

## **Joint Communiqué of Latin America and the Caribbean:**

### **"The Road to Sustainable Development"**

Within the framework of the Second High-Level Meeting (HLM2) of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation, to be held in Nairobi, Kenya on 30 November and 1 December 2016, us, the Latin American Countries and Caribbean:

1. We acknowledge that the path to sustainable development entails a great sub-national, national, multi-sectorial and international level of commitment, as well as the coordination and articulation of efforts of all development actors;
2. We are committed to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the full achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
3. We reaffirm that the promotion of sustainable development in its economic, social and environmental dimensions requests the formation of an unprecedented global partnership, involving different development actors at national and international levels;
4. We believe that the agenda of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation should be aligned, converge and contribute to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development goals and targets;
5. We recall that although in this universal agenda all actors have diverse responsibilities for sustainable development, our actions should be guided by common principles and goals in accordance with the capacities and mandates of each development actor;
6. Emphasize that SDGs are integral, indivisible goals and that their universal implementation must take into account the different realities, capacities and levels of development of each country, in particular of those of the developing countries, in order to respond to the policies and national priorities;
7. We recognize the special needs and particular challenges of Landlocked Developing Countries, Small Island Developing States, Low Income Countries, and Middle Income

Countries (i.e. Low-Middle Income Countries and High Middle-Income Countries), In order to respond to the universal nature of the 2030 Agenda;

8. We note that the allocation of resources for international cooperation is currently guided mainly by the logic of per capita income levels as a criterion for development, a variable that, as it has been mentioned in different occasions, does not reflect the development challenges of the Middle Income Countries, category to which most of the countries of the Latin America and Caribbean region belong;
9. We emphasize the need to promote a participatory, horizontal and fair international cooperation system that integrates all development actors without exclusion, that is not based solely on the per capita income approach and that includes differentiated schemes and options of non-reimbursable and concessional international cooperation for all developing countries, taking into account the different needs and vulnerabilities of our countries;
10. We recall that the countries of the region, while making significant progress, still face major challenges in their development path and have specific needs for international cooperation. Despite significant efforts, serious situations of inequality and poverty still persist that affect the most vulnerable groups, which hinder sustainable growth and social inclusion. Our region needs to overcome a number of structural development gaps that persist and affect sustainable development, including, inter alia, per capita income, inequality, poverty, investment and savings, productivity and innovation, research, infrastructure, education and capacity building, health, taxation, gender and environment. In that sense, the region has a historic opportunity to reduce the economic, social and environmental imbalances that impact its inhabitants through a progressive structural change, with a great environmental impulse, that promotes development based on equality and sustainability;
11. We recognize that Latin America and the Caribbean is a young region, where 1 in 4 people is between 15 and 29 years old; however, 1 in 4 young people live in poverty, while 1 in 5 do not study or work. We also recognize the need to renew and revitalize our efforts to incorporate young people into development. Moreover, in order to maximize the demographic bonus that young people represent, it is necessary to

strengthen education systems, promote entrepreneurship and formal and quality work, and foster the widening of skills and competences;

12. We emphasize that, because of their geographical location, the Caribbean Small Island Developing States are particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change. This region is one of the most exposed to natural disasters. These events produce substantial damages in the productive sectors and lags in the growth and well-being of the populations in situation of greater vulnerability;
13. At the same time, we highlight the important role played by the countries of the Latin American and Caribbean region in strengthening their capacities for promoting development through South-South Cooperation. This horizontal cooperation, based on the identification of the needs and capacities of developing countries, promotes learning and mutual benefits, and constitutes a contribution of the region to public policies in productive sectors of the economy, such as agriculture or industry, in the social field, such as health and education, institutional strengthening, environment, culture, gender equality and protection of human rights, among others. We recognize that the strengths and experiences of our countries through this type of cooperation contribute to the strengthening of capacities in both ways, serving as inputs for the design of coherent global policies for development, necessary to achieve the SDGs;
14. We reaffirm that South-South cooperation has an important role to play in the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, but we reiterate that this modality does not replace North-South cooperation nor the commitment of developed countries to grant 0.7% of the GDP as Official Development Assistance (ODA);
15. We are convinced that Triangular Cooperation is called to play a leading role in the implementation of the new development agenda because it promotes new forms of partnership better adapted to the contexts, invigorate learning and responsibility between the parties, therefore, it represents an innovative mechanism for developed countries to fulfill their responsibilities and commitments. This modality represents an opportunity for dialogue and productive interaction between the different development actors, taking advantage of their strengths and comparative advantages. In this regard, we call on partner countries, international organizations and the private sector to work

together to identify complementarities between Traditional Cooperation and South-South Cooperation in Triangular Cooperation schemes, based on equity and horizontality;

16. We make a special call to increase international support for the initiatives of South-South and Triangular Cooperation, in order to increase their scale and scope, and to become an effective means of implementation and a real promotional and impulse development factor, understanding that they are a complement and not a substitute for North-South Cooperation;
17. We particularly emphasize the need to establish a new way of understanding and facing development, as well as a new model of relationship with the Middle Income Countries. The tasks focused to achieve SDGs, including poverty eradication, will be ineffective if the international community efforts are concentrated only in Low Income Countries, and the needs and challenges that Middle-Income Countries and other developing countries that are above and beyond this arbitrary threshold faced are not taken into account. According to World Bank information, more than 70 per cent of the world's poor are currently living in the Middle Income Countries, so development cooperation should not exclude countries in that category and those which still have important challenges to improve their sustainable development;
18. We emphasize that for Latin American and Caribbean countries, ODA continues to play a strategic and catalytic role in reducing inequality and other identified structural gaps, in order to generate and strengthen its capacities for sustainable development, to consolidate progress achieved in the last decade and to avoid setbacks in the context of the real economic slowdown in the region. We reiterate the need for developed countries to accomplish their development cooperation commitments, as well as the use of national channels, taking into account these gaps and the development needs of each country and region;
19. We express our concern about the reduction of ODA in our region of Latin America and the Caribbean, and we stress the need to reconsider the graduation criteria to determine the granting of cooperation funds, adopt new parameters that reflect the multidimensional challenges and commitments in the 2030 for Sustainable

Development. The international cooperation system must seek a comprehensive and wide response to the development problem. This, in addition to include Low Income Countries, must consider the very diverse needs and vulnerabilities in Middle Income Countries;

20. We reaffirm that "Leave No One Behind" should be one of the principles that also structure - transversally - the agenda of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation. The objective of promoting a more effective cooperation for all will be achieved only by integrating all public and private development actors, promoting a truly global alliance for sustainable development, with inclusion as a central component of development strategies for the overcoming of inequalities, in line with the multidimensional poverty approach and with a more comprehensive development measurement based on indicators that transcend per capita income, such as social, environmental and demographic accounts. With the adoption of this principle, we, the countries of the Latin America and the Caribbean region, aim to reach all people in vulnerable situations, wherever they are located, in a focused way based on their needs and specific challenges.