

## **11TH MEETING OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE AMAZON COOPERATION TREATY ORGANIZATION**

### **MANAUS COMMITMENT**

The Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Federative Republic of Brazil, Republic of Colombia, Republic of Ecuador, Cooperative Republic of Guyana, Republic of Peru, Republic of Suriname and Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, together in Manaus, Federal Republic of Brazil, on 22 November 2011 on occasion of their 11th Meeting:

**BASED ON** the principles and objectives of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty signed in 1978 and its Amendment Protocol signed in 1998 that fostered expanded and deepened relations between the Amazon countries with positive consequences for the current South American unity and integration process;

**DETERMINED** to continue the process of relaunching ACTO initiated in November 2009 in the Meeting of the Heads of State of the Amazon Countries to face the new challenges imposed by the regional agenda;

**TAKING INTO ACCOUNT** that the Amazon Cooperation Strategic Agenda adopted by the X Meeting of Chancellors of ACTO held in Lima, in November 2010, strengthens the joint actions of the Member Countries of the Organization;

**AWARE** that the present movement of cooperation amongst the countries of the Amazon region and its peoples needs to take into account the economic, social and environmental aspects of sustainable development;

**CONVINCED** of the need to promote greater advances in the areas of science, technology and innovation to enable conservation and sustainable use of Amazonian biodiversity;

**CERTAIN** of the importance of adopting measures that drive the renewed role of ACTO as a cooperation, exchange, knowledge and joint projection forum of Member Countries to face the new international challenges; and

**DETERMINED** to reaffirm their commitment to the Amazon's sustainable development, generating better living standards for the local populations.

#### **COMMIT TO:**

1. Upscale and strengthen initiatives to relaunch ACTO, in accordance with the mandate issued by the Heads of State of the Amazon countries in the 2009 Manaus Declaration and in with the decisions adopted in the 10th Meeting of Chancellors of the Organization held in 2010 in Lima, Peru.
2. Strengthen political dialogue and institutional advances with the aim of expediting approval and execution of Amazonian cooperation projects.
3. Prioritize, in the context of cooperation initiatives between Member Countries, activities that strengthen the ties between ACTO, together with national and local authorities, and the populations that dwell in the Amazon region to facilitate the process of identifying local demands for regional cooperation projects.
4. Promote seminars within each Member Country to contribute towards deepening the political relaunch of ACTO. In this regard, they support the Brazilian Government's initiative of holding the seminar "Amazonian Cooperation Challenges and Opportunities" on 23-24 November 2011 with the aim of repositioning ACTO in the regional political agenda in this new stage of institutional consolidation.
5. Develop greater dialogue spaces with Amazonian peoples by holding a regional seminar to study and analyze the proposals presented in each of the national seminars. In this

context, they salute the Government of the Plurinational State of Bolivia for offering to host this event in September 2012.

6. Task the ACC with seeking new funding alternatives with a view to implementing the ACTO Strategic Agenda. In this regard, they highlight the Brazilian Government's initiative of providing access the Amazon Fund to finance forest cover monitoring projects in the Amazon region. Initiatives such as this one can be considered innovative and should be taken as an example to be followed by the Organization.
7. Promote academic mobility between students and professors of teaching institutions of the Amazon region, establishing a regional exchange program to strengthen educational cooperation between Member Countries. In this regard, they instruct the Permanent Secretariat to prepare, in 2012, an Academic Supply Guide for the Amazon Region.
8. Applaud the initiative of the Delegation of Ecuador for the creation of an Amazonian Regional University, as an intergovernmental academic and research center, affiliated to ACTO. Recognize the relevance of the research of generation of knowledge on natural wealth and the Amazonian biodiversity for sustainable development of the region. To this end, it was agreed that Special Committee should be established comprised of delegates from the higher education institutions of the Member Countries to examine the initiative and propose innovative means for its deployment.
9. Intensify cooperation activities in the areas of innovation, science and technology according to the agreements reached in the Regional Meeting held in Puyo, Ecuador, in June 2011; develop an integrated information system and standardized regional indicators to facilitate research on the Amazon by national and regional institutions; and promote the inclusion of ancestral knowledge and the community and local practices of indigenous peoples.

In this context, they instruct the Permanent Secretariat to implement the "Amazonian Observatory", a permanent forum that will gather institutions and authorities related the topic, with emphasis on the study of Amazonian biodiversity. With this purpose the PS/ACTO shall conduct an inventory of the Academic Institutions in the Amazon to explore, together with the CCOOR, a proposal for the implementation of an Amazonian university.

10. Instruct the Permanent Secretariat to take the necessary measures for the simultaneous launch of the three Amazonian tourism circuits: "Amazon-Pacific-Andes Route", "Amazon Caribbean Tourism Trail" and "Amazon Water Route" in the International Tourism Fair of Berlin and to participate in the Santa Cruz de la Sierra Tourism Fair in 2012, as approved in the 2nd Regional Tourism Meeting of the Amazon Countries held in September 2011 in Zamora.
11. Encourage the continued strengthening of the Permanent National Commissions, the national bodies responsible for implementing the Treaty in their respective territories, highlighting their role in liaising and implementing public policies in the Amazon region. In this context, they instruct the Permanent Secretariat to hold new meetings of sectoral authorities in the various topics of the ACTO Strategic Agenda.
12. Promote protection of traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples and other tribal communities of the Amazon within the framework of their respective national legislations and international law, ensuring preservation of this knowledge and consequently fair and equitable sharing of benefits derived from its use. In this sense, they highlight the 3rd Meeting of High Governmental Authorities of Indigenous Affairs of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization held in September 2011 in Caracas, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.
13. Receive the idea of exchanging experiences on topics regarding biodiversity genetic resources and the traditional knowledge associated with the objective of working jointly for its protection. To this end, an experts meeting of the Member Countries shall be held in the first quarter of 2012
14. Support the climate change mitigation initiatives being developed voluntarily in the region. They particularly value the Yasuni-ITT Initiative of the Republic of Ecuador and call on the international community to support the Ecuadorian proposal that seeks to protect biodiversity and indigenous peoples in voluntary isolation, and promote a sustainable development model.

15. Begin dialogue between experts of the Member Countries in the areas of social inclusion, combating poverty and eradicating extreme poverty. In this context, they instruct the ACC to create an Ad Hoc Working Group to propose and examine initiatives for social development in the Amazon region.
16. Contribute to the success of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) by deepening successful experiences in the context of Amazonian cooperation in order to achieve development by reconciling sustainable use, protection and conservation of its resources to transform the current model into economically inclusive sustainable development models that respect nature, its ecosystems and the rights of the peoples.
17. Support the Peruvian proposal of holding the 2nd Meeting of Environment Ministers of ACTO in the first quarter of 2012 in Lima, Peru. On the occasion the Ministers will examine, among other issues, ACTO's contribution to the Rio+20 Conference.
18. Commend the efforts and initiatives of the Member Countries in the context of the International Year of Forests, highlighting the role played by forests in maintaining the Amazonian ecosystem in equilibrium. In this sense they ratify the importance of initiatives to monitor forest cover, implement electronic permitting for species protected by the CITES, prevent and control forest fires and protect forest biodiversity.
19. Highlight the importance of a coordinated regional approach in matters of sustainable development. In this context, they instruct the Permanent Secretariat of the ACTO to engage the General Secretariat of the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) to identify the means which allow a progressive approach, coordination and joint collaboration.
20. Maintain the current commitments to reinforce the ACTO Budget.
21. Institutionally strengthen ACTO, supporting the activities of its Permanent Secretariat with a view to ensuring full compliance with the objectives of the Treaty and mandates of the Organization's bodies.
22. Salute the commitment of Peru to this Amazonian cooperation process, having hosted the last two meetings of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of ACTO, celebrated on the 25th and 30th anniversaries of the entry into force of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty.
23. Acknowledge the outstanding work done by the former ACTO Secretary General Ambassador Manuel Picasso and continued by his successor Ambassador Alejandro Gordillo to relaunch and institutionally strengthen the Organization, which made possible the approval of the "Amazonian Strategic Cooperation Agenda" in November 2010.
24. Recognize also the work developed by the Permanent Secretariat staff in executing the mandates issued.
25. Support the future Secretary General of ACTO, who will be proposed by the Republic of Suriname and be instituted in July 2012, and the new representatives of the Member Countries in the Organization, who will take office together with the new Secretary General.
26. Thank the Government of Ecuador for its offer to host the Twelfth Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Member Countries of ACTO in the second semester of 2012, at a date to be informed by the Permanent Secretariat.
27. Recognize the effort being accomplished by Peru in the Region of Madre de Dios to extinguish the illegal mining, which causes serious damage to Amazonian ecosystems. In this sense, the development of projects in Member Countries by ACTO was considered necessary, aiming real recovering, reforestation and conservation of the affected zones.
28. Thank the Federative Republic of Brazil and the Government of Amazonas for the warm welcome given to the Delegations in attendance.

Manaus, 22 November 2011

By the Plurinational State of Bolivia

By the Federative Republic of Brazil

By the Republic of Colombia

By the Cooperative Republic of Guyana

By the Republic of Suriname

By the Republic of the Ecuador

By the Republic of Peru

By the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

## **XI MEETING OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTERS OF THE MEMBER STATES OF THE AMAZON COOPERATION TREATY ORGANIZATION**

### **RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED:**

RES/XI MRE-ACTO/01

### **XI MEETING OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTERS OF THE MEMBER STATES OF THE AMAZON COOPERATION TREATY ORGANIZATION**

#### **WHEREAS:**

The Regulations on the Permanent Secretariat of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization requires the compulsory filing of six-monthly reports to Member States on activities conducted;

The Permanent Secretariat of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization has fulfilled the duty of filing the relevant six-monthly reports for the 2011 January-June and July-November terms;

The Management Reports have been received, for the 2011 January-June and July-November terms by the ACTO Secretary General;

#### **RULING:**

TO CARRY the Management Reports filed by the Permanent Secretariat;

TO ACKNOWLEDGE AND CONGRATULATE the Secretary General of ACTO, Alejandro A. Gordillo, as well as the Executive Officers and Steering Officers, and the Coordinators, for all efforts made towards completing the implementing efforts of the Amazon Cooperation Strategic Agenda, and the strengthening of the Organization's relaunch process.

Adopted in Manaus, Brazil, on November 22 of the year 2011.

RES/XI MRE-ACTO/02

### **XI MEETING OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTERS OF THE MEMBER STATES OF THE AMAZON COOPERATION TREATY ORGANIZATION**

#### **WHEREAS:**

ACTO Member States agree on the need to strengthen the implementation of activities adopted under the Organization's institutional structure.

The Heads of States Guidelines (Manaus, 2009) and those of the X Meeting of Foreign Affairs Ministers (Lima, 2010), provide for the need of supplying the Organization with "*a streamlined and modern role as a cooperation, exchange, knowledge, and joint projection forum geared towards addressing the new and complex international challenges ahead*".

The conditions should be relaxed so that Member States and the PS/ACTO implement any activities as agreed upon in the framework of decisions and mandates granted by the highest political instances in the Organization, and also comprised in the Amazon Cooperation Strategic Agenda, adopted by RES XMRE-ACTO/November 5 to 30, 2010.

Member States must absolutely be able to adopt decisions allowing for the execution of the agreed upon activities –in the best possible manner- in compliance with the provisions in the Treaty, and the adopted Rules and Resolutions.

In applying Articles XXI (4 and 5 verbatim) and XXV in the Amazon Cooperation Treaty; Articles 2 (4 and 5 verbatim) and 20 in the Amazon Cooperation Council Rules; Articles 3 (d, g, i verbatim) and 6 in the Rules of the Amazon Cooperation Council Committee, and Articles 3, 4, 5 (1, 4, 8, 12, 13, 15 and 20 verbatim) in the Rules of the ACTO Permanent Secretariat, provisions shall be adopted for implementing specific activities, keeping the regional sense of the cooperation procedure.

**RULING:**

1. The Procedure shall be applied to expressly identify specific activities, previously approved upon among Member States.
2. Lenient and gradual operational implementation criteria shall be applied, ensuring that the procedure considers that sustainable development and Amazon integration must be comprehensive. Likewise, it shall be warranted that any activities implemented hereunder enable the timely access of Member States to data.
3. It shall be understood that after the adoption of a proposal by the relevant ACTO instances, two or more Member States shall be entitled to start the execution thereof, taking any necessary precautions so that the prospective incorporation of other Member States is ensured to the extent possible. This provision is not a general rule and shall be applied on a specific basis.
4. The PS/ACTO shall take any relevant steps to keep the unincorporated Member States informed on the execution of an activity aimed at an actual follow-up, including the possibility of making any possible adjustments in the associated documents, purporting to its full implementation by all Member States.
5. This procedure shall prevent any delay in the implementation of already approved and funded initiatives.
6. Any Member State may formally be exempted from total or partial application of an approved activity, for a definite or an indefinite time, notwithstanding its subsequent reinstatement in whole or in part, or as an observer thereof.
7. Should a Member Country be incorporated into an initiative underway, resources allocation shall be conditioned to the approved funding structure and to its operational instruments, and shall be examined on a case-by-case basis.
8. On executing activities, Programmes and Projects, the PS/ACTO shall warrant that, even if they are initiatives not comprising all of the Member Countries, disclosure thereof shall be done keeping the vision of the whole Amazon cooperation process.
9. Every aspect not provided for herein shall be individually decided by the ACC.
10. The PS/ACTO shall file a detailed report on the activities conducted under this Procedure on the next Amazon Cooperation Council meeting.

Adopted in Manaus, Brazil, on November 22 of the year 2011.

RES/XI MRE-ACTO/03

**XI MEETING OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTERS OF THE MEMBER STATES OF THE AMAZON COOPERATION TREATY ORGANIZATION**

**WHEREAS:**

ACTO Member States agree on the need to strengthen the conditions so that Member States and the PS/ACTO implement any activities as agreed upon in the context of decisions and mandates granted by the highest political instances, especially within the framework of the RES/X MRE-OTCA/5 adopting the Amazon Cooperation Strategic Agenda;

By means of RES/X MRE-ACTO/4 Member States decided to update the Organization's quota system as of 2012;

It is essential to make progress in the definition of innovating funding mechanisms in order to provide the Permanent Secretariat with a higher technical and budgetary Independence, so as to comply with Member Countries mandates and needs;

Member States considered in the Lima Declaration of November, 2010, the need to widen the identification of sources of funding in order to strengthen regional cooperation;

As part of the Amazon Cooperation Strategic Agenda, four sources of likely resources were adopted, and the PS/ACTO was tasked with the exploration of funding choices via triangular cooperation, and that given the financial context of the Organization, mechanisms and operating criteria must be defined for the realization thereof;

**RULING:**

1. To establish the Organization's additional funding sources below:
  - a. Voluntary contributions from Member States for the funding of specific activities and strategies.
  - b. Voluntary contributions from state or private companies geared towards the appreciation of the Amazon culture;
  - c. Management rates arising from the execution of international cooperation projects with an external funding source or originating in one or more Member States.
2. For the execution of specific activities and strategies funded by extraordinary contributions from Member States, the initiative shall be required to have been adopted within the framework of Resolution RES/X MRE-OTCA/7. To the extent possible, the terms for the adoption of said contributions shall be reduced.
3. Getting contributions from state or private companies for the appreciation of Amazon culture shall be subject to the following guidance:
  - a. It shall require the formal endorsement of the company's host country of the Member State offering the contribution.
  - b. The PS/ACTO shall inform Member States the contribution proposal, including benefits supply, institutional credits, and communication and disclosure means making up the initiative, in accordance with procedures in force.
  - c. The PS/ACTO shall prepare six-monthly reports on the progress of initiatives and a final report comprising an assessment of impacts produced.
4. In the case of management rates for the execution of cooperation projects or initiatives by means of the PS/ACTO structure and facilities, the guidance below shall be observed:
  - a. Management rates shall be collected to the extent possible in all projects and initiatives.
  - b. Management rate value shall be negotiated considering regulations in force in the funding agency, and costs inherent in the management of the initiative.
  - c. Eligible projects for levying management rates are: (i) any project funded with resources from international cooperation, approved by ACTO; (ii) projects suggested by one or more Member States for the execution of counterpart components in an approved initiative; (iii) projects proposed by a Member State for the execution of national activities associated to the initiatives adopted, and the Amazon Cooperation Strategic Agenda.
5. The contribution proposed by one or more countries for executing its counterpart components or for executing national activities shall require prior to the start of the implementation a formal communication specifying its execution guidance. PS/ACTO shall keep a record of these contributions and shall conduct a follow-up and assessment reporting frequently to all Member States.

Adopted in Manaus, Brazil, on November 22 of the year 2011.



**XI MEETING OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTERS OF THE MEMBER STATES OF THE AMAZON COOPERATION TREATY ORGANIZATION**

**WHEREAS:**

The Declaration of the II Meeting of Presidents of Amazon Countries, held in Manaus on February 11 and 12, 1992, reasserts: "...the principles and purposes in the Manaus Declaration of May 6, 1989, wherein our countries recorded their common interests in the Amazonia, particularly in the future of the cooperation aimed at the development and conservation of this heritage" and, in this context, they stressed "that these efforts will not be enough to support those made by our States in discharging their duties and in the exercise of their sovereignty";

That in the Declaration of the Heads of State on the ACTO, adopted in Manaus on November 26, 2009, it was decided to provide the ACTO with a streamlined and modern role as a cooperation, exchange, knowledge, and joint projection forum geared towards addressing the new and complex international challenges ahead";

That by means of RES X/MRE-ACTO/5 dated November 30, 2010, the new Amazon Cooperation Strategic Agenda is adopted and the Permanent Secretariat is entrusted with the disclosing of the above stated Agenda at the regional and international levels, for identifying new sources of cooperation ensuring the implementation thereof, as well as for supporting Member States with their domestic disclosure;

That by RES X/MRE-ACTO/7 dated November 30, 2010, procedures, mechanisms and terms for negotiating and endorsing agreement proposals are approved between the Permanent Secretariat and third party countries, international organizations or other agencies, besides adopting the Guidelines for the relation with international cooperation;

That in the Lima Declaration, adopted on November 30, 2010, gratitude is expressed towards governments and international organizations providing technical and financial support to the ACTO, and the need is ratified for the Permanent Secretariat to further locating cooperation sources for the implementation and development of strategic programmes, projects, and activities, within the framework of the priorities adopted by Member States, notwithstanding funding sources from their own countries, as fulfillment of the directions issued in the Manaus Heads of Stated Declaration of the year 2009;

That adopting decisions is a priority for enabling the endorsement and implementation of Agreements and/or Memorandum with international cooperation, within the framework of the above stated RES X/MRE-ACTO/7;

**RULING:**

To recognize the contribution made by the international cooperation, through Governments, and International Organizations, for the compliance with the goals and mandates adopted by ACTO Member States, by means of funding for the Projects of the Amazon Strategic Cooperation Agenda highlighting the importance of its expansions and continuity.

To acknowledge the endorsement of the Technical Cooperation Agreement between the ACTO and the Pan-American Health Organization entered into in the city of Washington, on September 27, 2011.

To congratulate ourselves on the starting of the regional survey procedure for the development of a new Regional Project on "Forests Protection, Biodiversity Conservation, and Climate Change", which the Government of Germany has committed to support -by means of KfW- and to commend the PS/ACTO on implementing a new inquiry model aimed at strengthening regional cooperation.

To highlight the furthering of the projects on "Deforestation Monitoring, Forest Harvesting, and Changes in Land Use in the Pan-Amazonian Forest" -ACTO/DGIS/BMZ/ITTO-; "Built-in and Sustainable Management of Transboundary Water Resources in the Amazon River, considering climate variability and climate change" -ACTO/GEF/UNEP-; "Strategic Framework for Developing a Regional Agenda for the Protection of Indigenous Peoples under Voluntary Isolation and Initial Contact" -ACTO/IDB, and the

To highlight the implementation of the Strategic Framework Programme for the Development of an Environmental Health Monitoring System in the Amazonia ACTO/IDB/HPO/FIOCRUZ-

To instruct the PS/ACTO to further the survey procedure for the realization of the Regional Project on Forest Biodiversity, favored with a support proposal from the Government of Japan and the cooperation of the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity “Institutional Strengthening of CTO Member States for the Environmentally Responsible Forest Management and the Conservation of Biodiversity in Amazonian Forests”.

To call upon so that the projects on: Cooperation Framework Agreement between the Andean Development Corporation and the ACTO; Memorandum of Interinstitutional Cooperation between the ACTO and the Coordinating Body of Indigenous Organizations in the Amazon Basin (COICA), and Memorandum of Understanding between the ACTO and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) may be signed as soon as possible in order to enable the subsequent negotiation of specific support for the Amazon Cooperation Strategic Agenda's activities.

To state the priority granted by Member States for the negotiation and adoption of a Framework Cooperation Agreement to Combat Boundary Forest Fire among ACTO Member States, wherefore international cooperation is hereby invited to make specific contributions.

Adopted in the city of Manaus, Brazil, on November 22 of the year 2011.

RES/XI MRE-ACTO/05

**XI MEETING OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTERS OF THE MEMBER STATES OF THE AMAZON COOPERATION TREATY ORGANIZATION**

**WHEREAS:**

In the X Ordinary Meeting of Foreign Affairs Ministers, Member States agreed to start a joint observation for the strengthening of national institutions' involvement and commitment in the Amazon cooperation process, reason for which they entrusted the PS/ACTO with the setting up of a Regional seminar widely delving on ACTO's role and perspectives, in order to better understand the expectations of the Amazon society;

In complying with said mandate, the XVI Ordinary Meeting of the Amazon Cooperation Council has positively examined the proposal submitted by the PS/ACTO and tasked the latter with the management of the required resources for supporting the organization of National Seminars in every Member State;

The organization of the above-stated National and Regional Seminars shall be landmarks for the opening of the Organization towards Amazon communities;

**RULING:**

To conduct National Seminars in order to strengthen ACTO's relaunching process during 2012, for which the Permanent Secretariat shall manage the necessary resources with international cooperation to support the Member Countries that express an interest.

To instruct the PS/OTCA and put in place the necessary arrangement for the organization and financing of the Regional Seminal to be held in Bolivia, in September 2012.

Instruct the Permanent Secretariat to explore alternatives which will allow continuous strengthening of the National Permanent Commissions.

Adopted in the city of Manaus, Brazil, on November 22 of the year 2011.

RES/XI MRE-ACTO/06

**XI MEETING OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTERS OF THE MEMBER STATES OF THE AMAZON COOPERATION TREATY ORGANIZATION**



**WHEREAS:**

The actions carried out the Permanent Secretariat of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO) for the year 2011 have led to the determinants in the successful implementation of the mandates for the X Meeting of Foreign Affairs Ministers, especially the RES/XMRE-ACTO/5 "Amazon Cooperation Strategic Agenda", and in the setting up and coordinating of this meeting;

The efforts made along the same lines by the Federative Republic of Brazil together with all other Organization's Member States and with the ACTO Permanent Secretariat have also been determinants for the important decisions hereby adopted;

**RULING:**

TO STATE its most sincere and heartfelt gratitude to the Federative Republic of Brazil, to the Government of the State of Amazonas, and to its inhabitants for the excellent organization of the Special Meeting of the Amazon Cooperation Council, and the XI Meeting of Foreign Affairs Ministers of the ACTO, as well as for all attentions received.

TO ACKNOWLEDGE likewise the ACTO Permanent Secretariat on its very good coordination of the implementation of the X Meeting of Foreign Affairs Ministers mandates, especially RES/XMRE-ACTO/5 "Amazon Cooperation Strategic Agenda", on the setting up of these meetings, which have allowed for the strengthening and projecting of the Amazon regional cooperation procedure, by implementing agreed upon and fruitful actions for Member States in the areas of sustainable development and conservation of the environment in the Amazon Basin.

Adopted in Manaus, Brazil, on November 22 of the year 2011.

RES/XI MRE-OTCA/07

**XI MEETING OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTERS OF THE MEMBER STATES OF THE AMAZON COOPERATION TREATY ORGANIZATION****WHEREAS:**

Article III of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty and its sole paragraph establish the framework for regional cooperation in matters of commercial navigation;

Resolution IX MRE-OTCA/6 of 25 November 2005 tasked the countries with advancing the formulation of draft General Regulations for Commercial Navigation on Amazonian Rivers, pursuant to decision laid down in the "Declaration of the 8th Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization" adopted in Manaus in 2004;

The Amazon Cooperation Council in its Extraordinary Meeting of 14 May 2010 held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, approved the Commercial Navigation Meeting recommendations and decided to create a Working Group to continue negotiations;

The reports of the Working Group meetings held in Bogotá - Colombia, La Paz - Plurinational State of Bolivia, and Rio de Janeiro - Brazil on 23-24 September 2010, 3-4 November 2010 and 25-26 May 2011 respectively, evidenced substantial progress in negotiations of the draft General Regulations for Commercial Navigation on Amazonian Rivers;

The agreements achieved in the 15th Ordinary Meeting of the ACC held on 18 October 2011 testify to the progress made to date in these negotiations;

**RESOLVES TO:**

Reactivate the Working Group on Commercial Navigation, under the Presidency of the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and task it with resuming its activities and presenting until the end of the first half of the year of 2012 the final proposal for Commercial Navigation Regulations on the Rivers of the Amazon in the next ACC Ordinary Meeting.

Acknowledge, recognize and commend the excellent work done by the Group Presidency, exercised by the Brazilian Government.

Instruct the PS/ACTO to raise funds for the Working Group meetings, considering the possibility of using virtual working tools.

Adopted in the city of Manaus, Brazil, on 22 November 2011

## **THE DECLARATION OF THE MINISTRIES OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE ACTO FOR RIO+20 CONFERENCE**

The Member Countries of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization:

Recognizing that the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development held in June 1992 in Rio de Janeiro (Rio Summit) meant consolidating the sustainable development paradigm that integrates the social, environmental and economic mainstays of development at the same level of importance, emphasize the transcendence of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty as a development instrument for sustainable development in the Amazon region.

Certain that the Rio+ 20 Conference is an adequate opportunity to assess and determine actions and measures that enable achievement of sustainable development, emphasize the importance that must be assigned to the Amazon region due to its contribution and significance for biodiversity, climate stability and their integral development.

Guided by the principles of sovereignty, solidarity, cooperation, participation of the Amazonian people, respect and harmony with nature and its ecosystems, integrated sustainable development and reducing asymmetries among the nations of the Amazon region.

Concerned that unsustainable production and consumption patterns continue to exist 20 years after the 1992 Rio Summit, as expressed in the Declaration of the Presidents of the Amazon Countries in February 1992 in Manaus.

Aware that Principle 7 of the Rio Declaration on shared but differentiated responsibilities constitutes an essential instrument to overcome those patterns and attain sustainable development.

Convinced of their responsibility to enrich the Rio+20 Conference under a regional approach, have decided to adopt this:

### **DECLARATION**

- Ratify their conviction that development must be attained by reconciling sustainable use, protection and conservation of resources to transform the current model into sustainable development models that are economically inclusive and respect nature, its ecosystems and the rights of the peoples.
- Commit to promoting sustainable development and lifestyles, in harmony with nature and the environment, respecting the rights of the countries to use their own resources to ensure welfare and progress.
- Emphasize support and contribution of South-South cooperation as an instrument to reduce asymmetries and for properly coordinated regional action, and consider that such initiatives must be promoted and strengthened through the possible provision of new and additional resources and an effective transfer of technology and capacity building.
- Urge developed countries to commit strongly to fulfilling internationally agreed upon targets and objectives, with international responsibility and solidarity, and especially through greater commitment to providing new, additional and predictable financial resources.
- Reiterate that after more than 30 years in effect the Amazon Cooperation Treaty has proven to be a valid framework for sustainable and inclusive development in the respective Amazonian territories under the criteria of sustainability, conservation and use of natural resources.
- Reaffirm the regional vision for conservation and sustainable use of renewable natural resources and sustainable development, with emphasis on eradicating poverty and improving the quality of life of the Amazonian population, are transversal axes of regional action.
- Ratify that eradicating poverty is an indispensable element to attain sustainable development, stressing the importance of developing a joint agenda for social inclusion in the Amazon region.

- Recognize the challenges faced jointly by all the Member Countries in the pursuit of sustainable development, where public and/or private production investments, like technology transfer, innovation and finance, must be part of the international and regional negotiation agenda in the quest for mechanisms that contribute to its implementation.
- Hope that the results of the UNCSD Rio+20 translate into actions that make it possible to overcome the obstacles to sustainable development, and solutions for the structural causes of negative environmental, economic and social impacts caused by unsustainable production and consumption patterns and policies in sectors that are essential for the survival of mankind; as such, they hope that the results of the Conference take full account of the social element of sustainability.
- Ratify that the Amazon Strategic Cooperation Agenda adopted in the 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs is a model for building consensus and joint work to achieve the new development objectives, including institutional strengthening.

Manaus, 22 November 2011

By the Plurinational State of Bolivia

By the Federative Republic of Brazil

By the Republic of Colombia

By the Republic of the Ecuador

By the Cooperative Republic of Guyana

By the Republic of Peru

By the Republic of Suriname

By the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela