

DECLARATION OF TENA
13th MEETING OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE AMAZON COOPERATION TREATY ORGANIZATION

Thirty-nine years since the signing of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty (TCA), and eighteen years after the creation of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO), the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Member Countries of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization, on the occasion of its 13th Meeting held in the city of Tena, Republic of Ecuador, on December first, two thousand and seventeen:

REITERATE the strategic importance of the Amazon Basin as a territory of ecosystemic services and dimensions of world importance, that shelter the world largest biodiversity, representing 6% of the surface of the planet and occupies 40% of the territory of Latin America and the Caribbean. It contains approximately 25% of all world species and 20% of all drinkable water that goes to the oceans, considerable natural resources, both renewable and non-renewable, and a water system that provides natural means of transportation, as well as an important source of energy. Here, approximately 420 indigenous peoples and tribes live, 70 of them in voluntary isolation, constituting a territory of extraordinary beauty, natural and cultural wealth.

RENEW their commitment for the protection of the Amazon Basin by adapting and mitigating the adverse effects caused by climate change and other factors that threaten its natural balance.

REAFFIRM their commitment to the principles, purposes and objectives of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty; and the full sovereignty and rights of the Member Countries of the Treaty over their Amazonian territories.

EXPRESS their commitment to deepen, to broaden and to strengthen the regional cooperation process, aiming at promoting the harmonious and integral development of their respective Amazonian territories, and achieving an equitable distribution of benefits among their peoples;

STRESS the Amazonian regional integration as an example of South-South cooperation that will allow to build a model, in a coordinated and consensual way, based on solidarity and complementarity;

RECOGNIZE the significance of implementing policies and actions to prevent and to avoid natural resources depletion, seeking the integral and sustainable management of its components.

AGREE on the significance of continuing to promote the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda, the commitments of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, and other international agreements relevant to the sustainable development of the Amazon Region such as the Aichi Targets and the Minamata Convention.

REITERATE the essential role of the Amazon in the preservation of the global ecosystem balance and in the mitigation of the effects of Climate Change.

CONSIDERING the mandates of the Declaration of the Heads of State of Manaus of 2009, the Ministerial Declarations of Lima of 2010, Manaus of 2011 and El Coca of 2013; as well as the process of relaunching and institutional and financial strengthening

of the ACTO and its Permanent Secretariat and the implementation of the Amazonian Strategic Cooperation Agenda 2010-2018;

RESOLVE:

1. TO EXPAND AND TO DEEPEN regional dialogue with the aim of continuing to create common visions to meet the challenges facing the Amazon.
2. TO EXPRESS their strongest support to the role and mission of ACTO and its Permanent Secretariat in fulfilling the objectives of the Treaty, its Amendment Protocol, the Ministerial Declarations and Mandates, as well as in the process of review and updating of the Amazonian Strategic Cooperation Agenda (ASCA).
3. TO APPROVE the recommendations of the Extraordinary Meetings of the Amazon Cooperation Council held in Bogotá, Brasilia and Santa Cruz de la Sierra on February 14, August 21, 2014 and September 6, 2016; respectively, to implement the agreements related to the institutional and financial issues, the programs, projects and activities agreed among the Member Countries.
4. TO RATIFY their commitment with the consolidation process of the Organization's financial autonomy. In this context, congratulate the CCA Working Group for the proposed Long-Term Financing Strategy, adopted in this Meeting. Moreover, to renew the call to the Member Countries to continue the successful updating process of the annual contributions system, according to the decisions adopted.
5. TO UNDERSCORE the regional consensus to adopt the Operating Mechanism of the Amazonian Regional Observatory and the Network for Amazonian Research Centres, as a clear contribution to the strengthening of cooperation in the scientific, technological and innovation spheres, as well as in capacity building.
6. TO HIGHLIGHT the agreements reached in the context of the 6th. Meeting of High Level Authorities on Indigenous Affairs of the Member Countries held in La Paz, Bolivia in July 2016, and to call the Member Countries to progress in the implementation of the Work Plan to strengthen the indigenous peoples' rights over their knowledge and ancestral traditions.
7. TO HIGHLIGHT the importance of the project "Integrated and Sustainable Management of Transboundary Water Resources in the Amazon River Basin considering climate variability and climate change" taking into account that the results were: 1. Shared vision on the management of water resources in the Amazon basin; 2. The analysis of the Transboundary Diagnosis; 3. The final proposal of the Strategic Action Plan of the Project (SAP).
8. ACKNOWLEDGE that water resources are a shared universal heritage indispensable for the life of all humans and living creatures as well as to the balance and subsistence of Mother Earth, expression recognized by some countries and cultures. EMPHASIZE the execution of the 8th World Water Forum that will be held in Brasilia in March 2018 and highlight the importance of ACTO's participation to grant visibility to the initiatives and objectives of the organization.

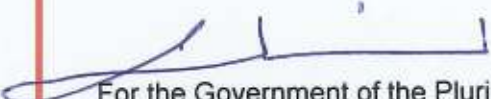
9. TO STRESS the significance of completing the project to support the Amazonian Social Inclusion Agenda, aimed at strengthening the tasks of the Ad-hoc Working Group in charge of proposing and examining initiatives in the social development area in the Amazonian region, with emphasis on social inclusion and the fight against poverty.
10. TO REAFFIRM the importance given to the Cooperation in the combat of Forest Fires in the border areas of ACTO Member Countries. Consequently, instruct the CCA to make the necessary efforts towards subscribing an instrument on the subject. Also, TO EXPRESS satisfaction for the validation of the Concept Note of the proposal for the "Regional Project for the Strengthening of the Capacities in the integrated Management of Forest Fires in the Amazon".
11. ACKNOWLEDGE AND HIGHLIGHT the different advances regarding climate change, indigenous peoples in voluntary isolation and initial contact, monitoring forests and deforestation, and biological diversity and express its satisfaction for the multiple outcomes accomplished.
12. TO RESUME the work initially carried out within the framework of the specialized group on illegal mining to face its impact in the Amazon Basin and to reiterate the need to coordinate efforts in the fight against illegal mining with other regional and bilateral mechanisms for which the Permanent Secretariat of ACTO is urged to develop a work proposal based on the agreements of the II Meeting of Ministers of Environment of ACTO held in Lima on March 21, 2012.
13. TO REITERATE the commitment to combat illegal timber logging and trade, as well as to promote cooperation among the countries in the fight against illegal trafficking of biodiversity in general. RECORD the implications of illegal logging for the communities, forests and the Amazonian biodiversity, by causing the loss and reduction of species of wild flora and fauna, as well as, TO CALL ON the impacts of this illegal activity in the Amazonian communities, which have in the forests their livelihoods.
14. TO ENCOURAGE dialogue between the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization and other regional integration and cooperation mechanisms. In this context, TO WELCOME the efforts of the PS/ACTO to coordinate with the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, the Union of South American Nations, the Andean Community and CARICOM to avoid duplication of efforts.
15. TO WELCOME the progress reached in the framework of collaboration on environmental and health issues with the Convention on Biological Diversity - CBD, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora - CITES, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations - FAO, and other agencies, and to expand, according to current regulations of the ACTO, such cooperation.
16. TO HIGHLIGHT the work of the Technical Support Unit of the PS/ACTO, which makes an essential contribution to the consolidation of the Organization's technical autonomy.
17. TO INSTRUCT the CCA so that, in coordination with the Permanent Secretariat, it supports the revision and updating process of the Amazonian Strategic Cooperation Agenda -ASCA, currently underway, taking into account the progress reached, the reports and the methodological proposal submitted by the PS/ACTO.

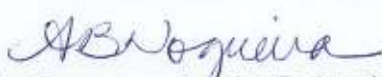
18. TO HIGHLIGHT the significance of gender mainstreaming in the review and updating process of the ASCA and in the Project Cycle of the ACTO. TO WELCOME the outcomes of the First Regional Meeting that took place in Lima, in October 2017, and TO CONTINUE the regional efforts to make visible the situation of women in the Amazon Region, based on the initiatives that guide the formulation of regional guidelines on gender, with transversal and intercultural approaches.
19. TO STRESS the signing in 2014 of the Framework Cooperation Agreement between the Development Bank of Latin America (CAF) and the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization, TO STRESS the PS/ACTO's efforts together with the Development Bank of Latin America - CAF, with a view to elaborate and approve a "Regional Project for the Strengthening of Capacities in the Integrated Management of Forest Fires in the Amazon".
20. TO RECOGNIZE the implementation of the Project "Monitoring of Forest Cover in the Amazon Region", within the South-South cooperation, whose term is expected for the first quarter of 2018. Through its implementation, it has been possible, first, the preparation of Regional Amazonian Deforestation maps, followed by Coverage and Land Use maps. These maps have been presented at international events as an example of the regional effort against deforestation.
21. TO WELCOME the renewal of the commitment of Ecuador and its President, Lenín Moreno Garcés, with the objectives of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization through the presentation of the "Sustainable Amazon by 2030" initiative, which seeks to contribute to achieving the goal of net deforestation zero, to the valuation of the Amazon Basin and to the promotion of the rights of indigenous peoples, especially those who remain in voluntary isolation.
22. TO EXPRESS gratitude for the initiative of regional connectivity between the Andes-Amazon-Atlantic ecosystems, presented by Colombia, which seeks to integrate the different environmental protection mechanisms to guarantee the conservation and sustainable development of the Amazon Basin.
23. TO INSTRUCT the Permanent Secretariat to circulate among the Member Countries the Ecuadorian and Colombian Initiative, and others presented, which must contain the funding forecast and the identification of projects for comments and contributions. These proposals may constitute, together with other national and regional initiatives, prior sharing and analysis with the competent institutions of the Member Countries, an important contribution to the process of updating the Strategic Agenda for Amazonian Cooperation of the Organization.
24. TO INSTRUCT the Permanent Secretariat to circulate the Ecuadorian initiative and the complementary document presented by Ecuador, which should contain funding provision and project identification among the Member Countries, for further comments and contributions, so it constitutes, together with other national and regional initiatives, an important contribution to the updating process of the Strategic Agenda of Amazon Cooperation of the Organization.
25. TO COMMEND the support received from various regional bodies including PAHO, FIOCRUZ, ORAS CONHU, ISAGS-UNASUR, as well as the work carried out by PS/ACTO for the implementation of strategic lines in health issues of the ASCA, the promotion and development of activities for the control of Vector Transmitted

Diseases and Neglected Tropical Diseases, as well as basic health indicators in the Amazon Region.

26. TO STRESS the beginning of the "Regional Project for the Management, Monitoring and Control of Wild Fauna and Flora Species Threatened by Trade" with the non-reimbursable financial collaboration of the German Development Bank (KfW).
27. TO EXPRESS GRATITUDE for the support from international cooperation in the implementation of the ASCA, particularly through its international agencies, such as the German GIZ and KfW, the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), the FAO. TO RECOGNIZE the contribution provided by the Amazon Regional Program (PRA) for the fulfillment of activities in the Permanent Secretariat. Likewise, to request the PS/ACTO to continue working together with the BMZ to develop future cooperation actions in the Amazon basin.
28. TO CONSIDER the full validity of paragraph 31 of the Declaration of El Coca of the XII Meeting of Foreign Affairs Ministers of ACTO on May 3, 2013 in Ecuador and TO ENCOURAGE and INSTRUCT technical and operational bodies of the Member countries to carry out a comprehensive and urgent review of the proposal presented in the 60th meeting of ICAAN in Abu Dhabi by Amazon Inc. to reach a common position on this subject.
29. TO EXPRESS deepest gratitude to the Government and People of the Republic of Ecuador for their warm welcome and hospitality during the 13th Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Member Countries of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization. To congratulate the Permanent Secretariat of ACTO for its work in carrying out the 13th Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs.


Tena, Ecuador, December 1, 2017


For the Government of the Plurinational
State of Bolivia

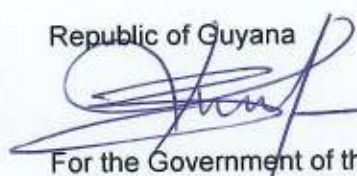

For the Government of the Federative
Republic of Brazil

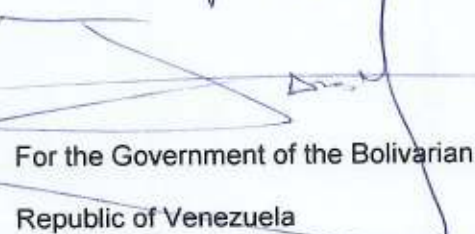

For the Government of the Republic
Colombia


For the of Government of the Republic of
Ecuador


For the Government of the Cooperative
Republic of Guyana


For the Government of the Republic of Peru


For the Government of the Republic
of Suriname


For the Government of the Bolivarian
Republic of Venezuela