



BUILDING BRIDGES AND STRENGTHENING OUR PARTNERSHIP TO FACE GLOBAL CHALLENGES

DECLARATION

1. We, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) and the European Union (EU), and the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy met in Brussels, Belgium the 16th and 17th July 2018, at the second stand-alone Ministerial meeting under the theme "Building bridges and strengthening our partnership to face global challenges". Reaffirming our common acquis as developed through previous Summits and Ministerial declarations and taking into account the recommendations emanating from the assessment of the programmes and actions adopted by the Summits, we wish to underline the following joint views and commitments.

2. We salute our long standing bi-regional strategic partnership based on shared values and a shared conviction that there is much to gain from cooperation in an interconnected and interdependent world. Together we are ready to jointly address current international developments and new global challenges, and to continue strengthening multilateralism. We will further deepen our political dialogue to that effect. We also reaffirm our commitment to continue working together for achieving more democratic, prosperous, cohesive and inclusive societies.

3. We reaffirm our commitment to all the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. We reaffirm our decision to support all efforts to uphold the sovereign equality of all States, to respect their sovereignty territorial integrity and political independence, to refrain in our international relations from the threat or use of force in any manner inconsistent with purposes and the principles of the United Nations, to uphold the resolution of disputes by peaceful means and in conformity with the principles of justice and international law. In this context, we emphasize our commitment to strengthen the multilateral system, centred on the United Nations, and to promote more effective and inclusive global governance and respect for international law.

4. We renew our commitment to the comprehensive reform of the United Nations system, including the Security Council, with a view to enhancing the efficiency, representativeness, transparency, accountability and effectiveness of the system through the deepening of inter-governmental efforts. We also consider it fundamental to revitalize the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council.

5. We reaffirm that the promotion of universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all as laid down in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, lie at the core of our strategic partnership. We reiterate our strongest commitment to opposing all forms of intolerance and discrimination of any kind. We also reiterate our commitment to fulfil our obligations stemming from international human rights treaties which we are Parties to, and our commitment to the realisation of the right to development. We remain committed to continuing to improve international cooperation and the promotion and protection of all human rights, through the United Nations and human rights bodies such as the Human Rights Council.

6. We reaffirm our commitment to continue working together for further promote democracy, through free and fair elections; as well as the respect for the rule of law and the protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms of all people.

7. In view of the contribution that CELAC and the EU can make for peace in the international arena, we agree to explore together ways to foster cooperation for peace and the peaceful settlement of disputes as well as the promotion of disarmament and non-proliferation. We note the commitment of CELAC to the declaration of Latin America and the Caribbean as a zone of peace and we recall the importance of the Tlatelolco Treaty and its Additional Protocols.

8. We will continue to pursue efforts to implement effectively UN resolutions on women, peace and security and step up efforts to empower women and girls by, *inter alia*, ensuring their inclusion and meaningful participation in peacebuilding processes, including UN peace keeping operations, as well as their political participation, and recognizing their key role in accelerating sustainable development.

9. We reaffirm our commitment to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence and discrimination against women and girls. We also agree to strengthen our cooperation and to take concrete action to fully implement existing commitments and obligations with respect to the achievement of gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment in all spheres of society, including in political participation, the world of work and through equitable and inclusive and quality education and lifelong learning .

10. We also commit to promote the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights, and fundamental freedoms by women and girls, taking into account the situation and the specific needs of rural women, young and older women, migrant women, indigenous women and women with disabilities, among others, including of those who are in vulnerable situations and face multiple and intersecting forms of discriminations.

11. We reiterate our rejection to the application of those coercive measures of unilateral character with extra-territorial effect that are contrary to international law and we reiterate the need to put an end to the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed against Cuba. With reference to UNGA resolution A/RES/72/4, we reaffirm our well-known positions rejecting these coercive measures of unilateral character and on the application of the extra-territorial provisions of the Helms-Burton Act. These measures have provoked undue humanitarian consequences on the Cuban people and are damaging to the legitimate development of economic ties between Cuba, the European Union and other countries.

12. We will continue to cooperate on citizen security and to address transnational organized crime in all its forms and manifestations, such as illicit trafficking in firearms, drug trafficking, money laundering, smuggling of goods, including illegal trade in mining products as well as cyber security challenges, among others. We also commit to cooperate in the prevention and the fight against corruption.

13. We reaffirm our commitment to implement effectively the outcome document of the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on the World Drug Problem held in 2016 and to actively participate in the preparation for the 2019 High Level Ministerial Meeting.

14. We reaffirm the importance of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants (A/RES/71/1) of September 2016, and take note of the progress aiming at the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and the Global Compact on Refugees, at the United Nations. We reaffirm our commitment to respect human rights of all migrants with a special emphasis on people in vulnerable situations, children and women. We will continue to reject any manifestation of hatred, intolerance, racism, persecution, xenophobia, and discrimination of any kind. We reiterate our commitment to combating trafficking in persons and migrants smuggling and, to enhancing cooperation between countries of origin, transit and destination, including on safe and dignified return and readmission.

15. We are committed to enhancing mobility of citizens between our two regions, in order to facilitate the promotion of fruitful exchanges at the institutional level, and in areas such as tourism, culture, sports, education, research and business in recognition of the added value of interpersonal relations in fostering mutual understanding and promoting shared values.

We take note of the aspiration of certain CELAC countries to work towards further enhancing mobility with the EU.

16. We also strongly condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations as well as its financing, and we express our determination to effectively cooperate and support multilateral efforts in the framework of the UN, to prevent and counter it in compliance with the Charter of the United Nations and international law, including international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law. We underline the importance of measures against impunity and protection of rights of victims of terrorist acts.

17. We will continue working together to address climate change in particular through the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) being guided by its principles, including the principle of equity and Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities, in the light of different national circumstances as contained in the Paris Agreement. At the Twenty-Fourth Conference of the Parties (COP24), we are committed to reaching agreement on a robust and balanced outcome for the Paris Agreement Work Programme to ensure the full implementation and operationalization of the Paris Agreement. We shall remain committed to creating a political momentum including the Talanoa Dialogue and the different High-Level Meetings, and to engage in the pre-2020 stocktakes on implementation and ambition. In this context, we call on those States that have not yet done so to ratify the Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol on an urgent basis. We underline the need for financial resources from a wide variety of sources, technical cooperation and capacity building to assist developing countries with respect to both mitigation and adaptation actions and the goal of the Paris Agreement to make finance flows consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development.

18. We recall the commitment of developed countries to provide financial resources to assist developing country Parties with respect to both mitigation and adaptation in continuation of their existing obligation under the UNFCCC. Other Parties are encouraged to provide or continue to provide such support voluntarily. We also recall the commitment of developed country Parties in the context of meaningful mitigation actions and transparency on implementation to jointly mobilize US 100 billion annually by 2020 from a wide variety of sources to support climate action in developing countries, including through the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the Global

Environmental Facility (GEF). In this regard, we recall the need for balance in allocation of resources between adaptation and mitigation when taking into account the needs and priorities of developing countries, especially in the Latin America and the Caribbean.

19. We will continue improving energy efficiency and saving as well as accessibility and quality of energy supply; develop and deploy renewable energies; and to promote energy interconnection networks, ensuring the diversification and complementarity of the energy matrix.

20. We welcome the adoption by the UN General Assembly of a resolution titled "Towards a Global Pact for the Environment" and look forward to the presentation of a report by the Secretary General in the next General Assembly.

21. We recognize that the effects of climate change are global and have serious consequences on all countries particularly the most vulnerable ones, notably Small Island Developing States in the Caribbean, causing damage to nature, recognized by some countries and cultures as "Mother Earth" and to its ecosystems, including oceans, land, forests, soil and to biodiversity, as well as infrastructure. Additional efforts are therefore necessary to ensure the effective implementation of the relevant international conventions including the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, towards fulfilling the objectives of conservation and the sustainable use of biodiversity.

22. We recognise the vulnerability of the Latin American and Caribbean region to climate change and natural disasters. We commit to work together on disaster risk management policy and operations and to promote actions for averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage as a result of climate change, as well as supporting regional activities in the field of disaster risk reduction and management and humanitarian aid assistance in Latin American and in the Caribbean region. In this context, we welcome the substantial support package pledged by the EU at the CARICOM-UN High-level Pledging Conference on 21 November 2017 to support recovery and longer-term resilience in the Caribbean InsuResilience Global Partnership. We will also focus on the optimization of existing and upcoming bi-regional cooperation programs, including EUROCLIMA+ and note the possibility of identifying areas of common interest for cooperation on Earth Observation and Earth Science in multilateral fora, and in the framework of Copernicus.

23. We welcome the outcome of the United Nations Ocean Conference in June 2017 and we agree to cooperate more closely to implement the declaration "Our Ocean, Our Future – a call for action", acknowledging the need to enhance the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources, and to address the adverse impacts that impair the crucial ability of the ocean to act as climate regulator, source of marine biodiversity as a key provider of food and nutrition,

tourism and ecosystems services, as an engine for sustainable economic development and growth, as well as livelihood and decent work.

24. We are committed to the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals, and their means of implementation, including as set out in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA). We recognize that the AAAA is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda and its full inclusive and transparent implementation is critical for the realization of the sustainable development goals.

25. We further note that national averages based on criteria such as per capita income do not always fully reflect the actual particularities and development needs and challenges of developing countries. We recall that the AAAA calls upon the United Nations system in consultation with the international financial institutions, to develop transparent measurements of progress on sustainable development that go beyond per capita income, building on existing initiatives as appropriate. These should recognize poverty in all of its forms and dimensions, and the social, economic and environmental dimensions of domestic output and structural gaps at all levels.

26. We stress the importance of enhancing the international cooperation for development through north-south cooperation, south-south cooperation, triangular cooperation, and other forms of multi stakeholder partnerships with the capacity to contribute to sustainable development. We also highlight the need to strengthen bi-regional cooperation, using all available instruments in an integrated manner to deliver on the 2030 Agenda.

27. With a view to the coming negotiations for the agreement that will replace the Cotonou Partnership Agreement after its expiry, we welcome the commitment of the EU and the Caribbean countries for a strong partnership for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, based on shared values and interests, taking into consideration sustainable development needs and priorities as well as social, economic and environmental vulnerabilities, including climate change.

28. We recognize that the particular challenges faced by countries in vulnerable situations, such as Least Developed Countries, Land-Locked-Developing Countries, Small Island Developing States, deserve special attention and should be duly and effectively taken into account both within the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as in the furthering of our bi-regional strategic partnership, including countries of the Central American isthmus.

29. We recognise the importance of targeting Official Development Assistance (ODA) for developing countries including least developed countries. We note the commitment of the

European Union and its Members States to cooperate with developing countries in an increasingly diversified and tailored manner through a broader range of cooperation, as set out in the European Consensus on Development, to reflect the capacities, needs and the specific challenges faced by countries transitioning to higher levels of income in their contribution to the SDGs, in line with the guiding principle of 2030 Agenda of Leaving no one behind, while reaching the furthest behind first. The development challenges faced by middle income countries should also be taken into account. We recognise the importance of the predictability and effectiveness of ODA allocation to Latin American and Caribbean countries, as appropriate. We welcome the Regional Facility for Development in Transition for Latin America and the Caribbean launched by the EU to assess the impact of the transitions to higher levels of income in partner countries' capacity to fulfil the SDGs, within the framework of new innovative engagements with the Most Advanced Developing Countries, as established in the New European Consensus on Development.

30. We express our strong commitment to strengthening a multilateral rules-based, open, transparent, predictable, inclusive, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organization (WTO) in line with the principle of special and differential treatment for developing countries, where appropriate. We note with concern the growing tensions in the multilateral trading system and express our desire to work together to resolve them and strengthen the WTO. We stress the need to work together on all issues of interest to WTO Members, such as filling the vacancies in the Appellate Body, the implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement, and the remaining issues of the Doha Development Round as well as other issues aimed at strengthening the multilateral trading system. We highlight the need for open markets and to fight against protectionism and remove trade distortive measures in all sectors.

31. We underline the importance of domestic and foreign investment to attain sustainable development and the importance of predictable and non-discriminatory investment environments, to strengthen national capabilities to improve productivity and attract foreign direct investment in conformity with national and international law. We further recognize the need for value addition by developing countries and for further integration of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises into value chains.

32. We stress the importance of ratification and full implementation of existing Association and Trade Agreements between the EU and CELAC partners and the successful conclusion of ongoing negotiation processes between the EU and some CELAC countries and regions. We will continue to explore new ways of further strengthening and developing trade and investment relations between the EU and CELAC countries and regions.

33. While the first priority of our respective policies is the preservation of our sanitary and phytosanitary levels of protection, in order to ensure the health of our populations, we reaffirm our commitment to the respect of the rights and obligations under the SPS Agreement of the WTO and those of the SPS Chapters in agreements between the EU and LAC countries and regions, taking into account the objective of minimizing possible adverse impacts on trade. We also express our commitment to the full implementation of the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Agreement of the WTO and relevant TBT Chapters in agreements between the EU and LAC countries and regions. We reiterate the importance of transparency and scientific evidence in the development of the relevant technical regulations. We agree to promote the strengthening of cooperation in this regard.

34. We reiterate the need for open, constructive dialogue and closer collaboration in tax matters.

35. We recognize the common challenge of enhancing productivity as an important driver for growth and prosperity, environmental sustainability, sustainable development and innovation. Our countries would gain from cooperating more closely in this field, considering priority themes such as access to the digital economy and services, sustainable urban development and knowledge based economy, and will be implemented in line with the relevant chapters of the CELAC-EU Action Plan. We renew the mandate to EU-CELAC Senior Officials to pursue consultations at different levels with the business sector and other relevant stakeholders to identify objectives and modalities for a possible EU-CELAC partnership for productivity on the basis of a common agenda and of joint efforts between the public and private sectors, relevant regional organizations and international financial institutions in our regions.

36. We welcome the enhancement of the dialogue between the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean and the European Union on Sustainable Development, which will be an important asset to foster our common goals, interests and cooperation on the matter.

37. We welcome the increase in the European Investment Bank's external lending mandate ceiling for Latin America by over than € 400 million for the period 2014-2020. Likewise, we welcome the results achieved by the Latin America Investment Facility and the Caribbean Investment Facility in combining EU development grants with loans and other risk-sharing mechanisms from European and Regional Finance Institutions, providing innovative ways of financing for investments, and the private sector.

38. We reiterate our commitment to the implementation of the CELAC-EU Action Plan as a fundamental framework for our dialogue and cooperation. We welcome the results achieved so far, and task the Senior Officials with further enhancing them. We further mandate the Senior Officials to conduct a reflection and consultations with relevant partners on the role of culture and creative sectors in the bi-regional relation.

39. We commend the key role of the Joint Initiative on Research and Innovation (JIRI) and the progress made within the EU-CELAC Common Research Area around three strategic pillars to address global challenges. Likewise, we welcome the dialogue and initiatives underway to strengthen the cooperation on higher education. We also encourage the bi-regional academic networks to work together to the development of a future CELAC-EU Higher Education Area.

40. We take note of the progress made in the implementation of the transatlantic submarine optical fibre cable project aiming at improving access and cooperation between our two regions, in particular the access to large research facilities in both continents.

41. As a recognition of our strategic bi-regional partnership and building on the 2016 Assessment of Programmes and Actions, we welcome the results in areas of common interest made through the implementation of the CELAC-EU Action Plan, and enhanced cooperation at the CELAC-EU Structured Dialogue. We express our commitment to the reactivation of the EU-CELAC Structured and Comprehensive Dialogue on Migration, on an annual basis, with an agenda that reflects the interests of both regions and to the elaboration of the “CELAC-EU Roadmap on Migration” which will further develop concrete cooperation actions. At the same time, we recognize the results achieved after the X CELAC EU High Level Meeting on Migration, held in Santiago de Chile, in November 2016. We also highlight the adoption of the “Sofia Declaration” at the XX High Level Meeting CELAC-EU Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs, and look forward to further building on the solid foundation and positive cooperation between our regions on the basis of the principle of common and shared responsibility through political, operational and technical exchanges. We commend our dialogue on sustainable production of raw materials. We commend the seminars carried out so far under the CELAC-EU Action Plan on Gender Equality and reiterate our commitment to strengthen our bi-regional dialogue and cooperation on gender. We support the strengthening of the EU-CELAC Dialogue on Citizen Security and we take note of the results of the EU-CELAC citizen security seminars. We also take note with interest of the new continent-wide security programme EL PAcCTO.

42. We commend the work carried-out by the EU-LAC Foundation and its contribution to the visibility of our Partnership. We invite all countries in our regions to ratify the agreement establishing the EU-LAC Foundation as an international organization. We encourage all countries to promote financial support in accordance with the relevant provisions of the international Agreement setting up contributions on a voluntary basis, and legal and political backing for the EU-LAC Foundation to fulfil its mandate.

43. We acknowledge the important role that civil society and people to people contacts can play in our strategic relations. We highlight their input of the cooperation in the areas of education, research, youth, culture, preservation of cultural heritage and business amongst others. We commend the valuable contribution of the EURO-LAT Parliamentary Assembly, the Academic and Knowledge Week, and the meetings of the Civil Society as well as the Business fora.

44. We commend the co-presidencies for the organization of the Ministerial meeting, paving the way for the next CELAC-EU Summit.
