for the private sector. Businesses are responsible for efficiently using energy and, in this way, take maximum advantage of it.
- **What must the private sector commit to in order to reach these goals?**
- A. Promote at all levels of the education system the knowledge of the different ways groups or individuals can participate in dealing with the problem.
 - B. Invest in learning and experimenting ways to use energy more efficiently in its activities and, based on the positive results, implement the necessary changes in its production processes for the sustainable introduction of these new forms of energy.
 - C. Create awareness in society on the rational use of energy.
 - D. Disseminate information on the different systems for generating energy.
 - E. Promote and encourage the rational use of energy resources.
 - F. The academic and the private sectors must develop technical and university careers on different energy production methods.
- **What is the role of public-private alliances in reaching these goals?**
- This alliance is fundamental since it will be the basis for changing the use of these resources and the methodologies of production, as well as controlling production of non-renewable energy methods.
- **What must the timeframe be for reaching this goal?**
- Immediate actions are needed to design new methods and to cut production of non-traditional methods.
- THEME 3: Environmental Sustainability**
- **What are the most important environmental sustainability challenges faced by the Americas?**

Balancing social and economic development with environmental development is, in summary, the fundamental challenge of the region. It is essential for the region to align the development model with the environment. The challenges of climate change, environmental protection, allowing the exploitation and production of raw materials necessary for the region and for the world seem to be incompatible actions that need to be addressed and analyzed in a broader context.

The exploitation of raw materials and agricultural production using inappropriate methods harm the soils, forests and jungles, rivers and oceans. The growing demand for biofuels adds additional pressure that has a very negative impact on medium-term environmental sustainability.

Environmental protection is based on educating communities on how to eliminate waste in its different degradable, non-degradable and harmful forms (batteries, computer equipment, etc.) Thus, the private sector is especially relevant in taking preventive actions, and the public and academic sectors are important for training and educating society. Likewise, governments must establish appropriate regulatory platforms and develop the necessary institutionality to be able to address this problem in a well-balanced way that will bring about sustainable development without threatening human life and nature.

➤ **What must the goals of our governments and the private sector be with regard to:**

A. **Preparation for natural disasters:** Design and program emergency plans for catastrophes geared to prevention, action, evacuation and repair of the effects of these disasters. Plans must also be prepared to educate society on these events and practice them periodically. Special attention must be given to disaster management and prevention, given the increasing impact of man on the environment. It is important to repeat once again that the use of digital technology is an irreplaceable resource in these initiatives and its use should be encouraged.

B. **Climate change:** Society still does not give due attention to this problem that affects humanity. Governments, the entrepreneurial and academic sectors

should begin preparing models for action to prevent the effect of climate change, but above all, focus on its causes. It is essential to study the problem systematically and in its different dimensions. The entrepreneurial sector is not sufficiently involved in this topic. Also, there are no incentives to implement this initiative. The intensive use of information technology and communications must provide better follow-up elements, better elements for well-thought out and relevant decisions on the impact of each measure.

- C. **Environmental governability:** A legal system and institutional development of this topic is of vital importance since it is necessary to clearly define the rules to be followed, bearing in mind the environmental vision each country wishes to attain. The regional construction of these rules is a priority in order to suggest them to the different countries.
- D. **Water resources:** the protection of water resources related to deforestation, urbanization, contamination, reception of industrial, chemical and human wastes, conversion of garbage dumps, etc. must be included in regional training and social dissemination plans; the private and academic sectors must contribute actively in these plans.
- E. **Protection of biodiversity:** protecting, sustaining, safeguarding and maintaining biodiversity is essential to coordinate the enforcement of environmental protection, not only from a legal point of view but also from the point of view of surveillance and control.
- F. **Urban environmental management:** Cities tend to be one of the environmental management problems of the region. The lack of an awareness of cleanliness, the elimination of dirt in the streets, and the failure to use garbage dumps for residues generate problems in the ecosystems and together with traffic and industrial pollution are deteriorating the air and the environment. The failure to understand cleanliness and order in cities is basically due to a lack of social education on environmental protection, mostly in the lower classes. Therefore, it is essential for businesses and the public sector to disseminate the good practices of environmental protection.

➤ **What must the private sector do to reach these goals?**

Compliance with current legislation is essential in this process. Develop policies and apply them to defend the environment, either by training personnel, their clients, and society or by taking the proper precautions to not contaminate with daily wastes. Develop solutions, products and services that enable the public to meet these objectives.

➤ **What is the role of public-private alliances in reaching these goals?**

A priority is the creation of long-term alliances between the public and private sectors, with close collaboration of the academic sector in order to understand and adopt environment protection for society as a whole.

The private sector decidedly supports the global initiative entitled PEACE WITH NATURE, presented by the Nobel Peace Prize winner and President of Costa Rica, Dr. Oscar Arias Sánchez. This initiative suggests global action by humanity to coexist with nature with respect and care, understanding that we humans are called upon to serve as the custodians and protectors of the living beings that share our planet. We urge governments to join in this initiative, to disseminate it and use it as material for consultation and study that promotes discussion within the governments. Based on the contributions of this initiative, we suggest that the countries identify internal policies and initiatives that apply the principles set forth in this declaration to their specific situations. There is no doubt that this will allow different countries and sectors to coordinate their actions better.

➤ **What is the timeframe for reaching these goals?**

Actions must be immediate and short term, given the increasing damages to the environment.

LIST OF ALETI MEMBER COUNTRIES AND ENTITIES

Country	Entity
Argentina	ACTI CESSI

Bolivia	CBTI
Brazil	ASSESPRO
Chile	GECHS
Colombia	FEDESOFIT
Costa Rica	CAMTIC
Cuba	GT
Dominican Republic	ADOSOFIT
Ecuador	AESOFIT
Guatemala	SOFEX
Mexico	AMITI
Paraguay	APUDI
Peru	APESOFIT
Spain	AETIC
Uruguay	CUTI
Venezuela	CAVEDATOS