



THE 7TH FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING
San José 21 August, 2015

Outcome Document FMM VII
Declaration of San Jose

FORUM FOR EAST ASIA- LATIN AMERICA COOPERATION

DECLARATION OF SAN JOSE
SEVENTH FEALAC FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING
(FMM VII)

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Introduction

We, the Foreign Ministers and Heads of Delegations of the member countries of the Forum for East Asia-Latin America Cooperation (FEALAC), attending the Seventh Ministerial Meeting of FEALAC, held in San Jose, Costa Rica on 20th and 21st of August, 2015, which was co-chaired by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Worship of the Republic of Costa Rica, His Excellency Manuel A. González Sanz, as Regional Coordinator for Latin America, as well as His Excellency, Norachit Sinhaseni, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand, Regional Coordinator for East Asia, after having substantive and fruitful discussion, adopt this "Declaration of San Jose".

We acknowledge the Uluwatu Declaration, adopted at FEALAC Foreign Ministers' Meeting VI in Bali, Indonesia, in June 2013, which contains our joint commitments to pursue closer cooperation and bridge the divide between FEALAC countries as well as to face the myriad challenges and opportunities facing the global multilateral framework and to promote connectivity of FEALAC in many areas. The non-paper document on the follow-up to the Uluwatu Declaration prepared by Indonesia is also recommended as a tool to monitor progress on unfinished programs and plans.

FEALAC on promoting Socio-Political Cooperation and Sustainable Development

1- We reaffirm our commitment to end poverty and hunger as the greatest global challenge and consider this to be an indispensable requirement for sustainable development. In this regard, we recognize multiple efforts of countries in both regions-

2- We commit to work in a collaborative partnership towards the adoption and implementation of the new Agenda 2030, including the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and its 169 targets, which seek, to build upon the MDGs and address unfinished business. We recognize the goals and targets are integrated, indivisible and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development: the economic, social and environmental. We also recognize there are different approaches, visions, models and tools available to each country, in accordance with national circumstances and priorities, to achieve sustainable development.

3- We commit to strengthen sustainable and effective development, including through South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation, which accompany the efforts of every state and region in the fight for the eradication of poverty, especially the most disadvantaged and marginalized sectors of society.

4- We recognize the efforts of the forum in the dissemination of good practices and successful public policies that promote the use of innovation in different sectors, including in agriculture as examples of sustainability and social responsibility as a transversal axis of development.

5- We note that the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC) is an effective forum for lesson-learning and dissemination of good practices necessary to achieve these goals. In this regard, we commit to encourage concrete measures to strengthen and promote projects of South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation between our regions, taking into account the specific needs of developing countries based on international law and internationally agreed principles on the matter.

6- While stressing the central role of public policies and finance for sustainable development, we also note the importance of building strong economic partnerships in promoting growth and prosperity, including the role of public-private partnerships if states consider it appropriate in contributing to the capacities of states to give prompt solutions for the socio economic development of its inhabitants.

7- We favor the advances in the solutions to tropical and emerging diseases, with special attention to neglected tropical diseases and their implications for quality of life and socio-economic development of countries. Therefore, and given that such diseases manifest cyclically, we note the conclusion of the Network of Institutions engaged in Research, Prevention and Control of the Tropical and Emerging Disease Initiative promoted by the Peru and supported by Thailand, who will work together in the implementation of the network.

8- We recognize the importance of international cooperation in combating transnational organized crime, in accordance with the relevant international instruments and principles of international law.

9- We note the progress of the Network of Scientific Convergence - Technological, which was presented by Colombia at the IX Meeting of the Working Group on Science and Technology, became operational in 2014, and now has 57 research groups and 154 researcher connected to the network. Also, we celebrated the First Seminar held in Bogota, with the participation of Argentina, Brazil Costa Rica, Myanmar, Peru and Indonesia.

10- We believe that public opinion makers have a fundamental role in the articulation of synergies that unite the peoples of both regions. The progress of Singapore's "FEALAC Journalist Visit Program" is of great value in this regard as it celebrates its 16th edition in Singapore in October 2015.

11- We acknowledge the importance of dialogue on legal affairs in serving to strengthen the exchange and interaction of the legal community of the two regions, enhance mutual understanding and promote cooperation between our regions. We therefore take note that the "2nd FEALAC Legal Forum" will be held in Shanghai on September 25th, 2015.

12- We recognize the importance of enhancing community empowerment in sustainable development. In this regard, we welcome Thailand's initiative to develop FEALAC Health and Healthcare and Community Empowerment Networks. The networks will provide opportunities to share the experiences in universal health coverage and how the sufficiency economy can support grassroots economic development and bring about the wealth of nations.

13- We note the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, adopted at the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Ethiopia, from the 13th to 16th of July 2015 as part of a continuing effort towards a better worldwide alliance in which the international commitments become stronger towards the financing of development. We underscore the importance of paragraphs 71, 72 and 87 of the final document, where the multidimensional nature of development and the need to strengthen efforts to address ongoing challenges are recognized, according to the heterogeneity and different needs of Middle Income Countries, for Small Island Developing States, Least Developed Countries and Land Locked Developing Countries taking into account the specific needs of these groups of countries. We also recall the need to devise methodologies to better account for the complex and diverse realities of middle-income countries.

14- We also underscore the importance of paragraphs 97 and 98 of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda referred to Debt and Debt Sustainability.

15- We welcome the strong commitment to gender equality in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. Women's economic empowerment is critical to strengthened global growth.

16- We also share, in the spirit of paragraph 75 of the final document of Addis Ababa, that development banks effectively can and should perform an important role in widening access to finance for development, especially on quality infrastructure investment and to further develop instruments to channel the resources of long-term investors towards sustainable development. While recognizing the critical role of trade on development, we welcome paragraph 90 of the final document, which highlights Aid for Trade and trade-related technical assistance in enabling developing countries to fully participate in and benefit from trade.

17- We encourage the present and the developing international financial institutions to place importance on policies to address resources, social systems, environmental preservation and gender equality.

18- We welcome the centrality of gender equality to the Post 2015 Development Agenda which builds on the Millennium Development Goals. Realizing gender equality and the empowerment of women will make a crucial contribution towards the achievement of the sustainable development goals.

19- We support the initiative of the II International Conference on Nutrition in the framework of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) and reaffirm its recommendation to the United Nations General Assembly to declare a Decade of Action for Nutrition 2016-

2025, in order to avoid the many problems of malnutrition at the same time that greater inclusion, sustainable development and health are favored.

FEALAC and the Promotion of Sustainable Tourism

20- Sustainability, as a model for development, raises the need to satisfy the current requirements of society without compromising the right of future generations to satisfy theirs. Tourism is a resource intensive activity and the incorporation of sustainability criteria for this matter represents an area of opportunity for both regions and their communities. Consequently, we envision sustainable tourism as a balanced interaction in the proper use of our natural and cultural resources respecting the sovereignty and inherent right of each people. This type of tourism contributes to improving the quality of life of local communities and to their development.

21- In this regard, we welcome diverse initiatives of countries in both regions, including the Seminar on “Sustainable Tourism and Tourism Ethics: Tourism as an Instrument for Inclusive Growth and Economic Equity”, held in Bali, Indonesia, in June 2013, which recommended the importance of the code of ethics to cover economic, social, cultural and environmental components by maximising the sector’s benefits while minimising its negative impact on environment, cultural heritage, and societies, and the promotion of the technical and cultural exchange of heritage restauration for the construction of the “Visitor Center and Interpretation of the Fortification of San Lorenzo El Real de Chagres”.

22- We also identify sustainable tourism as a contributor to the protection of the natural environment, the increase of high quality jobs and the improvement of people’s quality of life and as a mechanism for communities to manage their own development. We support initiatives which promote sustainable tourism as a social and community activity and at the same time, serve as an integrative bridge between the two regions, in harmony with nature, to strengthen appreciation and respect by their peoples of the cultural and natural heritage.

23- In this regard, we note the contribution of the Republic of Costa Rica on the "I Seminar on Sustainable Tourism FEALAC" that was held within the framework of the 2nd Meeting of Trade, Investment, Tourism, and Small and Medium Enterprise Work Group (MSMEs) on 19 August 2015, and we note the proposal by Mexico to organize an international event on Sustainable Tourism in 2016.

Promoting Trade, Investment, Innovation and Small and Medium Businesses

24- We recognize that the expansion of interregional trade, favors closer ties between the two regions, promoting their prosperity. Therefore, we reiterate the spirit of paragraph 25 of the Uluwatu Declaration, adopted in Bali, Indonesia, on June 14, 2013, in which we express our support to members that promote development mechanisms aimed at facilitating trade and the flow of investments between the states of the FEALAC.

25- In this regard, we welcome the initiatives of countries of both regions to promote mechanisms to facilitate trade and investment. We take note of the proposal of Argentina regarding an electronic Phytosanitary Certification System (ePhyto).

26- We consider particularly important that the TTMSME's WG studies the initiatives aiming at enhancing the benefits of trade for both regions, aware that interregional trade between Latin America and East Asia has great potential to be developed. Therefore, we appreciate the results achieved during the II FEALAC Business Forum held in Bangkok, Thailand, in 2014, which reflected the importance of exchange of information relating to the way of doing business between the two regions. We endorse the institutionalization of FEALAC Business Forum proposed at the 15th FEALAC SOM meeting in Bangkok, Thailand.

27- On that basis, we note the proposal by the Republic of Korea to host a seminar on inter-regional trade to exchange opinions on the state of affairs around interregional trade initiatives including the assessment of the potential impact of ongoing interregional trade initiatives on trade and investment among FEALAC countries and to discuss ways to invigorate trade and investment between the two regions including the discussion of the initiative of establishing of an Ad-hoc Expert Group on inter-regional Trade which was introduced during the 5th Cyber Secretariat Workshop in March 2015.

28- We celebrate that the FEALAC Investment Opportunities Database is now operating fully and we encourage member States to take advantage of this useful instrument that allows countries to post offers of investment projects seeking interregional investors, thus promoting development.

29- We are committed to sharing good practices to increase the institutional capacities of the member states, as well as the design and implementation of innovative support mechanisms that generate these skills. In this context, we support the initiative of Mexico to call on the FEALAC community to draw up innovative strategies to support micro and small traditional firms. On that basis, we support the efforts of the Republic of Colombia in the proposed "Financing Innovation and Entrepreneurship" which will be held in November 2015, and of Mexico which will host a Global Conference on Innovative Strategies to support micro and medium traditional enterprises in July 2016.

30- We also welcome the proposal by Mexico to organize with the Interamerican Development Bank- IDB, a seminar on Strengthening Production Chains in Latin America, the Caribbean and Asia.

31- We celebrate the launching in the context of the process of the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, of a technology facilitation mechanism as established in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, in order to support sustainable development goals. The mechanism will be based on a multi-stake holder collaboration between Member States, civil society, private sector, scientific community, United Nations bodies and other stakeholders.

FEALAC Cooperation in Culture, Youth, Gender and Sports

32- We recognize that the promotion of cultural education, sports and scientific knowledge of the population of our countries are elements that enhance social development in healthy environments and peoples' quality of life.

33- In this regard, we also recognize the importance of moderation as an approach that could contribute to sustainable and inclusive development, equitable growth and social harmony. Hence, we take note of Malaysia's initiative of a Global Movement of Moderates (GMM) to amplify the voices of moderation.

34- We reaffirm our commitment to strengthen efforts for the protection of cultural heritage and cultural diversity everywhere, including in areas of conflict. We emphasize the UNESCO initiatives in the sense that the deliberate destruction of cultural heritage is used as a tactic of war in a strategy of cultural cleansing, which demands us to review the means of protection of the culture of mankind.

35- We support the initiative by Vietnam and co-sponsored by Costa Rica called "FEALAC Network of Cultural Cities", which aims to strengthen international cooperation at a local level in the fields of culture, tourism and sports development. Vietnam will host the first Meeting of Provincial Leaders/Mayors on the occasion of Hue's Festival, to be held on April 2016 in Thua thien - Hue province, Vietnam.

36- We wish to state that FEALAC member countries have an invaluable natural, tangible and intangible cultural heritage. According to the 2015 World Heritage UNESCO list, the heritage sites of East Asia and Latin America together account for 36 percent of the world's registered heritage. In this regard, we welcome the initiative of the Government of Indonesia to host the II World Culture Forum, "*The Power of Culture and Sustainable Development*" which will be held in Bali, Indonesia, in September 2016.

37- We recognize the importance of creative and cultural industries for the comprehensive and sustainable development of societies, and the contribution they provide to job creation and economic growth of our countries, as well as to the welfare of our people. Therefore, we underline the importance of activities to research, measure, document and acknowledge the contributions of the creative and cultural industries to our economies; of the analysis and discussion of measures for the promotion and enhancement of enterprises and industries in these fields; and of exploring ways to develop more effective public policies of promotion of cultural activities in general.

38- We emphasize the need for the new generations to have better and greater opportunities to access education, to build entrepreneurial spirit, to unite, connect and collaborate among FEALAC youth. We therefore appreciate the Indonesian invitation to the youth from FEALAC countries to participate in the Indonesia FEALAC Youth Conference (IFYC) 2015, which will be held on September 18-22, 2015, hosted by the Ministry of Youth and Sports of Indonesia in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia.

39- We recognize that Thailand will undertake the project to create a FEALAC Friendship Schools Network in order to increase the cooperation among the schools of the FEALAC member countries.

40- We recognize the participation of women in development, and that their contribution to the economy has been historically underestimated and is fundamental to economic growth. Therefore, we support the initiative presented by Thailand and co-sponsored by Argentina called "FEALAC Women Entrepreneurs," which aims to establish an information network between women entrepreneurs in the FEALAC countries to promote women's economic empowerment.

FEALAC Promotes Science, Technology, Innovation and Education

41- We welcome the initiative of Japan to host the first inter-regional school-wide robotic competitions and establish the first FEALAC Award in the IEEE Robotic competition, as a means to promote education in science and technology, as well as its initiative to enhance people-to-people exchange across the two regions.

42- We welcome the project on the FEALAC University Network to be coordinated by Brazil and Thailand.

43- We support the efforts of Colombia and Thailand to implement the project on FEALAC Science Convergence and Science and Technology and Innovation Dialogue.

44- We welcome the initiative by Brunei Darussalam in the establishment of student's mobility consortium "FEALAC University Discovery Year (FUDY)" which aims to allow students from both regions to experience and appreciate the diverse cultures and unique way of life, and encourage member states to consolidate their own study abroad programs, including the expansion of academic mobility and joined collaborative researches.

FEALAC and Climate Change

45- We reaffirm the importance of continuing and strengthening regional and international projects and programs, which promote cooperation, inter alia, in disaster risk reduction, adaptation and mitigation to climate change, technology transfer, capacity building and others, which will allow FEALAC members to reduce their vulnerability and adapt to adverse effect of climate change. We commit to work towards the success of the United Nations Conference on Climate Change (COP 21) to be held in Paris in 2015.

46- We take note of the information provided by Bolivia about an upcoming conference entitled "World Peoples' Conference on Climate Change and Defense of Life", to be held in Cochabamba, Bolivia, on October 10th – 13th.

FEALAC 2015: Two regions, One Vision

47- We agree to work towards the fundamental original objective of FEALAC, "to expand common ground on important international political and economic issues with a view to working together in different international fora in order to safeguard common interests".

48- In this regard, we reaffirm the importance of establishing strategic synergies among FEALAC member states, international organizations and financial institutions of both regions to achieve a greater projection of this forum at the international level. We welcome initiatives to promote cooperation mechanisms to facilitate regular dialogue between FEALAC and financial institutions in order to involve them in the formulation, implementation and financing of projects. This will give us the opportunity to give FEALAC initiatives a truly bi-regional sense, to improve technical cooperation and to take advantage of good practices in efforts geared towards closer bi-regional ties.

49- To achieve “Two Regions, One Vision”, we realize the importance of connectivity between the two regions in enhancing and strengthening cooperation in all sectors, and in the efforts to narrow the distance and gaps. In this regard we take note of the initiative of the Government of Panama for the establishment of the Regional Logistics Center for Humanitarian Assistance, aimed to guarantee deployment of emergency relief items and greater coordination by bioregional humanitarian response activities.

50- We welcome the participation in this Ministerial meeting involving World Bank, Latin American Bank for Development, Korea Eximbank, International Finance Corporation, Central American Bank for Economic Integration, Latin American and Caribbean Economic System, Economic Commission for Latin American and the Caribbean, as well as the representative from the Joint Standing Committee on Commerce, Industry and Banking of Thailand.

51- In this regard, we appreciate the fruitful discussions that encourage and enrich this dialogue and the contributions provided by the International Financial Institutions and Organizations in attention to the initiatives within FEALAC.

52- We reaffirm our commitment to begin in San Jose, Costa Rica the preparation of the NEW FEALAC ACTION PLAN for the celebration of the 20th anniversary of FEALAC. This Action Plan will be presented in Korea in 2017.

53- We recognize the invaluable contribution that the Cyber Secretariat, hosted by the Republic of Korea, has made to FEALAC and endorse the systematization of the countries’ initiatives through the "FEALAC Project Review Survey" and Guidelines on the use of FEALAC logo.

54- We recall the contributions of the Vision Group, whose recommendations were shared at the VI FEALAC Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs in Bali, Indonesia, and we commit to continue promoting more and better actions in various areas of cooperation, such as: business networking, network of universities, contests and competitions among students on issues of science and technology, and network of Think Tanks to increase dialogue and understanding between the two regions.

55- In this regard, we adopt the “Guidelines for FEALAC Working Processes”, which includes the establishment of a Coordination Meeting that invites the two current Regional Coordinators and, if possible, the two incoming Regional Coordinators, in order to ensure a coordinated Co-Presidency handover.

56- We aim to provide a space for reflection on the coordination that the forum has had to date, to stimulate proactive ways to draw new scenarios for finding common opportunities; to further enhance the comprehensive dialogue and thereby to strengthen existing and new forms of cooperation between Latin America and East Asia. In this context, we stressed our commitment to strengthening the dialogue and cooperation with several regional and sub-regional organizations and mechanisms.

Closing:

57- The next FEALAC Foreign Ministers' Meeting VIII will be held in the Republic of Korea in 2017, and the Senior Official Meeting in Guatemala in 2016, on a date to be decided by consensus.

58- We express our appreciation to the outgoing Coordinators of FEALAC, the Republic of Costa Rica and the Kingdom of Thailand, and welcome the next Coordinators, the Republic of Guatemala for Latin America and the Republic of Korea for East Asia.